

Press Release
Prague, 8th March, 2023

The EuroHeroes project is looking for new stars. It has already attracted over 11,000 runners from abroad

Europe used to be full of running idols. Emil Zátopek, Paula Radcliffe, Stefano Baldini... And The EuroHeroes wants to achieve the same goal again. "We want to make European athletes stand on the podium all over the world, also to highlight excellent regional athletes. Last but not least, we want them to inspire the next generation," says Carlo Capalbo, President of the RunCzech Organising Committee.

EuroHeroes was introduced by RunCzech in 2018 in cooperation with the European Athletics. This season, the EuroHeroes series includes half marathons that have been awarded with the World Athletics Road Race Labels - Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon, Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon, Mattoni Olomouc Half Marathon and Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon. These events will welcome in the elite field only athletes from Europe.

EuroHeroes has been chosen by European Athletics as the best project of 2019 (due to covid restrictions, there was a two-year hiatus). At that time, more than 150 elite European runners took part in its races, a total of 105,204 competitors, including 11,904 foreigners from nineteen European countries.

"Our aim is to give European athletes a greater opportunity to compete and gain recognition for their performances in prestigious half marathons. We believe that with the support of the Czech Athletic Federation and European Athletics we could achieve several goals. For example, we would like the top three runners in the EuroHeroes ranking to automatically qualify for the 2025 European Half Marathon Championships, which is supported by RunCzech and European Athletics.



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With these races, we are also significantly supporting the cities where the events are held," added Capalbo, who, among other races, organizes the Prague Half Marathon and the Prague International Marathon.

The best competitors will receive EuroHeroes status and will be financially rewarded.

Check out the [EuroHeroes Facebook live](#) with special guests:

Marco Vasic, Running Unit Director - European Athletics

Militsa Mircheva, pro athlete

Sebastian Hendel, pro athlete

Eva Vrabcová Nývltová, RunCzech

Pavel Šikola, Český atletický svaz



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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](#)



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