



Ekaitz Saies, Ph.D.
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SPORT CAREER

International Canoe Sprint paddler in the Spanish National Team: January 1999 – September 2014

Career highlights:

- 2 x World Champion K1 200M Relay (Canada 2009 and Hungary 2011)
- European Champion K1 500M U23 (Croatia 2002)
- Qualified for the London 2012 Olympic Games
- Bronze medal at the European Championships K1 200M Relay (Germany 2009)
- Bronze medal at the World Cup K1 200M (Hungary 2008)
- Bronze medal at the Mediterranean Games K1 500M (Italy 2009)
- 16 x Spanish Champion

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Technical Director at the Royal Spanish Canoeing Federation – Full time:** December 2021 – Present. I devise, manage and implement 11 high performance canoe sprint programmes
- **Lecturer and Researcher at the University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU – Full time:** October 2020 – December 2021. I worked as a lecturer and researcher in the fields of physical education and sport psychology
- **Performance consultant – Self-employed:** December 2020 – December 2021. I worked with a snowboard world champion leading up to the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games and other athletes from sports like canoeing, rowing, football (soccer) and surfing
- **Technical Director at the Royal Spanish Canoeing Federation – Full time:** October 2015 – October 2020. I devised, managed and implemented 15 high performance programmes, of which two were Olympic (sprint and slalom) and one Paralympic (paracanoe)
- **Canoeing Coaching teacher - Periodically:** November 2012 – present. I periodically work or have worked with the Basque Government's Educational Department, the Basque Canoeing Federation and other national and regional Spanish federations teaching canoes educational courses
- **Lecturer and Researcher at the University of the Basque Country UPV-EHU – Full time:** June 2013 - November 2016. Subjects taught: "Didactics of physical education" (Degree), "Physical education programming" (Master's Degree). I worked as a lecturer and researcher in the fields of physical education and sport psychology

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy in Psychodidactics (2018).** University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU. Thesis title "Emotional Intelligence and Motivation: Differences Between Super-champions, Champions and Novice Canoeists"
- **Master's Degree in Psychodidactics (2013).** University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU
- **Physical Education Degree (Diploma 2004, Degree adaptation 2015).** University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU
- **Foreign Language Teaching Degree (2012).** University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU
- **Level 3 Canoeing Coach (2015)** (Highest coaching course in Spain)
- **Bronze Medallion Life Saving (2009)** (Royal Life Saving Society. Australia)
- **Strength and Conditioning Coaching Course (2006)**

LANGUAGES

- English (C2 – Proficient user)
- Spanish (C2 – Proficient user)
- Basque (C2 – Proficient user)
- German (A1 – Basic user)
- French (A1 – Basic user)

AWARDS

- The Olympic Insignia of the Spanish Olympic Committee for my successful contribution to Spanish canoeing (2020)
- The Sports Medal of the Spanish Olympic Committee for a successful result (2009 World Champion K1 200 Relay)

VOLUNTEERING

- Member of the canoe sprint working group at the European Canoe Association (2023 - Present)
- Member of the High Competition Commission at the Spanish Olympic Committee (2017 - 2022)