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The “Athletics Review 2016,” published in association with MONDO offers a look back on what was an exceptional year for European Athletics.

2016 was a very special year highlighted by the European Athletics Championships being held in the spectacular city of Amsterdam with javelin and discus events held outside the Olympic Stadium at Museumplein and the first ever European half marathon as part of the programme.

The new House of European Athletics was officially inaugurated in November following splendid celebrations with representatives from most European Member Federations and with other prestigious sporting dignitaries in attendance. We now have a place that all our Members can call home and the foundations are set to start a new exciting chapter in the history of the organisation.

Amidst the many competitions and meetings, we also enjoyed warmer temperatures during the first European Athletics Youth Championships in Tbilisi and the SPAR European Cross Country Championships in Chia. The annual European Athletics Convention was successfully staged in Funchal, Portugal with an impressive Golden Tracks ceremony, where the European Athletes of the Year and Rising Stars were celebrated. It is also important for European Athletics to demonstrate our significant work beyond the realm of high-performance. In this review we focus on our Athletics Community in the areas of anti-doping, coaching, innovation, sustainability, women leadership, education, young leaders and much more.

2016 was the year the “Running for All” platform really hit its stride with over 175 road races being certified across Europe. The acceptance of the European Athletics Quality Road Race standards by so many race organisers is an overwhelming endorsement of their value and a real opportunity to form strong partnerships with the running movement.

The “Athletics Review 2016” – and the Statistics Yearbook – has been widely distributed amongst media, our commercial partners, our Member Federations, sports organisations and athletics fans all over the world. It is with great pleasure that on behalf of European Athletics, and with thanks to MONDO, I present this publication to you.

I hope that all of you find it a pleasant read.

Svein Arne Hansen, President, European Athletics
U23 CHAMPIONSHIPS
Bydgoszcz 2017
13 - 16 JULY
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PRESIDENT’S TRAVELS

European Athletics President Svein Arne Hansen has had a busy schedule of business meetings, athletics meetings and celebrations with Member Federations.

Jan, Moldova: With athletes Alexandru Cruselnitchii and Alena Bordea and coach Alexandra Cravtsova at the Dinamo Stadium.

Feb, Austria: With IAAF President, Seb Coe as guests of Austrian Athletics its President Ralph Vallon in Vienna.

Apr, Russia: With CEO Christian Milz and leaders of Russian sport in Moscow.


Mar, Serbia: Opening a new hall in Belgrade which held the first “Serbian Open” indoors.

Jan, Albania: With George Rulli, President of the Albanian Athletics Federation and his colleagues inspecting the newly refurbished Elbasan Arena.
Nov, Croatia: Receiving a plaque of recognition from Croatian Athletics Federation President Ivan Vestic.

Oct, Sofia: With Vice-President Dobromir Karamarinov meeting with Bulgarian Minister of Youth & Sport.

Sept, Jurmala, Latvia: with 2-times NY marathon winner Jelena Prokopčuka and Latvian Federation President Guntis Zalitis.

Sept, Brussels: With IAAF President Seb Coe and Mayor of Brussels Yvan Mayeur at the 40th Memorial Van Damme meeting.

Jul, Amsterdam: Addressing the Young Leaders Forum on the sidelines of the European Athletics Championships.
President Svein Arne Hansen was among friends when he cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the new House of European Athletics in November. With him were the Council and Presidents or senior representatives of 44 Member Federations together with IOC President Thomas Bach, IAAF Vice President Sergey Bubka and the European Athletics Head Office team for whom the building is now home. The ceremony marked the end of a long journey and a significant milestone for the organisation.

The vision for the House of European Athletics goes back seven years when the Council at the time and Hansjörg Wirz, the former President, made the decision to invest some of the organisation’s reserves into a permanent office building. In 2014, with the help of the City of Lausanne and the Canton de Vaud, approval was secured for a building that now extends two floors below ground and four above. It also gives European Athletics a much higher profile within the Olympic capital.

Visitors to the new Head Office make the short walk from the railway station in Lausanne to be greeted by a modern blend of glass, metal and wood that has been carefully designed to be both beautiful, functional and sustainable.

Passing through glass entrance doors, guests discover a bright and airy atrium decked out with the new European Athletics branding. To the right there is a “welcome wall” with greetings written in every language spoken by Member Federations and, a little further on, an illuminated display featuring the logos of each member plus those of the City of Lausanne and the Canton de Vaud who were partners in the new building.

Since the decision was originally taken, President Hansen has replaced President Wirz but continued to be fully supportive of the project. The completion date was challenging but with the help of architects Jacques Perret and Alain Porta and some great teamwork from the European Athletics staff the project was delivered on time.

2016 saw the new House of European Athletics open its doors ready to welcome visitors.
IOC President Thomas Bach was on hand to celebrate the opening of the new House of European Athletics with President Svein Arne Hansen.

The building, a modern blend of glass, metal and wood is designed to be beautiful and sustainable.

“We never set out to build a marble palace. We wanted something good where our Members will feel welcome.”
“The business model means that overall we can release resources which can be used to help our Member Federations”

The design of the building paid close attention to minimising the impact on the environment. The green ‘living’ roof and the grassy ledges that surround the structure retain water and combat the ‘heat island’ effect in the City during the summer. A photovoltaic system on the roof generates extra energy through the placement of solar panels covering 50 square metres.

Heating is provided by the City of Lausanne’s network which produces energy through the burning of waste. Air-refreshment and natural cooling systems limit the use of air-conditioning improving the overall energy balance. Perhaps as important is the financial sustainability and the new building employs a business model which benefits all of European Athletics.

Tenants on the third and fourth floors cover all of the borrowing and running costs and, by not paying the lease on a building, resources can be released to assist Member Federations. Redevelopment plans by the City mean the value of the building is likely to increase sharply and, with space to expand, it really could be the House of European Athletics for a hundred years.
The landmark building will give European Athletics a much higher profile within the Olympic Capital.

Friends old and new attended a reception to open the new House of European Athletics.
WIND OF CHANGE IN FUNCHAL

Delivering change was the theme at the annual gathering of the European Athletics family.

There was a lot for European Athletics Member Federations to celebrate at this year’s Convention hosted on the Portuguese Island of Madeira. 2016 was a momentous year with a highly successful European Championships, excellent performances from European athletes and the first European Athletics Youth Championships just three of the highlights.

European Athletics President Svein Arne Hansen opened by addressing all 51 delegations present in Funchal with a speech entitled ‘Delivering Change’ where he looked back on progress since his election in April 2015. Hansen, who had spent the year meeting with Member Federation leaders around Europe, said that 2016 was “a turning point for athletics”.

