

EUROPEAN
RACE WALKING
CUP

Poděbrady 2017

21 MAY 2017 | CZE
INFORMATION BULLETIN





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EUROPEAN ATHLETICS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Poděbrady has an illustrious place in the history of race walking – the annual competition here can trace its origins back to 1894 – so it's a genuine pleasure to welcome the best race walkers of Europe to the 12th European Race Walking Cup.

This may be the first time that the Czech Republic has staged this competition but there cannot be a more appropriate place for the continental showpiece of this discipline than this particular town.

In addition to the famous Poděbrady race walking meeting, which has its 85th edition this year and which has been a European Athletics Permit Meeting for many years, the town also staged a very successful IAAF Race Walking World Cup 20 years ago in 1997.

With such a heritage, I am sure that the event will be splendidly organised as well as providing a valuable stepping stone for the continent's walkers as they stride towards the 2018 European Athletics Championships. Many of Europe's leading race walkers have competed in

Poděbrady in the past so a number of the competitors here will certainly be aware of the course and the town. Nevertheless, whether someone is familiar with the town or coming here for the first time, I am convinced everyone is eagerly looking forward to this event.

It will provide walkers from European Athletics' 51 Member Federations with a highly-valued opportunity to compete both for individual honours and one of Europe's most important team titles.

The European Race Walking Cup has established itself over the last two decades, having been inaugurated in 1996, as a competition of the highest level.

The last edition in the Spanish city of Murcia in 2015 saw a plethora of personal and season best performances as well as several national records and similarly exciting races can be expected here.

We are especially grateful to the Cesky Atletický Svaz – the Czech athletics federation – and the town of Poděbrady for all their hard work in staging this event.



Svein Arne Hansen
European Athletics President



CZECH ATHLETIC FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased that this year's European Race Walking Cup is being hosted by the Czech Republic in the spa town of Poděbrady.

The organisation of the European Race Walking Cup is not just about organising another prominent athletics event in this country, for the Czech Athletic Federation it also has a far greater symbolism.

The Czech Athletic Federation is celebrating an important anniversary this year, it is 120 years since organised athletics started in this country, and it was race walking and the city of Poděbrady which were at the birth of the 'Queen of Sports' 120 years ago.

The history of race walking in Poděbrady dates back to the 19th century. The 50km race walk competition from Karlín to Poděbrady had its premiere in 1894 - two years before the first of the modern Olympic Games - thanks to the 'pedestrians' from AC Vinohrady, who competed for their club title.

The tradition continues today. Every year in Poděbrady there is an international meeting and also the Czech 20km race walk championships. In 1997, Czech athletics

celebrated its centenary with the successful IAAF World Race Walking Cup.

The 120th anniversary will see the athletics elite from all over Europe converge on Poděbrady.

Anežka Drahotová, who is our most famous race walker of the present day, has become a patron of this event. The European Race Walking Cup will be a great chance for her to perform at a major competition in front of the home crowd.

Organising the European Race Walking Cup is a prestigious honour for the Czech Athletic Federation and the city of Poděbrady; and it is a unique chance to stage a major athletic event for Czech fans while celebrating our 120 years of athletics in the Czech Republic.

Czechs love sports and athletics is among the most popular ones.

I believe that the European Race Walking Cup in Poděbrady will provide nice memories and wonderful experiences for everyone and that, besides the sporting atmosphere and the cheering spectators, there will also be a prevailing sense of tradition and history.



Libor Varhaník
President of the Organising Committee
and the Czech Athletic Federation

HOST CITY PODĚBRADY



The spa town of Poděbrady is a picturesque place to live and it is just as pleasant for recreation and, last but not least, spa therapies and wellness relaxation activities. The town is located in the Central Bohemian Region, Czech Republic, on the river Labe 50 kilometres east of Prague with around 14,000 inhabitants.

The history of Poděbrady reaches back to medieval times. In the most famous era – the rule of king George of Poděbrady – in the town itself or its immediate surroundings, you can find traces of the famous Slavnik Dynasty, King Ottokar II of Bohemia, or empress Maria Theresa.

Poděbrady obtained the status of town from the Czech king in the year 1472. A historic milestone in the life of the town was the year 1905, when it was visited by the German estate owner Prince von Bülow. This well-known water diviner found signs of a strong spring in the inner courtyard of the castle, which was later bored to a depth of 97.6 metres. The discovery of carbonic mineral water resulted in the opening of the first spa in 1908. After World War I, Poděbrady rapidly changed into a spa town which, from 1926, specialized in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, rapidly gaining renown not only in the Czech Republic, but also abroad in countries including Austria, Germany, Russia and the United States.



