

RunCzech has been awarded from European Athletics for its EuroHeroes project

This year RunCzech created and brought to life an extended series of the EuroHeroes project for European runners and the revolutionary initiative hasn't gone by unnoticed. At a recent meeting of the European Athletics Council in Istanbul, the European Athletic Association presented the Czech organisation with an award for its unique achievement.

RunCzech president Carlo Capalbo collected the special plaque for promoting and developing athletics from European Athletics Chief Svein Arne Hansen. As such European Athletics expressed its public appreciation for this unprecedented running series on the continent. It marks the first occasion for top races to form stages of a bigger series.

"EuroHeroes is a fantastic initiative which encourages and engages the stellar road racers of the future.... All RunCzech races have also been presented with the five-star European Athletics quality certificate. It's important for European elite athletes to be given more opportunities to race at a higher level of road racing throughout Europe," President of European Athletics, Svein Arne Hansen, declared.

RunCzech is committed to finding new European and world long-distance running stars such as Emil Zátopek, Paula Radcliffe and Stefan Baldini through this brand new project and is keen to help nurture athletes through races where only European elite athletes compete against one another. It provides athletes with the chance to face healthy competition at emotionally charged races which also makes for greater excitement for running fans.

"EuroHeroes has been extremely well received by the sporting world. We're on the right path for discovering local legends and finding success. And the fact that we've been accepted by others across European Athletics gives us the confidence and strength to stick with it and continue," RunCzech President Carlo Capalbo reveals.

"I'm very optimistic about the EuroHeroes initiative and see it as a tangible step to motivate both Czech as well as European runners compete outside of track races. For Czech runners it's a welcome and interesting opportunity to compare their results with elite runners from European countries," chairman of the Czech Athletics Federation Libor Varhaník reveals.



European Athletics has had no special long-distance series for athletes until now and thus has welcomed with open arms the efforts taken on behalf of the organisers of individual races. RunCzech has spent the past few years working on the series. The first EuroHeroes season got under way last year, involving the Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon and the Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon. This year has seen it grow into a fully-fledged series, extending to a total of four races, and by adding the Mattoni Olomouc Half Marathon and the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon, has led to the creation of the EuroHeroes Challenge. This motivates runners to take part in more races, by offering prize-money totalling 5 thousand Euros at the end of the season for those who competed in at least 2 of the above-mentioned races. Other bonuses were also offered for winning individual races, placing on the podium and securing new records.

The second event year of the EuroHeroes project appealed to 117 athletes from 19 European countries participating in the four EuroHeroes Challenge races. European race records for the individual events were broken a total of three times this season. Open exclusively to European passport holders, the first winners of the EuroHeroes Challenge emerged as Italian runner Yassine Rachik and Ukraine's Daria Mykhailova.



ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL