

Press Release
Prague, 15 May 2024

EuroHeroes 2024: Will the record-breaking lineup of athletes bring a new event record?

The EuroHeroes 2024 series is set to kick off with high expectations to further build on last year's success. With several top class athletes returning, the series promises thrilling competition and potentially record-breaking performances.

Among the returning champions are Lilia Fisikovici from Moldova, who holds European event records in České Budějovice and Ústí nad Labem, and Sebastian Hendel, last year's overall winner and European event record holder in Ústí nad Labem. Yassine Rachik, the European record holder in Karlovy Vary, is making a comeback after surgery to compete in České Budějovice and Olomouc. Additionally, Tereza Hrochová aims to defend her title from last year in a more competitive field.

Karlovy Vary Race Event Records

Men's Overall Record: Wilfred Kimiti (KEN), 1:00:54, 2017

Women's Overall Record: Yvonne Jelagat (KEN), 1:08:19, 2017

Men's European Record: Yassine Rachik (ITA), 1:02:59, 2019

Women's European Record: Christelle Daunay (FRA), 1:09:17, 2014

Men's Czech Record: Milan Kocourek (CZE), 1:06:51, 2016

Women's Czech Record: Eva Vrabcová-Nývltová (CZE), 1:11:54, 2018

Men's Field

The men's field this year is exceptionally strong, featuring 5 athletes who have run under 63 minutes. Hendrik Pfeiffer, a German running legend and 7th place finisher in the London Marathon, boasts a personal best of 2:07:14 from the Houston Marathon in January. Although he has achieved the Olympic qualifying standard, the German Athletics Federation has yet to finalise its team for Paris.



Joining Pfeiffer is Khalid Choukoud, who placed third in last year's Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon, and who has qualified for the Olympic marathon with a PB of 2:07:37 set in Valencia. The fastest half marathoner in the race, Chakib Lachgar from Spain, holds a PB of 1:01:45 and is also the 2023 World 50K Champion. Another strong contender is Hélio Gomes from Portugal, who recently set a PB of 1:02:07 at the Valencia Half Marathon. With such a competitive lineup, the European event record of 1:02:59 from 2019 is under serious threat.

Women's Field

The women's race, while not expected to challenge the extraordinary event record in 2014 of 1:09:17 set by Christelle Daunay, still promises to be exciting. Although not close to her best times at the moment, Lilia Fisikovici returns as the record holder for České Budějovice and Ústí nad Labem. Competing against her will be Nóra Szabó, the Hungarian national marathon record holder with a time of 2:28:25 set in Seville last year. She also has a half marathon PB of 1:10:59 from Copenhagen 2022. Tereza Hrochová, last year's overall EuroHeroes winner and Paris Olympic marathon qualifier, will also be in the mix. Adding to the competitive spirit is Nataliya Lehonkova from Ukraine, returning to racing after having a baby.

With such a dynamic field of runners, both the men's and women's races at EuroHeroes 2024 are poised for fierce competition and potentially record-breaking performances.



Men's Start List

MATTONI KARLOVY VARY HALF MARATHON 2024




START LIST MEN

START LIST	BIB	NAME	NATIONALITY	PB
1	CHAKIB	CHAKIB LACHGAR		1:01:45 - AZPEITIA 2023
2	KHALID	KHALID CHOUKOUUD		1:01:53 - BREDA 2013
3	HENDRIK	HENDRIK PFEIFFER		1:02:05 - DRESDEN 2021
4	HÉLIO	HÉLIO OLIVEIRA FERNANDES GOMES		1:02:07 - VALENCIA 2023
5	ABDELAZIZ	ABDELAZIZ MERZOUGUI		1:02:48 - VALENCIA 2018
6	MAXIM	MAXIM RAILEANU		1:03:09 - BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT 2022
7	JIRKA	JIŘÍ HOMOLÁČ		1:03:23 - PRAGUE 2017
8	STEFAN	STEFAN IULIUS GAVRIL		1:04:17 - ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM 2022
9	MYKOLA	MYKOLA MEHVSHA		1:06:40 - BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT 2022
10	ONDRA	ONDŘEJ FEJFAR		1:07:13 - PARDUBICE 2015
11	HONZA	JAN KOHUT		1:07:24 - PARDUBICE 2022
12	VOJTA	VOJTĚCH NOVÁK		1:08:17 - PRAGUE 2023
13	KAREL	KAREL SPLÍTEK		1:08:43 - PARDUBICE 2022
14	MARTIN	MARTIN KUČERA		1:08:38 - PARDUBICE 2011
15	LUKÁŠ	LUKÁŠ KUČERA		1:11:46 - OLMOUC 2023



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Women's Start List



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MATTONI KARLOVY VARY HALF MARATHON 2024

EUROHEROES
BY RUNCZECH



START LIST WOMEN

START LIST	BIB	NAME	NATIONALITY	PB
F1	LILIA	LILIA FISIKOVICI		1:10:45 - ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM 2018
F2	NÓRA	NÓRA SZABÓ		1:10:59 - KOPENHAGEN 2022
F3	TEREZA H.	TEREZA HROCHOVÁ		1:12:04 - ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE 2022
F4	BÁRA	BARBORA BESPERÁT		1:17:23 - PRAGUE 2024
F5	NATALIYA	NATALIYA LEHONKOVA		1:17:56 - INOWROCLAW 2014
F6	HANKA	HANA HOMOLKOVÁ		1:18:08 - BERLIN 2023
F7	TEREZA J.	TEREZA JAGOŠOVÁ		1:19:29 - BERLIN 2023
F8	HEIDI	HEIDI JURÁNKOVÁ		1:20:12 - KARLOVY VARY 2022

Note for editors



- Each of the five races are certified by AIMS, have been awarded a 5 Star Road Race standard by European Athletics or have hosted the IAAF (World Athletics) Half Marathon Championships.
- RunCzech races are awarded the quality mark by World Athletic and the Prague International Marathon, Prague Half Marathon and Birell 10k Race received the World Athletics Elite Label Road Race award.
- SuperHalves races have played host to World Record performances (2 in Lisbon, 2 in Prague, 1 in Copenhagen and 3 in Valencia).
- RunCzech organizes running events in cities across the Czech Republic and in Italy, with Napoli Running, and in Japan and China supported by local entities.
- Prague International Marathon spol. s.r.o. ("PIM")/RunCzech was established in 1995 by Carlo Capalbo, President of the Organizing Committee, with the aim of staging a world-class international marathon in Prague.
- Nearly 1.2 million runners have participated in RunCzech events since its inception. In 2019, we welcomed over 120 000 finishers from 101 different countries.
- ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL is our way of welcoming everyone to the world of running.
- Initiatives like RunCzech Running League and SuperHalves were created to motivate casual runners. To support elite European athletes, we created the EuroHeroes Challenge.
- RunCzech Racing is dedicated to the development of young athletes, community ties, and sporting excellence. Eight World records so far and over 150 podium finishes for our team!
- In 2021, RunCzech introduced the unique running invention called The Battle of the Teams. "Professional marathoners competing in teams, strategically drafted based on their collective personal bests, giving each team a serious chance to win gold".
- We host other events such as our Bambini Runs, Family Runs and Junior Marathon Championship to encourage youth participation.
- Our FreeRun courses form a network of running trails across the Czech Republic.
- Our Running Mall serves as the epicenter of the running world in Prague.
- All accompanying information regarding RunCzech can be found at this link: [Notes for editors](#)

Contact



RUNCZECH

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