The first thing to strike a visitor to the town is the castle, the oldest and most famous monument in Poděbrady, which looks down on the river Elbe and decorates George's Square. It is impossible to overlook the monumental statue of King George atop a horse in front of the gates of the castle, created by the famous sculptor Bohuslav Schnirch.

Another famous landmark is the Church of the Exalted Holy Cross, which was built in the 14th Century and houses the tomb of George of Poděbrady's first wife - Kunigunde of Sternberg. The recent history of the town is closely associated with spa therapy. The discovery of the first mineral spring in 1905 transformed this sleepy little agricultural town into a popular health resort.

Welcome to Poděbrady and take your pick from the wide selection of attractions.

History of the Czech Race Walking



The year 2017 is a significant anniversary of the Czech Athletic Federation. On 8 May 2017, it will celebrate 120 years since the start of the organised athletics in the Czech lands. Since those times, the athletics in the Czech Republic has solid foundations, more than 300 partitions clubs with over 73,000 members.

The history of race walking associated with Poděbrady also dates back to the nineteenth century. In 1997, the Czech Athletics celebrated one hundred years with a successful World Cup in Poděbrady. This year, the elite from all over Europe will meet here at a similar event during the 120th anniversary of the “queen of sports”.

Everything started at the end of the nineteenth century, when the first sports clubs and competitions came to existence. The first 50k race walk competition from Karlín (in Prague) to Poděbrady was held in 1894 – i. e. two years before the first modern Olympic Games. The merit goes to pedestrians (the term used for race walkers then) from AC Královské Vinohrady who competed on the track for a club title.

It should be noted that the beginning was rather symbolic: no race took place until the end of the 1920s. Only with the introduction of 50k race walk at the Olympics in Los Angeles in 1932, three years earlier in 1929, a new premiere took place. Except the four years break during the WWII, the “Poděbrady” race has been held regularly. With regard to the change of rules (i. e. due to the recognition of World Records) since the 1990s, the race has been organised at the 1k long town circuit in the Spa Park.

Last year, on 9 April 2016, the 84th edition of the Race Walk competition was held on a recently reconstructed surface in the Spa Park in Poděbrady. Czech race walkers measured their forces with international rivals within an international race or a meeting under the auspices of the European Athletics.

Anežka Drahotová

Patron of the event



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2012_6th – World Junior Championships (Barcelona), 10 km_46:29.95
- 2013_3rd – European Cup Race Walking (Dudince), 10 km_46:29
- 2013_1st – European Athletics Junior Championships (Rieti), 10 km_44:15.87
- 2013_7th – World Championships (Moscow), 20 km_1:29:05
- 2014_1st – European Permit Meeting Dudinska 50 (Dudince), 10 km_46:44
- 2014_1st – IAAF Race Walking Challenge (Poděbrady), 20 km_1:29:43
- 2014_3rd – European Athletics Championships (Zurich), 20 km_1:28:08
- 2015_2nd – European Athletics U23 Championships (Tallinn), 20 km_1:27:25
- 2015_8th – World Championship (Beijing), 20 km_1:30:32
- 2016_10th – Olympic Games (Rio), 20 km_1:30:43

Anežka Drahotová belongs to the most shining stars of the Czech athletics. In Poděbrady, there will be a great chance to meet the patron of the European Race Walking Cup personally.

The Czech Olympian plans three major competitions this year. And with the World Championships in London and the European Athletics U23 Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poděbrady will be the place to fight for the best result, too.

Under the leadership of her coach Ivo Piták, Drahotová became the IAAF World Junior Championships 10,000m race walk gold medallist in a world record time of 42:47.25, and she then held her own among her elders and added the bronze medal from the European Athletics Championships in Zurich over 20k, in a Czech record time of 1:28.08 in 2014. But already in 2013, she surprised the athletic world, when finishing seventh in the 20k race walk at the 2013 IAAF World Championships in Moscow, after ambitiously leading the way until past the halfway point in the race.

Born: 22 July 1995
Rumburk, Czech Republic **Coach: Ivo Piták**
Club: USK Praha



"It was my best season ever! Winning in Eugene was the most emotional moment for me, especially because I finished in first place and nobody has ever been faster than me. But the junior competitions are still one step below the senior level, so the bronze from Zurich is maybe even more valuable," she said. Anežka was a very active kid, tried various sports like football, cycling and then joined the local athletics club with her twin sister Eliška. "She is good at everything which is longer than two minutes," said her coach Piták, who also used to be a race walker.

She also liked drawing or playing piano. "But thanks to my coaches Ivo Piták and Carlo Capalbo, I realised that I wanted to stay with sport and now I love it," Anežka confessed.

