



## **“Run without borders” to commemorate the 2005 International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE) starts 19 October**

2005 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE). On that occasion the Viennese United Nations Information Service joined hands with the organizers of the Vienna-Budapest 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Super-marathon. The subtitle for this event is “Run without borders!” which helps to underline United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s point that, “Sport is a universal language that can bring people together, no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs or economic status.” The Super-marathon will be run over a course of five days from Vienna, Austria, to Budapest, Hungary, from 19 through 23 October 2005.

Started in 1990 the original idea of the event was attached to the joint organization of the Vienna-Budapest World Exhibition. In the first year, 308 competitors started from eight countries, where as last year, 800 participants started from 13 countries, and the standard of the event has grown from year to year.

The border-crossing event has contributed to and by the means of sport, supported the process that led both countries from the opening of Austria and Hungary’s mutual borders in 1989 to the accession into the European Union. As runners, cyclists, and inline-skaters are coming from many countries the race symbolizes the main ideas of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education such as peace, integration, tolerance, fair play, team spirit, healthy life styles and caring for the environment.

The aim of the competition is to strengthen the international relations and further improve the friendship between countries, through the sharing of cross border ideas by the means of sport. It is also to promote a healthy lifestyle provided by sport and jogging. To afford racing possibilities for long-distance runners, cyclists and inline-skaters of all ages, and to further familiarize the participants with both Austria and Hungary, it is not a mere super-marathon but a sports festival for all ages.

The United Nations Information Service in Vienna working with the event organizers would like to put forward as many national and international participants as possible, including UN staff members or teams of staff members from duty stations such as New York, Geneva and Nairobi.

There are a number of ways in which to participate in the event. One can either run, run as a relay team, ride a bicycle, or even inline-skate. The entire race is run in five days over 352 km from Vienna to Budapest. The first day the race is from Vienna to Sopron for approximately 93km. Day Two is from Sopron to Győr and for a distance of approximately 116km. Day Three is from Győr to Tata and is approximately 61km. Day Four is from Tata to Budakeszi and is approximately 60km. The Fifth and Final day is from Budakeszi to Budapest and is known as the “Half-marathon” for its distance.

The relay men and women teams will consist of four runners plus one reserve runner. Each runner will run approximately equal distances during each day of the race along the prescribed route. The teams will be divided into total-age groups for both men and women, with the junior groups being comprised of teams with all members under the age of 20. For women there is an absolute category with older categories beginning at a total age per team of 176-200 years, 201-250 years, 251-300 years, and finally 301 years and over. For men the first age group after the absolute category is 201-250 years, followed by 251-300 years, and finally 301 years and over.

The individual race will, like the relay race be broken into different age groups for both men and women. There is the absolute category for both, but the first age group for women begins at 35 where as for men it begins at 40. Each successive age is five years apart, e.g. 40, 45, 50, 55, etc.

The cycling tour and roller-skating race will be attached to the Super-marathon, as well as the half-marathon in Hungary. All of them will be evaluated together and the prizes awarded at the same time. The entry fee for all is Euro 200.- per person. For meals and accommodation there are two categories to choose from:

Category A – Double room with bath in a Hotel and 5 days full board: Euro 400.-

Category C – Accommodation in a Youth Hostel and 5 days full board: Euro 200.-

The accommodation fees will not be refunded after the 30 September 2005, and the entry fees will increase by ten percent on 30 September.

The localized organization is traditionally done by the governments of the provinces, counties, towns and villages along the route who support the management of the event, promote the race, let teams start, provide refreshments for the runners and encourage them. Based on the participants' votes, the competition for "The Most Popular Settlement" is awarded each year. The local governments and schools are required to organize connecting races for the youth of the settlements along the route, on which the participating students receive special awards from the Organizing Committee. This year the Budapest Athletic Association will organize a race for about 1000 pupils who will join the Super-marathon on the last day.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.szupermarathon.hu>  
or contact István Szabó, email: [eszigeti@axelero.hu](mailto:eszigeti@axelero.hu)

*(That background information was compiled and written by Greg Pellechi during his internship at UNIS Vienna).*