He said that he had received the message from Members that we cannot allow ourselves to be defined by the failings and mistakes of a few. He concluded with the message that, while there have been serious challenges, the organisation is determined to accomplish his ambitious agenda. “We have made real progress to deliver change and there is much more to come,” he said.

Members consider the agenda for change set out at the Convention.

Funchal on the Portuguese island of Madeira hosted the Convention and the Golden Tracks gala evening.
"I have been struck by the moral purpose and sense of optimism within our sport"

Svein Arne Hansen
Over the following hours, Member Federations were introduced to principles of good governance with a presentation from Alex McClin, a member of the Court For Arbitration in Sport and former CEO of the International Equestrian Federation, and a case study from the Swedish Athletics Federation.

There was an opportunity to engage with the IAAF Governance Reform Road Show and, in presentations and workshops, participants were updated on the revolutionary new ranking scheme and given an insight into the latest thinking by members of the Innovation Project.

Looking back at the end of the session, President Hansen said: “This has been the most important Convention we have ever had and the value of this event cannot be overstated. I think that everyone will go home with valuable information, valuable practice they can implement in their own federation. I am sure that in the coming years change will come to make athletics more attractive, more popular and a better programme for everybody.”

“One of the main points to come out of the discussions was the importance of self evaluation”
GOLDEN YEARS OF FARAH AND BEITIA

Experience was rewarded at Golden Tracks gala in Funchal.

Great Britain’s Mo Farah and Spain’s Ruth Beitia, two of the most experienced performers on the international stage, took the top awards on a spectacular evening in Portugal which capped an amazing summer for the sport.

Farah and Beitia were Golden Tracks award winners selected by a record 200,000 fans who voted via social media for the winners of these prestigious titles. Joining them, Germany’s Max Hess and Belgium’s Nafissatou Thiam were honoured with Rising Star awards.

It was an historic night for Farah, 33, who was named European Athlete of the Year for a third time after winning in 2011 and 2012. Triumphs in the 5000m and 10,000m at the Rio Olympic Games made him only the second man in history to do the Olympic double-double following in the footsteps of flying Finn, Lasse Viren in 1972 and 1976. A British record fourth Olympic athletics gold medal crowned a glittering 2016 which saw him ranked Europe’s fastest man over 1500m, 3000m, 5000m, 10,000m and the half marathon.
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REGIONAL PRODUCTS AND TRADITIONAL RECIPES REVISITED AND REINVENTED BY OUR SIGNATURE CHEF MARC HAEBERLIN AVOID YOU.

Spanish high jumper Ruth Beitia was made female European Athlete of the Year after once more showing the youngsters that age means nothing. At 37 Beitia, who briefly retired in 2012, became the oldest Olympic champion in a jumping event when she won in Rio with a height of 1.97m. This success was achieved just a few weeks after a jump of 1.98m brought gold at the European Athletics Championships for the third time in a row. Beitia’s Rio glory made her the first Spanish woman to win an Olympic athletics gold medal and vindicated her decision to return to the sport. She has maintained a brilliant level of consistency and more gold could be on the horizon as she plots a path towards the European Athletics Indoor Championships in Belgrade in March.

“It’s amazing to make history and become the double-double Olympic champion and fantastic to win Athlete of the Year three times”
Growing up fast: Max Hess became the youngest ever European triple jump champion and Nafi Thiam wowed the world with gold in Rio

As befits Rising Stars, both Max Hess and Nafi Thiam are looking to the future. For Hess, the Golden Tracks Male Rising Star award came after a fantastic year during which he won silver at the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Portland in March and stepped up to gold at the European Athletics Championships in Amsterdam.

His next goal is to defend his European title at a “home games” when Berlin stages the European Athletics Championships in 2018 as part of the inaugural European Championships.

Nafi Thiam was a popular winner of the Golden Tracks Female Rising Star after she produced the greatest performance of her young life to win Olympic heptathlon gold in Rio. The Belgian was sensational as she broke the national record and set the world-leading mark with 6810 to beat Britain’s defending champion Jessica Ennis-Hill by 35 points.

During the event Thiam set personal bests in five of the seven events - in the 100m hurdles, high jump (where her 1.98m along with Britain’s Katarina Johnson-Thompson is a heptathlon world best), long jump, javelin and 800m. Despite setting five new personal bests in Rio, Thiam sees more room for improvement in the future and is confident that her performance in Brazil will be the start not the high point of her athletic career.
AMSTERDAM EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

AMAZING AMSTERDAM

It had been 88 years since Amsterdam staged a major senior athletics event, but over five days in July the city proved that it was worth the wait.

Amsterdam’s Olympic stadium witnessed packed stands, a brilliant atmosphere, the deliverance of a home heroine in Dafne Schippers, a first ever European half marathon, a series of record breakers and a race on the final afternoon in the men’s 5000m that defied belief as the top three could not be separated after almost 14 minutes of running. 44 gold medals were decided but there was no question about the real winner of these 23rd European Athletics Championships - that was track and field itself.

The Championships got off to a glittering start with a ceremony presided over by HRH King Willem-Alexander in front of a large crowd, then it was down to the serious business of ‘Athletics Like Never Before’. 19-year-old Yasemin Can from Turkey was the standout track star of day 1 taking the women’s 10,000m and shaving nearly 18 seconds off her own U23 record. There was also an emotional return to a major championship for Swedish hurdler Susanna Kallur after an eight-year struggle with injury.

In the qualification events four gold medallists from Zurich set up another tilt at victory. Poland’s world record-holder, Anita Włodarczyk sailed into the final of the hammer and timeless Spanish high jumper, Ruth Beitia set a high bar for the rest of the field to follow. British champions from two years ago, Greg Rutherford and Martyn Rooney went safely through to the finals in the long jump and 400m respectively.
AMSTERDAM EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

“The European Athletics Championships were a resounding success by every measure”

HRH King Willem-Alexander chatted with athletes from the Dutch team at the glittering opening ceremony.
AMSTERDAM EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Right: Dina Asher-Smith set the pace in 200m qualification before going on to become the first British woman to win gold in the final.

Making a splash in the 3000m men’s steeplechase, Turkey’s Aras Kaya ran a PB in the final but was beaten by France’s Mahiedine Mekhissi-Benabbad.