Born in Rumburk, she is also a very good cyclist. Athletes usually do not ride a bike but her training consists mainly of race walking and cycling. "I almost do not do any running in training. Cycling is optimal because it does not affect joints," she added.

Anežka's first major international competitions came in 2011, when she placed seventh in the junior category at the 2011 European Race Walking Cup in Olhão, Portugal, and she also gained bronze in the team competition with her sister Eliška. Then she finished sixth in the 5000m race walk at the 2011 World Youth Championships in Athletics in Lille, France.

The 2013 European Race Walking Cup saw her take the bronze medal in the 10k walk event in the Slovak spa city of Dudince. Achieving the new Czech record of 44:15.87, she won the 10.000m race walk gold medal at the 2013 European Athletics Junior Championships in Rieti, while her twin sister Eliška Drahotová took the bronze. In an unusual event combination, she also entered the 3000 metres steeplechase at the championships in Italy and placed ninth.

At the last European Race Walking Cup in Murcia 2015, she improved the Czech record at 20k with 1:26:53.

Her main dream came true last year at the Olympic Games in Rio. "I have dreamed about competing at the Olympics since I was 15," said the tenth best race walker in the finish.

The 21-year-old Anežka Drahotová gives hundredth percent to all she does but she does not forget to enjoy it. "Sport should be fun, not stress."

Anežka Drahotová
Patron of the event



ENTRIES

Sunday 21 May 2017

In accordance with European Athletics competition regulations, the entries deadlines for the European Cup Race Walking will be as follows:

PRELIMINARY ENTRIES:

Opening on Tuesday 7 February 2017

Closing on Thursday 23 February 2017 (14:00 CET)

FINAL ENTRIES:

Opening on Tuesday 25 April 2017

Closing on Thursday 11 May 2017 (14:00 CET)

The European Athletics Event Management System for the entries is accessible at the following link:

<https://arena.european-athletics.org>.

Member Federations' entries manager shall use their already known individual and personalised access.

For the specific participation conditions, please refer to the respective event regulations

available under: **<http://www.european-athletics.org/european-athletics/competitionregulations/>**

The European Cup Race Walking comprises separate events for men's and women's teams (Senior and U20) representing European Athletics Member Federations. Athletes may participate in accordance with the following age restrictions:

- Only athletes aged at least 20 (twenty) years on 31 December of the year of the competition may participate in the 50 km (Senior Men).
- Only athletes aged at least 18 (eighteen) years on 31 December of the year of the competition may participate in the 20 km (Senior Men and Senior Women).
- Only athletes aged at least 16 (sixteen) years and not more than 19 (nineteen) years on 31 December of the year of the competition may participate in the 10 km (U20 Men and U20 Women).

Team Entries

According to 802.7 each team shall consist of up to 6 (six) athletes entered in each event for Senior Men and Senior Women of which a maximum of 4 (four) may participate and 5 (five) athletes in each junior event for Men and Women of which a maximum of 3 (three) may participate.

COURSE



The course of the race on the 1 kilometre long circuit goes around the city spa park in Poděbrady. This area is already well known in the athletics world thanks to many previous events like the 1997 World Cup or the annual EA Race Walking Permit Meeting.

TIMETABLE

Sunday 21 May 2017



| | |
|--------------|---|
| 08:00 | 50km Men |
| 10:00 | 10km U20 Men |
| 11:20 | Victory ceremony (Individual) – 10km U20 Men |
| 11:30 | Victory ceremony (Team) – 10km U20 Men |
| 13:00 | 20km Women |
| 13:30 | Victory ceremony (Individual) – 50km Men |
| 13:40 | Victory ceremony (Team) – 50km Men |
| 16:00 | 20km Men |
| 16:30 | Victory ceremony (Individual) – 20km Women |
| 16:40 | Victory ceremony (Team) – 20km Women |
| 18:00 | 10km U20 Women |
| 18:10 | Victory ceremony (Individual) – 20km Men |
| 18:20 | Victory ceremony (Team) – 20km Men |
| 19:20 | Victory ceremony (Individual) – 10km U20 Women |
| 19:30 | Victory ceremony (Team) – 10km U20 Women |

TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION



Participating teams of the EUROPEAN RACE WALKING CUP 2017 in Poděbrady will be accommodated in the following hotels:

