



## **Are we on the right path?**

Sports practiced in open waters (i.e. the sea, rivers, lakes and aquifers) are now part of our daily lives, such as cross-country swimming, but also sports that we all practice when we go to the seaside such as surfing or kitesurfing with which we spend time and have fun. However, these activities could become dangerous or even disappear due to the pollution of open waters.

This type of pollution is caused by the water coming from the cities which, without being purified, is poured into the rivers and seas: due to the industries that discharge products created by them and due to the pesticides that come into contact with the earth, the aquifers become polluted. We, who live in Florence, are also in close contact with open waters thanks to the Arno: our river is divided into 9 different water bodies and carries around 18,700 kg of waste every year. The latest findings have shown that calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, nitrate, chloride ions, sulphate and fluorine ions are present in our beloved river.

In the Florentine territory we find associations that work closely with open waters: there are the "Canottieri" which is an association founded in Florence on 6 February 1911 which allows many children to practice the Olympic sport of rowing on the Arno River.

As we saw at the Paris 2024 Olympics, water pollution was a much discussed and criticized topic and was thus brought to light by everyone.

For us, these associations that live in close contact with water should continuously monitor the levels of water pollution, both to try to tackle this problem, but above all to highlight what a big problem it is.