“...The European Athletics Championships in Amsterdam were played out to the slogan ‘Athletics Like Never Before’...”
Below: Yes she can! 19-year-old Yasemin Can broke her own U23 record to win gold for Turkey in the 10,000m
Day two of the European Athletics Championships saw several Dutch stars in action and the crowds responded warmly. First out of the blocks was Solomon Bockarie who qualified joint fastest in the men’s 200m. Fellow countryman Thijmen Kupers celebrated as he became the fastest qualifier in the 800m and Dutch vaulter Femke Pluim thanked the fans for their support as she reached the finals alongside fellow jumper Fabian Florent.

Later in the evening Churandy Martina won the 100m by a whisker to deliver the first gold of the Championships to adoring Dutch fans. Elsewhere it was an evening of surprises as Belgian cancer survivor, Thomas van der Plaetsen claimed his first major title after a heroic performance in the decathlon.

At 37, defending champion Ruth Beitia rolled back the years to take a third straight European high jump gold. GB’s Dina Asher-Smith led from the start to win the women’s 200m and Greg Rutherford went longest to deliver a golden double for Great Britain. There was double gold, too, for Germany as another defending champion, Christina Schwanitz retained her shot put title and Cindy Roleder produced the fastest time in Europe this season over 100m hurdles.
In a good night for defending champions, Spain’s Ruth Beitia, Britain’s Greg Rutherford and Germany’s Christina Schwanitz all retained their titles.

“Ruth Beitia, the star performer, rose to the occasion to complete a remarkable high jump hat-trick”
Day three of the competition saw the social media numbers go through the roof as engagement levels soared in Amsterdam and far, far beyond. Most popular were the digital meet-and-greet opportunities with athletes and the now famous Twitter mirror at the medal plaza where medallists took and shared selfies with fans.

Local engagement was given a big boost by the medal-winning performance of Netherlands' biggest star, Dafne Schippers, who delivered gold to the rapturous applause of the capacity crowd. Her win went some way to making up for Churandy Martina's disqualification in the men's 200m. That disappointment was also softened by Bruno Hortelano who delivered the viral video of the Championships with his reaction to being told he had won.

Elsewhere it was a tale of European Athletics biggest stars once again coming good when it mattered. Anita Włodarczyk completed a European hat-trick with a series of brilliant hammer throws, Martyn Rooney held off some strong challengers to defend his 400m title showing the way for Italy's Libania Grenot to do the same in the women's competition and Croatia's Sandra Perkovic made it four in a row with a massive final throw in the discus.

SOCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Social media played a key part in spreading the buzz of the European Athletics Championships with athletes and fans sharing the experience.
“There was a full stadium and millions watching across Europe on television, as Dafne Schippers soared to gold”

Dafne Schippers gives her trademark celebration to the delight of the home crowd

Bottom left: Martin Rooney wraps himself in the GB flag after defending his 400m title
AMSTERDAM EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Below: Sandra Perkovic from Croatia made it four in a row in a tough discus competition.

“These championships will be remembered for a very long time for how they showed the spirit of sport and what that means to athletes and fans”
A delighted Libania Grenot brings home the gold medal for Italy in the women’s 400m.

Below: Anita Włodarczyk rarely fails to deliver and she proved impossible to beat completing a European hammer throwing hat-trick.
EUROPEAN ATHLETICS U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS
Grosseto 2017
20-23 July
SUPER SATURDAY

The penultimate day of action delivered records and standout performances all around the Olympic Stadium.

Ekaterini Stefanidi wrote her way into history with a thrilling performance to win pole vault gold. The Greek star was celebrating as she propelled and twisted her way over 4.81m to break Yelena Isinbayeva’s 10-year-old Championship record. Turkey’s Yasemin Can added the 5000m title to the 10,000m medal she won on day 1 holding off a late challenge, and Germany’s Max Hess became the youngest ever European triple jump champion at the age of just 19.

But, the undoubted star of the evening’s entertainment (at least from the crowd’s perspective) was Dutch heptathlete Anouk Vetter. A huge javelin PB brought her the host’s third gold medal with a score that broke Dafne Schippers’ national record.

Some memorable middle-distance running closed the day on a high with Ukraine’s Nataliya Pryshchepa bursting through the field to take 800m gold. The pace of the men’s 1500m was slow setting up a dramatic last 200. In the end Norway’s Filip Ingebrigtsen took gold beating brother Henrik for the first time. They were split by Spain’s David Bustos with the gap between first and fourth less than a second.
“Over five glorious days there was no doubt about the winner - track and field itself”

Top: Anouk Vetter took gold ahead of France's Antoinette Nana Djimou and Austria's Ivona Dadic

Centre: Filip Ingebrigtsen beat older brother Henrik for the first time to claim 1500m gold

Right: Ekaterini Stefanidi flew into the history books winning the pole vault competition in a new Championship record
AMSTERDAM EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The half marathon made a welcome first appearance at the Championships with the elite race followed by a mass participation run along the same course.

The final day saw the inclusion for the first time of a men’s and women’s half marathon run past the iconic landmarks of Amsterdam. Portugal’s Sara Moreira and Switzerland’s Tadesse Abraham took the inaugural honours leading their teams to victory too. The elite race was followed by another first; the mass participation Brooks 10k Champions Run. Running along the same course proved a real hit with the public.

In the stadium German shot putter David Storl withstood the pressure of a foul to launch the best European throw of 2016 to take a third consecutive gold. In the women’s triple jump Portugal’s Patrícia Mamona came from behind to win with a new national record, and in the men’s high jump Italy’s Gianmarco Tamberi added to his world indoor glory with a European gold.

Poland’s double world champion, Paweł Fajdek left no room for doubt with six winning throws in the hammer. It was to set the tone for his fellow countrymen.

History was made by Sara Slott Petersen whose 400m hurdles win meant she became the first Danish woman to win European Championship gold. The 3000m steeplechase delivered a first ever medal for Albania courtesy of Luiza Gega’s silver. The men’s 5000m went down to the wire literally with the first three given exactly the same time. In the end Spain’s Ilias Fifa was awarded victory by 3/000ths of a second.

Triumphant middle distance performances from Adam Kszczot (800m) and Angelika Cichocka (1500m) delivered the final piece of history of the Championships putting Poland atop the medal table with six golds. Truly a ground-breaking European Athletics Championships.

INTO THE STREETS

Half marathons included for the first time took the European Athletics Championships to the people.

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THE BEST OF ATHLETICS WITH EUR(O)VISION
OPERATED BY EBU
Top: Gianmarco Tamberi showed rivals a clean pair of heels to win gold for Italy.

Centre: Angelika Cichocka saw off the challenge of home favourite Sifan Hassan to win another gold for Poland.