HOTEL LIBENSKÝ****

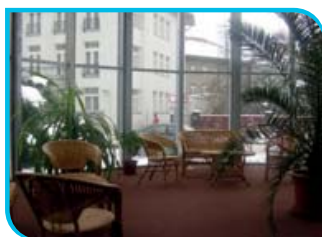
Nám. T.G.M. 437/II

CZ - 290 33 Poděbrady I

Tel.: 00420 325 606 333

Website: <https://www.lazne-podebrady.cz/en>

<https://www.lazne-podebrady.cz/hotel-libensky>



HOTEL ZIMNÍ LÁZNĚ***

Hakenova 464/II

CZ - 290 33 Poděbrady

Tel.: 00420 325 606 888

Website: <https://www.lazne-podebrady.cz/en>

<https://www.lazne-podebrady.cz/hotel-zimni-lazne>



HOTEL LIBUŠE***

Na Valech 254/II

CZ - 290 33 Poděbrady

Tel: 00420 325 606 777

Website: <https://www.lazne-podebrady.cz/en>

<https://www.lazne-podebrady.cz/hotel-libuse>



HOTEL ZÁMEČEK****

Husova 232/II

CZ - 290 33 Poděbrady

Tel.: 00420 325 503 300

Website: <https://www.lazne-podebrady.cz/en>

<https://www.lazne-podebrady.cz/hotel-zamecek>

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

According to regulations 810.4, accommodation and full board for the visiting teams will be paid for by European Athletics for 2 days and for the following number of athletes:

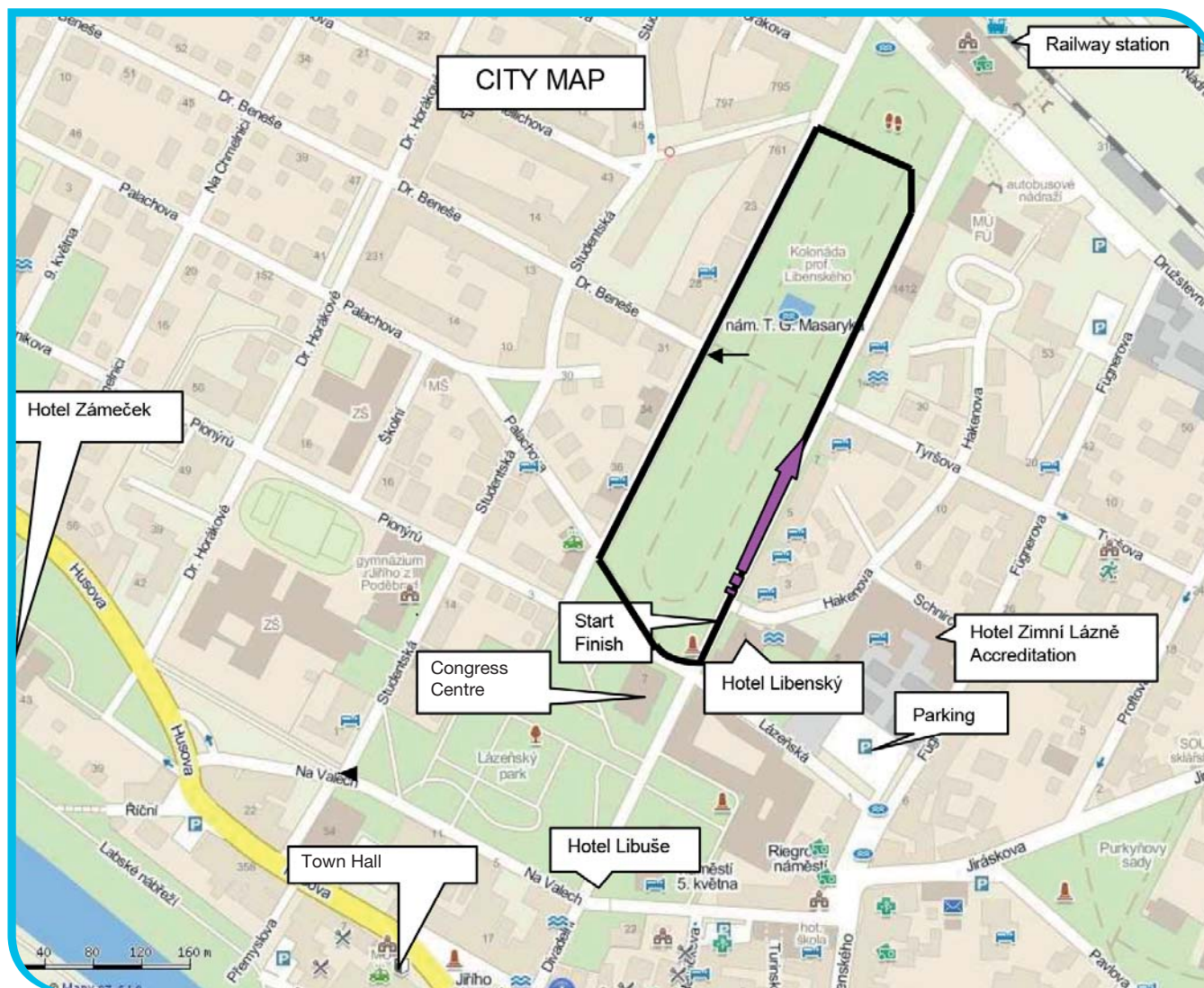
- In respect of Senior Men's and Senior women's teams, 3 (three) athletes;
- In respect of U20 Men's and U20 women's teams, 2 (two) athletes;

