

92_{nd}

Košice Peace Marathon

Košice · Slovakia · October 4, 2015
Europe's Oldest · Since 1924

MEZINÁRODNÝ MARATÓN MIERU-KOŠICE
1924



MARATHON VIEWS

www.kosicemarathon.com



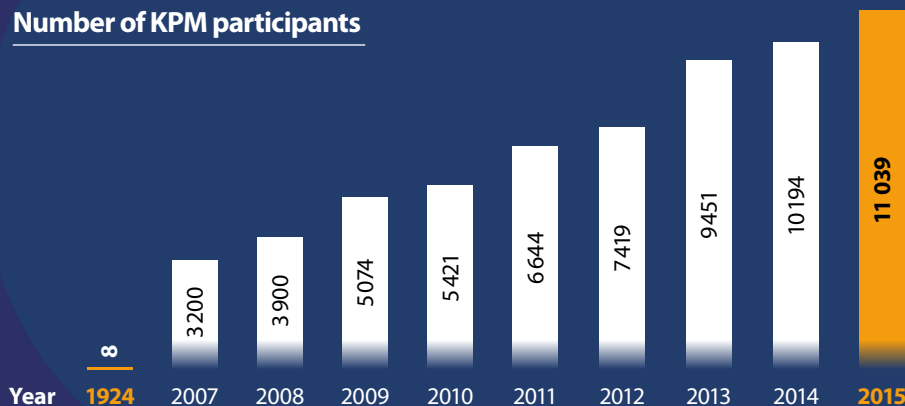
◆ NEW VICTORY PLINTHS TO BE INSTALLED

Looking back at marathon-related events during 2015, we cannot leave Friday, 2nd January unremarked, the day on which **Arpád Račko** departed from us. It was in memory and honour of the creator of the Marathoner statue that **motifs from his work were incorporated into the logo for KPM 2015**. Later everyone was pleased to hear that the proceeds of public fundraising had enabled several **granite blocks** to be purchased and transported to Košice, from which **new victory plinths will be made and installed below Račko's statue, to bear the names of future KPM winners**.

◆ 11 000 MARK IS ACHIEVED

On Saturday, 3rd October, when the last starting numbers for KPM 2015 had been issued, the server produced the final line-up of registered participants. Their **number ultimately just exceeded the 11 000 mark**, confirming the trend of the last few years, during which the interest in starting in Europe's oldest marathon has continually grown.

Number of KPM participants



◆ IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Only two men on this planet have been victorious on both historical marathon courses in Boston and Košice, namely the Swede **Gösta Leandersson** and the Belgian **Aurèle Vandendriessche**. It was the latter in particular, 50 years after his KPM victory, who was remembered with honour in the project called **"In the Tracks of the Marathon Legends"**. This now 83-year-old champion was creditably represented by his oldest son **Tony**, who wasted no time in setting out on the course, just confirming that love of the marathon is inherited in many families.



◆ IN THE COMPANY OF THE FASTEST

The three personal best results of all the medal-winners in KPM 2015 confirmed the long-term trend of Košice's fast course offering athletes a real chance of improving their ranking. What is more, with his **winning time of 2:07:07 Samuel Kosgei lifted our Marathon to 5th place in Europe** at that time. Up to that point faster winning times had been recorded only in the most prestigious marathons on the old continent. At the same point, Kosgei's intermediate time of **14:40** between the 35th and 40th kilometres became the **second fastest in Europe** as well.



Rank	Time	Name	Country	Position	City	Date
1	2:04:00	Eliud KIPCHOGE	KEN	1	Berlin	September 27
2.	2:04:42	Eliud KIPCHOGE	KEN	1	London	April 26
3	2:05:49	Mark KORIR	KEN	1	Paris	April 12
4	2:06:46	Abera KUMA	ETH	1	Rotterdam	April 12
5	2:07:07	SAMUEL KOSGEI	ETH	1	KOŠICE	OCTOBER 4
6	2:07:17	Lucas ROTICH	KEN	1	Hamburg	April 26
7	2:07:31	Sisay LEMMA	ETH	1	Vienna	April 12
8	2:07:57	Hayle Berhanu LEMI	ETH	1	Warsaw	April 26
9	2:08:16	Philip KANGOGO	KEN	1	Barcelona	March 15
10	2:08:32	Felix KANDIE	KEN	1	Prague	May 3



◆ RACE WITH TIME

The year 2015 will be remembered especially in connection with the extensive **reconstruction of the tram lines and road junctions** around the city centre, which kept the KPM organizers on tenterhooks almost up until the start itself. As it turned out though, the builders got everything done, and it proved possible to run the Marathon on the certified course, which then appeared to the runners and spectators alike in an interestingly animated form. The issue of the course was also hotly discussed in terms of changes for the inline skaters and wheelchair racers. The aim was to relieve pressure on the heavily-used Komenského Street, thus ensuring greater safety for all participants. **This was achieved, and in the end there was enough room for everyone in the streets of Košice.**

◆ 5 LITTLE STARS FOR KOŠICE



The newly-approved system of marathon race classification drawn up by the European Athletics Association produced the highest assessment for the KPM and the award of a **“5 STAR QUALITY ROAD RACE”** certificate. This is an expression of the standard of resolution of all safety, technical and organizational issues connected with the preparation of the Marathon. The KPM organizers are convinced that runners all over the world these days weigh up and select the events they take part in not only in terms of easy travelling, range of accommodation services and attractive destinations, but also by the quality of the race organization itself and guarantees of safety. This certificate doubtlessly entails further commitment to paying constant attention to the areas mentioned, taking appropriate technical and safety measures to cater for the continually rising numbers of participants.