Right: Portugal’s Patricia Mamona set a new national record as she took the win in the triple jump.

“Poland topped the medal table for the very first time.”
European Athletics and the European Sports Federation members of the European Championships Board have started the host venue selection process for the 2022 edition of the multi-sport event.

The European Championships is a major new multi-sport event held every four years, aggregating the European Athletics Championships with other senior continental championships under an umbrella brand and coordinated timetable. The event brings together Europe’s best athletes in an exciting new format with the full support of Europe’s free-to-air broadcasters. The first edition in Berlin and Glasgow will be staged in August 2018.

The starting gun was fired on the bidding process for 2022 with the distribution of an official Bid Information Document to interested parties. A preliminary questionnaire was submitted by the end of 2016 and participating European Sports Federations will announce the 2022 hosts by Spring 2018.

The European Championships Board has expressed a preference for all events to be staged in one city or region between late July and August 2022. Some key highlights of the European Championships 2022 for a host city/region are:

- The opportunity to host seven European championships - Athletics, Aquatics, Cycling, Artistic Gymnastics, Golf, Rowing and Triathlon - with 13 disciplines across 12 days
- Over 4,500 competitors contesting over 170 gold medals.
- 250 hours of host broadcaster coverage showcasing sports venues, culture and tourist landmarks.
- 2,700 hours of television coverage broadcast on free-to-air public networks.
- Cumulative TV audience of 1+ billion with many more accessing content across digital and radio platforms.
- Millions of fans engaged on the road to 2022 across multiple digital platforms.
- C700,000 spectators in venues and at road and open water events.
- Attention from all major media outlets with 3,500 media professionals attending.
- A platform for a far-reaching mass participation programme across all sports.
- Multiple public, commercial, educational, cultural, sporting and economic benefits for hosts with strategic opportunities for city regeneration and development programmes.

European Athletics President Svein Arne Hansen, co-chair of the 2018 European Championships Board, said, “The 2022 European Championships will be an incredible opportunity for host cities. We believe the innovative and sustainable event is very attractive and affordable. Its cost-efficient staging model is very good value from a host city perspective in comparison to other multi-sport opportunities in the market.”
AMSTERDAM EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

DATA POINTS

125,000+ tickets sold

50 countries represented with 30 returning home with a medal

27 national records were set by athletes in Amsterdam

32 national broadcasters plus Eurosport showed over 800 hours of live television to 54 territories

40m people engaged across European Athletics’ media channels

#ECH2016 top-10 trending on Twitter

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#ECH2016 top-10 trending on Twitter
More than 1300 young athletes from all over Europe gathered in Tbilisi for the first ever European Athletics Youth Championships.

The New Tbilisi sports complex was the stage for the first European Athletics Youth Championships which attracted over 1300 of the most promising under-18 athletes in Europe in July. The event was launched back in 2013 by the European Athletics Congress who wanted to provide an opportunity for young athletes to experience the cauldron of international competition.

For President Svein Arne Hansen it was an historic moment and time for a first glimpse of some of the athletes who no doubt will one day excel at senior level. But he acknowledged that it was as much about learning as about winning. “If you are going to be a star, you have to learn - it’s completely different from competing at club level or a national championships. This is also the first time they will meet athletes from so many countries and I’m sure they will make friends for life.”

The Youth Championships followed the same rules and format as the senior events so as to present an environment as close to an elite competition as possible. As well as learning about competing, it was a chance to educate these rising stars to the dangers of doping as part of European Athletics’ commitment to a clean sport.

A robust anti-doping programme was once again organised by members of the European Athletics Young Leaders Community who held a series of activities to raise awareness and enhance knowledge of anti-doping issues. After three days of intense competition, Britain narrowly topped the medal table with five gold medals ahead of Germany, Italy and Greece. The 2018 European Youth Championships will be held in Gyor, Hungary.
One to watch, Alina Shukh of Ukraine celebrates winning the girls heptathlon and smashing the world youth best score in a competition with Austria’s Sarah Lagger that went down to the final race.
Also for champions.

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Right: Viivi Lehikoinen of Finland was the favourite and duly won her second continental title in the space of twelve months over 400m hurdles.

Left: Georgios Koniarakis dominated the boy’s discus to claim a rare gold medal for Cyprus. His three valid throws were all ahead of his nearest rival.
A delighted Isaballe Boffey beat teammate Anna Burt in the girl’s 800m to make it a one, two for Great Britain who topped the medal table in Tbilisi.

“For the young athletes at the first ever European Athletics Youth Championships it was as much about learning as it was about winning.”
Panayiotis Mantzouroyiannis claimed the long jump title with his last jump of the final. His win, together with teammate Odissefs Mouzenidis’ gold in the shot put made it a memorable day for Greece.
Emmanouil Karalis won pole vault gold for Greece narrowly missing out on a World youth best and, at just 16, he surely has much more to give.
Georgiana Iuliana Anitei produced her best mark with her last jump to claim the title in Tbilisi. The Romanian was briefly out of the medals before producing a huge effort with her sixth round to claim triple jump gold.

“These athletes have to learn about anti-doping from a young age; they have to take the education back to their clubs because we want a doping free environment.”
Turkish race walker Meryem Bekmez controlled the women’s 5000m race from gun to tape along with her teammate Ayse Tekdal.

Best of rivals: Germany’s Marvin Schulte claimed the boy’s 100m title just one hundredth of a second ahead of Sweden’s Henrik Larsson.
DATA POINTS

100% of athletes received anti-doping education

131 personal bests

22 countries won at least one gold medal

1300+ athletes participating
The SPAR European Cross Country Championship always brings the athletics year to an end in style and 2016 was no exception.

The last time Italy hosted the SPAR European Cross Country Championship was back in 2006 where a young Mo Farah won his first major gold medal. Now ten years on the next generation of young stars visited Chia on the Italian island of Sardinia to see if they too could make history.

In the winter sunshine Germany’s Konstanze Klosterhalfen retained her junior title, Sofia Ennaoui became the first Polish women ever to win a European cross country gold medal and Turkey’s Yasemin Can crowned an amazing year by winning the senior race on her 20th birthday.

For the men, Norway’s 16-year-old sensation, Jakob Ingebrigtsen shone in the U20 race and the Italian hosts had something to cheer as they won the U23 team medal. Yemaneberhan Crippa took bronze behind Belgium’s Isaac Kimeli and Spain’s Carlos Mayo. Turkey’s Aras Kaya and Polat Kemboi Arikan made it a one-two in the men’s senior race.

