

## Highlights of the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon

*The course which leads through the Spolchemie chemical plant makes the Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon stand out from all the RunCzech Running League races. Each running backdrop has its own allure and the magic of the Ústí race is unbeatable. Apart from the chemical plant, the course will take you along the Elbe path all the way to Střekov Castle and the city centre. Participants can look forward to an impressive running celebration and diverse cultural programme, part of which includes the Spolchemie Czech Handbike Cup. Introducing the sixth ever Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon which kicks off on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September from Mírové náměstí. Whether watching on the streets of the North-Bohemian capital or live on Seznam.cz, make sure you don't miss out on the race!*

### Key information

- The Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon will be **broadcast live online** on Seznam.cz. The broadcast commences at 14:45
- **6<sup>th</sup> event year**
- The Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon is **part of the RunCzech Running League** which comprises a total of seven races in five cities in the Czech Republic. A total of 74 585 runners took part in races in 2015, which almost five thousand more than in 2014
- The race has been awarded the **Gold Quality Label** by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) for the second time in a row. All seven RunCzech Running League races boast Gold Quality Label status which places the Czech Republic at the top of the rankings of long-distance run organisers worldwide
- The race has **changed to a single-circuit course** since acquiring the Gold Label. The direction of the start now sees runners going all the way to Svádov. During the course of the half marathon, they cross Edvard Beneš bridge a total of four times, plus get to experience running around the grounds of the Spolchemie chemical plant. Only a few cosmetic changes have been introduced from last year
- Running is one of the most widely practiced sports in the Czech Republic and the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon ranks among **popular races** within the RunCzech Running League. A total of 3 306 participants took part last year, this year's capacity of 3 600 runners was reached a few weeks prior to the race
- The race kicks off at **15.00** from Mírové náměstí. The dm Family Run starts from the same place at **13.30** as does the Spolchemie Czech Handbike Cup at **12.00**
- The Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon will be kicked off by city mayor **Věra Nechybová**
- The Ústí nad Labem race boasts a **highly impressive start line**, a number of athletes having already appeared at the Birell Prague Grand Prix on 10<sup>th</sup> September
- A total of four men boast times under 60 minutes marking them out as the hot race favourites to win. The honour of wearing shirt number one will go to **Barselius Kipyego** (59:30), number two to **Aziz Lahbabi** (59:25), three to the winner of the Ústí race the year before last **Adugna Takele** (59:40) and four to **Geofrey Kusuro** (59:43)
- Among the women the clear favourite is half marathon world champion and defender of last year's victory title **Peres Jepchirchir** (1:06:39). That said, Ethiopian runners **Muliye Dekebo** (1:09:45) and **Aberu Mekuria** (1:12:29) will be keen to put up a fight





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- When it comes to the Czech guys, defender of the best Czech Ústí time **Milan Kocourek** (1:05:47) will be taking part alongside **Jiří Homoláč** and **Jan Kreisinger**
- There's also a clear favourite among the Czech women. Appearing at the start will be **Anežka Drahotová** plus Czech veterans **Petra Kamínková** and **Ivana Sekyrová**
- The Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon played host to Eva Vrabcova's **first half marathon**
- Alongside elite runners, a number of well-known personalities will be taking part in the race. You can look forward to checking out cardiologist and passionate runner **Jan Pirk**, the boxer **Lukáš Konečný** and **Ondřej Pála**, not to mention members from the **Činoherní studio** and **Velký sál Hraničář** theatre studios
- Forming an integral part of the race is the chance to run through the **Spolchemie** plant – celebrating its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year since it started out as the “Association for Chemical and Metallurgical Production” set up by Prince of Schwarzenberg
- Also forming part of the half marathon weekend are the **dm Family Run** and the **Marathon Music Festival**, featuring bands and DJs beating to the footsteps of runners
- The mascot of the dm Family Run is a horse from Ústí zoo
- RunCzech works with 45 charity organisations. Last year 4 620 runners generated a total of 7 279 615 Czech Crowns for the **Running for a Good Cause** project
- The main charity partner in Ústí nad Labem is **the Flames of Hope Foundation**
- The largest number of **foreign runners** will be coming from Germany, Slovakia, Belgium, Great Britain, Russia, the United States, Poland, Italy, Hungary and Norway
- A total of **15 027 visitors** took part in the Ústí nad Labem race in 2014, more than 7 thousand runners of which came from other regions in the Czech Republic or from abroad
- Half marathon visitors spent more than **21 million Czech Crowns thanks to the event** which brought about a growth of local businesses amounting to at least **10.7 million Czech Crowns** and local gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3 million Czech Crowns
- Owing to demand in terms of visitors, hotels, restaurants and other businesses had to employ many new workers, which when converted to full-time equivalents, made up to **10.4 permanent jobs**
- Ústí nad Labem boasts two **Mattoni FreeRun** courses. The five-kilometre circuits which anyone can join at any time are located in Střekov and Svádov
- The official race hashtag is **#ULhalf**
- New to feature this year is **Mama point**, where runners can wave to their friends and family over cameras

## Interesting numbers

- The capacity of the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon is 3 600 runners



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- Capacity for the dm Family Run is 2 500 participants
- A total of 61 four-member relays will take part in the race (3 x 5 km + 1 x 6,0975 km)
- 180 two-member relays will complete the 2Run (1 x 10 km + 1 x 11,0975 km)
- The start line will feature a total of 36 nationalities
- 66 % of runners are made up of men with 34 % comprising women
- The average age of women in the half marathon is 35.7, the average age of men is 38.8
- On average women are capable of completing the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon in 2:07:18, men in 1:50:23
- Five men and five women will be celebrating their birthdays on race day
- Jan is the most common name for guys taking part, followed by Petr and Martin. The most frequent names among the women are Jana, Petra and Lenka
- The vast majority of long-distance runners are university educated (58 %), with a further 34 % of college educated individuals and the remaining 8 % made up of those with high school education
- On average runners will take 17 216 steps to complete the 21 0975 km course
- The oldest male participant is: Antonín Hornák (CZE), 72 years
- The oldest female participant is: Christiane Vilain (BE), 71 years
- A total of 645 volunteers will help out during the race
- Almost fifteen thousand visitors from all over the world will pay a visit to [www.runczech.com](http://www.runczech.com) on race day (13 744 in 2015)
- More than a hundred thousand users will receive messages on RunCzech social networks (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) on race day (103 699 in 2015)

#### Used during the race:

- 396 traffic signs
- 22 300 safety pins
- 47 000 cups
- 24 000 water soaked sponges
- 3 600 thermal sheets
- 6 100 medals
- 3 692 m of fencing
- 95 mobile toilets

#### Liquids consumed:

- 18 250 litres of Mattoni water
- 3 240 litres of hypotonic drinks

#### Food consumed:

- 1 565 kg bananas
- 1 826 kg oranges
- 24 kg salt
- 21 kg sugar





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## Records

- Race record – men: 1:00:38 (2013), Philemon Limo (KEN)
- Race record – women: 1:07:17 (2015), Peres Jepchirchir (KEN)
  
- Fastest Czech man: 1:05:47 (2014), Milan Kocourek
- Fastest Czech woman: 1:12:11 (2015), Eva Vrabcová
  
- World record – men: 0:58:23 Zersenay Tadese (ERI), Lisbon 2010
- World record – women: 1:05:09 Florence Kiplagat (KEN), Barcelona 2015
  
- Czech record – men: 1:01:31 (1997), Jan Pešava
- Czech record – women: 1:11:02 (1994), Alena Peterková

