

Press Release
Prague, 2 June 2024

German Hendel dominated the successful Mattoni České Budějovice Running Festival. Over 5 500 people took part in the race

Fun and fast was this year's half marathon in České Budějovice, which was newly held under the Mattoni Running Festival. The organizers managed to fill the capacity in both competitive and family races. The winner of the Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon, the second part of the EuroHeroes series, was German Sebastian Hendel. Among the women, Ukraine's Maryna Nemchenko triumphed, improving the European record for the race. Patrik Vebr and Hana Homolkova were the best Czech runners of the race, which carries the World Athletic Road Race Label.

For the first time, the Running Festival took place in České Budějovice, which included the traditional Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon. And the new format proved to be very successful. The dm family mile and bambini run welcomed 2200 participants, over 500 people took part in the new 5 km race. *"We are very happy that shorter distances attract the public so much. It is a good signal that people are interested in running. We managed to fill the whole square and people enjoyed a sporty sunny day,"* said Carlo Capalbo, president of the RunCzech organizing committee.

The main race was attended by 2,900 people, which represented full capacity. The best runner in the České Budějovice Half Marathon was Sebastian Hendel from Germany. At the beginning he was in a group of several men, but before the halfway point he was running all alone. He ran the South Bohemia half marathon brilliantly with a promise to break the European record of the race. However, he missed it by half a minute, but the time of 1:03:38 is a great performance.

"I'm really happy that my winning streak in RunCzech races continues. I tried to break the time under one hour and three minutes. It was good at the tenth kilometer, but as time went on it got worse and my legs were hurting. It was a great experience, I enjoyed my first start in České Budějovice," added Hendel, who took an ideal step towards defending the title of EuroHeroes, a RunCzech project supported by European Athletics aimed at developing Europeans running talent. *"When I was running back to the square, many people were cheering my name. It was a really great atmosphere,"* added Hendel.



The second place went to Italian Daniele D'Onofrio, the third place went to Ukrainian Mykola Mevsha, who improved his personal best significantly. The best Czech runner was Patrik Vebr (1:08:38), who beat Petr Pechek and Tomáš Křivohlávek.

"Although I don't really like to run races in training pace, I chose this strategy for today. My coach and I decided to do it mainly for health reasons and also because of the upcoming track races. But the overall assessment is positive and I am glad that especially my health is holding up," Vebr summed up.

The fastest woman was Maryna Nemchenko from Ukraine, who ran a significant part of the race alone trying to catch some men to help her pace. *"If I had run with another female competitor, it would have been easier, running alone is hard. I always tried to catch up with whoever was ahead of me, I'm satisfied,"* Nemchenko assessed after the race. The Ukrainian surpassed the best European race time of Tereza Hrochova from 2022 by half a minute. Her compatriot Nataliya Semenovych finished second, while Moldova's Lilia Fisikovici finished third. Hana Homolkova succeeded in a close battle between the Czech competitors, beating Aneta Císařová. Tereza Jagošová finished third.

[Results men](#)

[Results women](#)

[PulseTV Live Stream](#)



Note for editors

- Each of the four Euroheroes 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.
- RunCzech organizes running events in various cities across the Czech Republic and Italy, including Napoli Running, as well as in Ankara, Turkey, with Runkara supported by RunCzech.
- 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. Members of the team have set eight World records so far and over 150 podium finishes!
- In 2021, RunCzech introduced the unique running invention called The Battle of the Teams where recreational runners can be a part of the team and run with the elite. More information: <https://battleoftheteams.com/>
- RunCzech hosts other events such as our dm bambini run, dm family run and Junior Marathon Championship to encourage youth participation.
- RunCzech 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

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RUNCZECH

ALL RUNNERS
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