Competitors were once again able to show their commitment to a drug-free sport by wearing a special anti-doping message on their bibs. All athletes’ bibs carried the message “I Run Clean” following the launch of the initiative at last year’s SPAR European Cross Country Championship in Hyères. The 2017 hosts will be Šamorín in Slovakia.
“The winter sun shone on some memorable cross country performances”
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Proud Sponsor of European Athletics
Top: The Italian men won team gold in the under-23 age group at the SPAR European Cross Country Championships

Right: Isaac Kimeli of Belgium took U23 gold ahead of Spain’s Carlos Mayo and Italy’s Yemaneberhan Crippa

“This day is very emotional for me because of this achievement. It was my personal fight”

Isaac Kimeli
Two-time medallist Harriet Knowles-jones celebrates individual bronze and team gold.

Top: Teams from 33 countries lined up under a clear blue sky for the Opening Ceremony in Chia.
There was a generational shift in women's heptathlon as Belgium's Nafissatou Thiam won gold at the age of just 21. Rated a 50-1 chance going into the Games she pulled out the performance of a lifetime with five personal bests to shock the rest of the field and leave defending Olympic champion Jessica Ennis-Hill with too much to do.

Another 21-year-old, Croatia's Sara Kolak pulled out a huge throw to surprise her rivals and win javelin gold with a personal best and national record of 66.18m. In the men's javelin Germany's Thomas Röhler threw a personal best to win gold with a 90.30m throw. His winning fifth-round throw was just 27cm short of the Olympic record.

Another German, Christoph Harting won discus gold with a throw of 68.37m. Christoph produced a personal best to take the title from older brother and 2012 champion Robert. Croatia's Sandra Perkovic became a double Olympic champion coming off the back of a very successful Amsterdam European Athletics Championships to take gold and retain her Olympic discus title.

Poland's Anita Włodarczyk is arguably the greatest women's hammer thrower of all time and a dominant force in the sport since taking gold at the 2009 IAAF World Championships. She came to Rio as defending champion and world record holder and gave a vintage performance taking gold with a new world record throw of 82.29m.

Away from the throwing competitions, Ekaterini Stefanidi of Greece carried the momentum of her Amsterdam championship record to Rio winning pole vault gold in a thrilling contest. She was matched vault for vault by the USA's Sandi Morris eventually beating her on countback.

Having briefly retired after London 2012, 37-year-old high
Top left: Matej Toth of Slovakia beat 2012 gold medallist Jared Tallent into second place to win the 50km walk.

Centre left: Greece’s Ekaterini Stefanidi held off USA’s Sandi Morris to take pole vault gold.

Bottom left: for Sandra Perkovic, once was enough as she retained her Olympic crown with her one legal discus throw.

“To win the double gold again shows I didn’t just fluke it in London”
Mo Farah
RIO 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES

Opposite, Germany’s Thomas Röhler snatched javelin gold in dramatic fashion after silver medallist Julius Yego retired injured.

Croatia’s Sara Kolak won Olympic gold in the women’s javelin just a few months after her return to competition from a long-term injury.
RIO 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES

jumper Ruth Beitia finally achieved her dream of Olympic gold. Her jump of 1.97m was enough to win the competition and make her the first Spanish woman to win an Olympic gold medal in athletics.

Matej Toth won Slovakia’s first Olympic athletics medal with gold over 50km race walking. In a tactical race under the blazing sunshine, Toth left it late to make his move pressing his advantage only in the final two kilometres to secure the win. Meanwhile Kevin Mayer of France, who had been troubled by injuries, pushed the USA’s Ashton Eaton hard in the decathlon taking silver with a national record 8834 points.

Finally, Britain’s Mo Farah became just the second athlete to achieve the distance double-double defending both his 5000m and 10,000m Olympic titles. At times looking vulnerable, he dug deep to overcome a fall in the 10,000m final and a stumble in his 5000m heat to become the most decorated British track and field athlete ever.

Welcoming the results, European Athletics President Svein Arne Hansen said: “The level of competition over the 10 days of athletics has been extremely high with great performances no matter where you looked. New stars were born, such as Belgium’s Nafissatou Thiam who triumphed in the heptathlon at the age of 21, while others like Mo Farah cemented their place in history following his distance double-double over 5000m and 10,000m.”

Hansen, who was present in Rio for the duration of the Games and active on social media throughout, pointed out that, of the 48 European Athletics Member Federations present in Rio, 18 won at least one medal.
Mersin in Turkey was the venue for the European Champions Club Cup Group A Track and Field competition. The hosts made the most of home advantage with strong performances from the men in the sprint and long distance events was enough to secure a win for Enka ahead of Spanish rivals Playas de Castellon. For the women, Fenerbahce Sport Club had to settle for third place in a competition dominated by Sport Clube de Portugal.

Castellon in Spain hosted the ECCC Track & Field Junior Group A competition although top spots were shared by Turkey and Great Britain with Shaftsbury Barnet Harriers taking the men’s title and Fenerbahce Sport Club the women’s.

Leiria in Portugal played host to the Senior and Junior Group B Track and Field teams. Two British clubs, Birchfield Harriers for the men and Thames Valley Harriers for the women, made it double glory coming back from relegation just one year ago and taking Great Britain back to Group A. For the juniors of Group B the men of PAC won a narrow victory and AD Mass Lubljana won for the women.

Turkey, this time Kastamonu, also hosted the ECCC Cross Country where the home clubs took three of the four team medals for the second year running. France’s Ales Cevennes Athletisme prevented them taking a clean sweep by winning the men’s 10km. Uskudar Belediye retained the women’s senior title, while in the under-20 races Kocaeli Darica Bel. Egitim held on to men’s gold and Bursa Buyuksehir Belediye SK the women’s both beating Fenerbahce.

Turkey dominated the medals in Track and Field and Cross Country
“Mersin, Castellon, Leiria and Kastamonu were the hosts for Europe’s top athletics clubs”

Left: Denmark’s Anna-Emilie Moller added the gold medal to her 5000m silver and 3000m bronze from the 2015 U20 Championships in Eskilstuna

Below: They’re off - the home crowd witnessed a strong showing by the Turkish teams
Top: Alana Ryan from Sli Cualann punches her way across the line to win the 200m at the ECCC Juniors

“Competing for a club is a different dynamic and brings out some great performances”
European Athletics currently has an event programme of 18 different sporting events (European Athletics Championships and European Cups) and 3 corporate events (Congress, Convention and CEO Conference). These represent 74 single events over a period of four years and each of them is available for Cities and national Member Federations to bid for.