◆ WHEN THE BIGGEST STAR WAS NOT A RUNNER

Judging from the spectators' responses, the number of autographs signed and joint photos taken, the greatest star of the 92nd edition of KPM could easily be declared as being speed-walker and freshly-crowned **world champion Matej Tóth**. After reaching the half-marathon finishing line he said: **"Today has been one of the most beautiful experiences in my sporting career. I really enjoyed the fantastic atmosphere during the Marathon in Košice."**

We should mention that Matej Tóth lined up at the start together with his father and brother, and he completed the course in his precise speed-walking style. **"Sometime I might just run the whole marathon,"** he was heard to say later as he was leaving Košice.



◆ SIX INTERRUPTED STARTS

The project called **Photos from the Ancient History of the KPM** revealed how many people were willing to share their photograph archives, and how much black and white evidence of former times they could produce. There's a special story behind the picture contributed by Peter Absolon. The group of young people standing in 1930 in the square now bearing the name of the Marathon includes (fifth from the left) his then 22-year-old great-grandfather **Vojtech Deutsch**. He took the start in the Marathon for the first time in 1925, and then another five times. He didn't manage any more though. He died in 1943 in a forced labour battalion at Alexejovka, his wife and three children at Auschwitz.





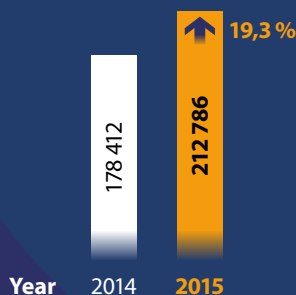
◆ FESTIVAL OF ENTERTAINMENT

◆ MARATHON NOW FULLY ONLINE

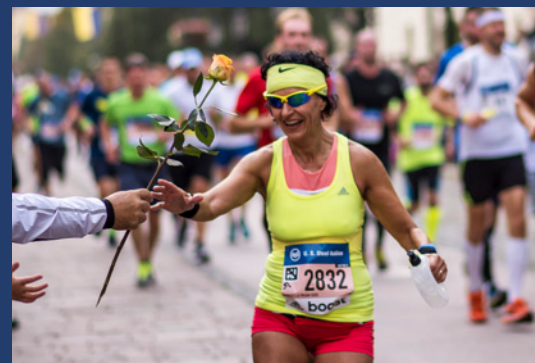
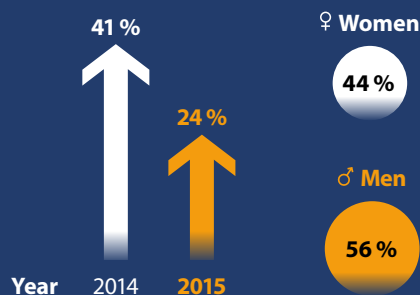
The completion and presentation in February of the **new KPM website** was the first big milestone in the preparation of KPM 2015, and it set off **massive online communication**. **Facebook** in particular scored points by once again gaining a lot of new friends for the Marathon compared with last year. This modern-day channel was also used in the cooperation with the **Slovak Savings Bank and its programme called Pic2Go**. The result was enormous interest in the action photos from the course posted to the Marathon participants involved. All the online campaigns and presentations culminated in the **live television broadcast of the KPM on Slovak TV's Channel One**. It was watched by 370 000 viewers in every part of Slovakia.

The runners as well as the fans who lined the streets so thickly again this year could definitely not complain of being bored. The rich festival of activities and entertainment surely enabled everyone to choose their own way of enjoying one of the most interesting weekends of the year in Košice. Many people slung a camera round their neck, and a lot of them responded once again to the appeal to join in the **Shoot the Marathon** competition, striving to capture the atmosphere and emotion of the Sunday events. Best liked by the jury was **Michal Breiner's** photograph entitled "For my winning girl".

Visit rate of the KPM website



f – number of fans





HOW HAS THE MARATHON CHANGED (IN NUMBERS) OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS?

Number of participants



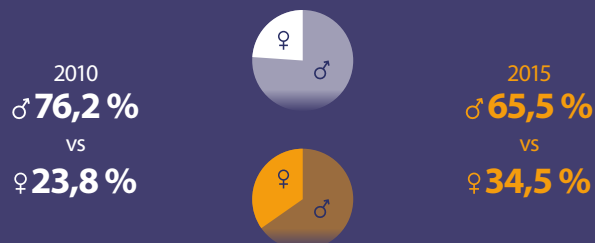
Number of organizers



Number of countries represented



Ratio of participants – ♂ men vs. ♀ women



Course record



Average 10 best times



Number of kilometres run





MARATHON VIEWS 2015

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