For athletes exceeding the above quota and for the officials the following prices apply (per person, per night/full board accommodation) and shall be paid by the Member Federations:

| | Full board – single (EUR) | Full board – per person – twin (EUR) |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Athletes in quota (covered by EA), out of quota athletes and in ratio officials | 130* | 75 |
| Out of ratio officials | 130 | 95 |
| Additional nights for Athletes & Officials | 130 | 95 |

**Each participating team shall be allocated a minimum number of single rooms (for the price of a twin room) equal to 10 per cent of the total number of athletes and in-ratio officials entered in the final entries. Any single rooms above the 10% threshold will be charged at the rate of EUR 130.*

CITY MAP



Transport to the venue will be provided upon request. The official airport for the European Cup Race Walking is Václav Havel International Airport Prague located 70km far from Poděbrady. The average transfer time from the airport to the team hotels is approximately 1 hour depending on traffic conditions.

The team hotels allocation will be defined after the closing of the final entries. All hotels are in walking distance of the course.

| COUNTRY | VISA REQUEST | CZECH CONSULATE IN YOUR COUNTRY | CZECH CONSULATE IN THIRD COUNTRY |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Albania* | yes | Tirana | x |
| Andorra | no | x | x |
| Armenia | yes | Yerevan | x |
| Austria | no | x | x |
| Azerbaijan | yes | Baku | x |
| Belarus | yes | Minsk | x |
| Belgium | no | x | x |
| Bosnia Herzegovina* | yes | Sarajevo | x |
| Bulgaria | no | x | x |
| Croatia | no | x | x |
| Cyprus | no | x | x |
| Denmark | no | x | x |
| Estonia | no | x | x |
| Finland | no | x | x |
| France | no | x | x |
| Georgia | yes | Tbilisi | x |
| Germany | no | x | x |
| Gibraltar | no | x | x |
| Great Britain & NI | no | x | x |
| Greece | no | x | x |
| Hungary | no | x | x |
| Iceland | no | x | x |
| Ireland | no | x | x |
| Israel | no | x | x |
| Italy | no | x | x |
| Kosovo | yes | x | Skopje |
| Latvia | no | x | x |
| Liechtenstein | no | x | x |
| Lithuania | no | x | x |
| Luxembourg | no | x | x |
| FYR Macedonia* | yes | Skopje | x |
| Malta | no | x | x |
| Moldova* | yes | Chisinau | x |
| Monaco | no | x | x |
| Montenegro* | yes | x | Beograd |
| Netherlands | no | x | x |
| Norway | no | x | x |
| Poland | no | x | x |
| Portugal | no | x | x |
| Romania | no | x | x |
| Russia | yes | Moscow | x |
| San Marino | no | x | x |
| Serbia* | yes | Beograd | x |
| Slovak Republic | no | x | x |
| Slovenia | no | x | x |
| Spain | no | x | x |
| Sweden | no | x | x |
| Switzerland | no | x | x |
| Turkey | yes | Ankara | x |
| Ukraine | yes | Kiev | x |

VISA information

Countries requiring visas to enter the Czech Republic should obtain them from the Czech Embassy or Consulate in their country. In case there is no Czech Embassy in your country, please contact the nearest Embassy, as per list.

*Visa-free regime applies to citizens of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia only if they are holders of biometric passports.

In case of problems or need of additional information please contact the Local Organising Committee:

Zuzana Nováková
Tel: +420 730 144 398
Email: visa@podebrady2017.com

Local Organising Committee – Czech Athletic Federation

Address:

Diskařská 2431/4, 169 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic

Tel.: (+420) 233 014 400

For more information please follow our official website podebrady2017.com

You can also find us on the social networks:

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube of the Czech Athletic Federation



GENERAL PARTNER OF CZECH ATHLETIC FEDERATION

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Radiožurnál
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PODĚBRADKA
OD ROKU 1098



elektrosaza

Contact: info@podebrady2017.com