Event bidding is the first stage in realising the ambition of bringing one of European Athletics’ events to a city in any of our 51 Member Federation countries.

To learn more about European Athletics and bringing one of our events to your city, contact bidding@european-athletics.org
Top: Birchfield Harriers celebrate after winning the Senior Group B trophy.

Centre: Out of the blocks on a very quick track in Leiria

Right: Tightly fought races and close finishes are expected in the Champion Clubs Cup

“Memories are made and careers launched from club athletics”
The European Throwing Cup is the event where athletes get to evaluate their form, and that of their competitors, after a hard winter of training. That is not to say that the form book went out of the window as Seniors and U23s competed for bragging rights and more in Arad, Romania in March.

German javelin favourite Christin Hussong duly delivered having won the U23 title a year ago although she was pushed hard by a competitive field. In the women’s shot put, Alena Abramchuk brought back memories of Sofia in 2011, as she bridged a gap of five years to be crowned European Throwing Cup champion.

In the men’s discus, Sweden’s Axel Harstedt started 2016 in style beating defending champion Martin Kupper in a tightly bunched top three. Day 1 of competition was completed by the U23 men’s hammer and women’s javelin and shot put. Turkey’s Ozkan Baltaci found the consistency to take the men’s title but it was two Scandinavians – Norway’s Sigrid Borge and Fanny Roos the Swede who found winning form in the javelin and shot respectively.

Day 2 brought reward for the patient Romanian hosts as their man Andrei Gag earned an impressive win in the shot put. Julian Weber followed up his countrywomen’s win to bring home the U23 javelin. Slovenia’s Veronika Domjan defied her youth with a superb win in the U23 discus; Turkey’s Osman Can Ozdeveci found his form to win U23 men’s shot put and in the U23 women’s hammer a PB from Belarusian Hanna Malysik was enough to secure the title.

The final senior men’s event, the javelin, also went Belarus’ way courtesy of Uladzimir Kazlou and in the senior women’s hammer competition victory went to Moldovan Zalina Marghiieva.
“The European Throwing Cup is where athletes get to evaluate form after a hard winter of training”

Top: Ileana Sorescu in action at a home event

Swedish discus champion Axel Härdstedt started his year positively with a win in Arad
“The European 10,000m Cup is now in its third decade having first been staged in Spain 20 years ago”
Italy and Turkey on top in Mersin

Danielle Meucci and Esma Aydemir won the individual medals at the 20th European 10,000m Cup.

Italy’s Danielle Meucci won a second big European title with a season’s best performance in the 10,000m Cup in Mersin, Turkey. He laid down a marker for his attempt on the half marathon included as part of the European Championships in Amsterdam for the first time. It was a good night for Italy whose men also took team gold.

In the women’s race Esma Aydemir produced a fabulous final lap breaking her personal best by more than a minute as she won gold in front of her home crowd. Team gold was won by Britain although Aydemir’s performance delivered team silver for Turkey.
History was made in Arco in July when twin brothers Bernard and Martin Dematteis produced an extraordinary moment of brotherly love by crossing the finishing line of the 12km mountain run together. Sharing the gold and silver medals, the two men embraced and waved the Italian flag to the delight of fans.

Italy had much to celebrate too in the women’s race where their runners took the team title despite Britain’s Emily Colinge crossing the line first. Alice Gaggi and Sara Bottarelli took second and third places and their colleague Valentina Belotti came in sixth to secure a memorable win for Italy.

In the junior men’s race Italy could only split the medals with Turkey whose runners Bozkurt, Goksel and Kervan also secured the team title. In the junior women’s race all the running was made by Czech Republic’s Michaela Stranska who won by more than a minute. Britain’s women won team gold.
ARCO EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The challenging course took runners past the historic 10th Century castle.

Bottom: twin brothers Bernard and Martin Dematteis crossed the finishing line together to win gold and silver.
OUTDOOR MEETINGS

Outdoor Permit Meetings play a big part in the summer athletics calendar

The European Athletics Outdoor Permit Meetings – 31 meetings organised into three tiers: Premium Classic and Area – were a hugely significant part of the athletics landscape last summer.

The meetings gave competitive opportunities to many athletes, from Europe and worldwide, ranging from previous and soon-to-be Olympic champions to emerging talents on the verge of international success. They drew a collective audience in person well into six figures as well as TV audiences in the millions.

Highlights included performances from three athletes who rose to the occasion in front of their local fans. Poland’s 2016 Olympic hammer champion Anita Włodarczyk extended her world record to 82.98m in Warsaw just two weeks after her win in Rio while her compatriot Paweł Fajdek launched the men’s hammer out to a world-leading 82.47m at the same meeting.

France’s Jimmy Vicaut has been one of the world’s top sprinters for several years and equalled the European 100m record in Montreuil in early June.

Another notable feat which endorsed the quality of the European Athletics Outdoor Permit Meetings was a world-leading throw of 91.28m by German javelin thrower Thomas Röhler, who also went on to strike gold in Rio.
“Records and world-leading performances show the quality of the Permit Meetings”
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Italian long jumper, Dariya Derkach was one of the Italian stars to enjoy strong home support at the 30th meeting in Padova.

“Permit meetings are a great opportunity to connect with local fans.”
Nine meetings across the length and breadth of Europe – from Iceland to Turkey, from Estonia to Spain – made up the 2016 European Athletics Indoor Permit Meetings calendar, which can proudly boast of being the second most important indoor circuit in the world. Many of athletics’ biggest stars were in action at these meetings which are an integral part of European Athletics’ commitment to promoting athletics as an all-year-round sport.

Once again, one of the jewels in the crown was the PSD Bank Indoor Meeting in Düsseldorf. Serbia’s Ivana Španović and Spain’s Orlando Ortega shone in the German city. Among a plethora of world-leading marks, Španović won a top-quality long jump competition in 6.79m while Ortega ran a 60m hurdles national record of 7.49. It was the prologue to a memorable year for both athletes which also saw them climb the podium at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Other highlights of the series included Poland’s Ewa Swoboda speeding to a world junior indoor 60m record of 7.07 on home territory at the Copernicus Cup meeting in Toruń, and French pole vault star Renaud Lavillenie clearing 6.03m at the Jablonec Indoor Gala in the Czech Republic.
Ivana Španović will be one of the stars of her home indoor championships in Belgrade.

Left: Germany’s Jenny Elbe in action in Dusseldorf

Right: France’s Simon Krauss goes head to head against Konstantinos Douvalidis of Greece
CROSS COUNTRY MEETINGS

The European Athletics Cross Country Permit Meetings went through a period of expansion in 2016.

Meetings in Denmark and Germany were added to the calendar and no less than six events could be used as a form guide ahead of the annual highlight of the cross country season, the SPAR European Cross Country Championships.

Alongside long-standing traditional fixtures in the final three months of year, such as the Cross De Soria in Spain, the International Warandecross in the Netherlands and Cross de L’Acier in France, the two new additions – the European Halloween Cross in Denmark and Darmstadt Cross in Germany – also staged high quality races attracting Europe’s leading distance runners.

The curtain was brought down on 2016 in appropriate fashion with Brussels staging the final European Athletics competition of the year, the Iris Lotto Cross Cup. Issac Kimeli followed up his European U23 cross country title from a week before with an impressive win on home soil in the Belgian capital while Ireland’s two-time former European cross country champion Fionnuala McCormack romped to an 18-second victory and gained redemption for finishing out of the medals in Chia.
Cross Country Meetings are a popular fixture in Tilburg, Netherlands, Trentino, Italy and Lidingöloppet, Sweden.

“New meetings in Denmark and Germany were added in 2016”
The European Athletics Race Walking Permit Meetings remain popular events for many of the world’s top performers in this discipline and 2016 was no exception. The races are vital preparation for the major championships which last year included the IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships and the Olympic Games.

As always, the famous Poděbrady race walking meeting in the Czech Republic provided many performances to savour. There were impressive victories in the senior 20km races at the 84th edition of this historic competition by Sweden’s Perseus Karlström and Mexico’s Alejandra Ortega, who both won in personal best times.

However, it was the age-group winners in Poděbrady who gave a tantalising glimpse into the crystal ball. Great Britain’s Callum Wilkinson won the men’s U20 10km, which strongly hinted at the talent that was to be displayed later in the summer when he won the world U20 10,000m title on the track; while Turkey’s Meryem Bekmez took the girls’ U18 5km race by almost a minute in her first ever international outing and confirmed her potential three months later when she won the European U18 5000m gold medal.
The age group winners in Poděbrady provided a tantalising glimpse into the crystal ball.
It took from launch until November 2015 for Running for All to certify its first 100 races. But in 2016, in a sign of increasing momentum, that figure almost trebled as 175+ new races were added to the list. The acceptance of the European Athletics Quality Road Race standards by so many race organisers is an overwhelming endorsement of their value and a real opportunity for European Athletics to form strong partnerships within the running movement. As President Svein Arne Hansen was quick to point out, with this number of road races certified by Running for All, European Athletics can now be considered as a leading partner in mass participation running.

For those unfamiliar with Running for All, the scheme sees races measured against 54 criteria via a simple online platform. Races given a one-star endorsement fulfill the minimum requirements of safety and security for all participants. Races given a three-star rating offer a good level of safety and a satisfactory level of services to participants, while five-star races offer the highest quality experience and a comprehensive range of services from health and safety to course measurement and timing.

The European Athletics Quality Road Race standards provide an assurance to road runners throughout Europe. They distinguish between races that respect the standards and those that haven’t sought certification or assessment. They form the foundation of Running for All, a strong recognisable brand for running activities throughout Europe. For more information on Running for All visit www.european-running4all.org or follow on Twitter @runningforall.
“With this number of road races certified by Running for All, European Athletics can now be considered as a leading partner in mass participation running”

Svein Arne Hansen
“Fit for life: mass participation running is growing and more races are signing up to the Quality Road Race Standards”
Left: Copenhagen is one of the fastest marathon courses in Europe

Below: Leaders set the pace at the Mainova Frankfurt Marathon
The ‘I run clean’ initiative, launched at the 2015 SPAR European Cross Country Championships, gained momentum in 2016 giving athletes the opportunity to express their feelings about the damage doping scandals do. Competitors at all European Athletics’ major events wore bibs proclaiming themselves ‘clean’ and sending a powerful message about the sport.

At the Amsterdam 2016 European Athletics Championships some of Europe’s elite athletes showed their commitment to a drug-free sport by wearing bibs carrying the slogans “I Run Clean”, “I Jump Clean”, “I Throw Clean”, and “I Am Clean” for combined events. Athletes and fans alike promoted anti-doping on social media platforms using the #irunclean, #ijumpclean, #ithrowclean hashtags.

Later, in Tbilisi, competitors at the first European Athletics Youth Championships had the chance to take part in a series of innovative anti-doping activities. Athletes were encouraged to take part in a programme run by European Athletics Young Leaders.
and aimed at raising their awareness and enhancing their knowledge of anti-doping issues. Participating athletes took part in a quiz designed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and all those who scored over a certain mark received a branded t-shirt with the slogans of the programme. Judging by the number of t-shirts in evidence, the initiative was well received and the lessons will last a lifetime.

In December, in the final major event of the year, runners in the SPAR European Cross Country Championships in Chia sported the ‘I run clean’ slogan on their bibs once again.

“Participating in the Youth Championships is a learning experience and that includes lessons about anti-doping”

Young Leaders run anti-doping awareness raising activities in Tbilisi.
The 5th Young Leaders Forum, held on the sidelines of the European Athletics Championships in Amsterdam, attracted 52 participants from 46 Member Federations around Europe. The five-day programme of seminars and working sessions was combined with the opportunity to attend the entire European Championships and to enjoy the closing party with athletes.

The presence of a large number of athletes in the same city as the Forum was an opportunity not to be missed and several sports stars paid a visit. Their message was that individuals of whatever age can make a real difference in sport and in their local communities. The Young Leaders gained leadership and project management skills and established the support of a Europe-wide network to give them the motivation and tools to go back to their countries and be energetic contributors to the future of the sport.

The Young Leaders Forum programme was coordinated by key European Athletics Head Office staff and a group of Young Leaders from previous events. Between them they promoted the values of athletics and volunteerism empowering participants to design and deliver their own athletics projects. Everyone left energised to promote the growth and development of athletics and the Young Leaders Community.

The next edition of the European Athletics Young Leaders Forum is due to take place during the European Athletics 2018 Championships in Berlin.

“The aim is to provide skills for participants and to motivate them and strengthen their networks”

Christian Milz, European Athletics CEO
IAAF President Sebastian Coe was interviewed by the Young Leaders and on hand for a selfie afterwards.
YOUNG LEADERS

A network that will last a lifetime, the Young Leaders make connections that can help them grow within the industry.

Below: 52 Young Leaders plus facilitators with IAAF President Coe and European Athletics Vice President Jean Gracia

“They’re a really impressive group of young people - They’ve got some very smart ideas about where the sport can go to, and how we engage with more young people.”

Sebastian Coe
“Events provide a platform to promote sustainability and a healthy lifestyle”
Volunteers for the European Athletics Indoor Championships in Belgrade were introduced to Green Inspiration, the European Athletics sustainability programme, as part of their training and induction.

Green Inspiration is the initiative which actively promotes sustainability and environmentally-friendly practices at major championships. Apart from doing the right thing at European Athletics major events, the initiative helps hosts to reduce costs through improved efficiency. It also gives a boost to the public image of sports events and winning local support for sport.

Green Inspiration developed the Sustainable Sport and Event Toolkit (SSET) which is available online to all event organisers. This shares good practice between hosts and ensures that European Athletics events become increasingly green over time. Belgrade was one of the first cities to be recognised with a Green Inspiration label when the programme started in 2013. Recognition has also been given to other hosts including Zurich in 2014 and Eskilstuna in 2015.

The programme covers the many functional areas of event organisation and the volunteers in Belgrade are benefiting from work started in the city when the SPAR European Athletics Cross Country Championships were held there in 2013. This event provided a template for communicating messages of sustainability and a healthy lifestyle which will be used again to raise awareness at the Indoor Championships.

Over 400 volunteers from Serbia will be joined by around 50 others from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Turkey, Netherlands, Belgium, Armenia and Georgia. Together they will spread the message of Green Inspiration that is supported by the event organising committee.
COMMISSIONS

WHERE CHANGE IS DELIVERED

European Athletics Commissions have made progress on ‘Delivering Change’

President Svein Arne Hansen set out his vision for change in his election manifesto and at subsequent speeches and announcements. But it is up to the Commissions to work towards delivering that vision, a job they took seriously in 2016.

A radical new ranking system was among a number of changes introduced to make athletics both more accessible and compelling to the public. Format changes and a new scoring system are also in the pipeline as European Athletics commits to trialling a brand new athletics event for the 2019 European Games.

Commission members and the teams that report into them have also proposed an anti-doping licence and promotion of clean sport messages as well as leading the way for Member Federations to be involved in the European Week of Sport. This work is supported by the European Athletics Quality and Safety Standards which continue to position Members at the heart of the running movement in Europe.

Progress has been made in Member education with the holding of a number of seminars as well as specific efforts to include the voices of more women and young people in the running of athletics across the region.

President Hansen’s progress report published in January 2017 shows there is still work to do and the Commissions can expect to continue to have a full agenda this year.
“The new commissions include more women members than ever before”
LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

Three young women go through 2016 leadership development programme

An important part of the Women’s Leadership Awards programme is the awarding of scholarships to young women identified by their federations as potential future leaders. An expert jury selected three winners from among 14 candidates from all over Europe. Those three were Ieva Blusina of Latvia, Maryia Badzich of Belarus, and Vahida Kozic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and each took part in a leadership development programme throughout 2016.

Whilst the jury were looking among the candidates for the potential to be a future leader, in many ways the three chosen are already demonstrating their leadership skills. Ieva Blusina works as head of communication at the Latvian Athletic Federation, Maryia Badzich came up through the ranks of the European Athletics Young Leaders Community and is now executive director at the Belarus Athletics Federation. Vahida Kozic, another member of the Young Leaders Community, is now executive director for the Sarajevo Athletic Club.

As part of the Scholarship, Ieva Blusina went as a delegate to the Women in World Athletics (WIWA) seminar in Birmingham, Great Britain and the European Athletics CEO Conference in Minsk, Belarus. Fellow award winner, Maryia Badzich reconnected with the Young Leaders Community at the latest forum in Amsterdam. Hopefully all three of these young women will have gained from their experiences and will play an increasing role in the leadership of athletics in their countries.
The Golden Tracks awards gala in Funchal Portugal recognised innovators who will contribute to the future of the sport and celebrated the achievements of top athletics coaches. Geoff Wightman and Gavin Lightwood from Great Britain and Northern Ireland were named as the winners of the 10th European Athletics Innovation Award with their #clickyourclock motivational competition. The pair will share a prize of CHF 10,000.

Since #clickyourclock was launched the number of runners taking part has grown dramatically. As the programme continues to expand up to 1,000 new runners are entering each week. #clickyourclock was the overall winner and winner in the Promotion Category. The annual European Athletics Coaching Awards were presented to the coaches recognised for having made important contributions to the sport of athletics in 2016.

On the evening of the Golden Tracks gala Ms Anabela Leite, Mr Paulo Murta and Mr José Uva of Portugal were brought up on stage to be the first to collect their awards on behalf of all the winners. This year a total of 60 coaches representing 31 Member Federations will receive an award. The remainder of the awards will be presented at national ceremonies.
SHARING AND LEARNING

Organising and attending conferences and seminars is a key tool for spreading the message of change around Europe

How do you turn vision into change on the ground? It’s a question which organisations of all types have wrestled with and it applies particularly to sports bodies. It is one thing for the President, the Council or the Commissions to want to achieve something but sharing that message and helping to make it happen among Member Federations takes something different.

In 2016 a number of high profile conferences were organised which aimed to share, to listen and to bring Member Federations on board with the changes going on in athletics. The CEO Conference in April brought together President Svein Arne Hansen with senior leaders in Minsk, Belarus to share some strategic thinking. Attendees discovered how athletics can be seen as a brand which is either strong and reliable or fragile. Importantly, they learned how the changes planned across European Athletics are going to build that brand and contribute to greater success for all Members. They also learned how brand messages can be communicated using traditional and new media and developed action plans to take back to their Federations.

“We have the chance to discuss important issues regarding the future of our sport with leaders of the European Athletics Member Federations”
A large group from all over Europe gathered in Minsk for the European Athletics CEO Conference.

President Svein Arne Hansen used the platform to communicate the clear and strong ‘Your Sport for Life’ strategy.
Later in the year Vice President Jean Gracia gathered with other leading figures to tackle the important issue of governance and what it means. They discussed transparency and accountability and other ways the trust in athletics can be secured.

Of course, the meetings schedule was not all about business and administration: experts were also brought together to review developments in javelin, pole vault and high jump, race walking and endurance as part of European Athletics’ ongoing mission to support coaches and officials, to share technical know-how more broadly and to improve standards of athletic performance across all European countries.

“Conferences are part of a range of initiatives across the continent to raise governance standards”