



OSTRAVA!!!



2022 UEC Cyclo-cross European Cup in Ostrava: Cyclo-cross under the blast furnace

The organizers from Ostrava and representatives of the Czech Cycling Federation have managed to negotiate a five-year contract with the European Cycling Union UEC to organize the UEC Cyclo-cross European Cup. It will be held in Ostrava always in the pre-Christmas time. This year, the two-day event will take place on 17th and 18th December in the industrial locality of Dolní Vítkovice. The races for junior women and men as well as women and men U23 are included in the UCI calendar as the C2 level.

"Cyclocross is moving into new attractive locations around the world. That is why we are also looking for new unconventional tracks to host international races. The Dolní Vítkovice area is exactly what can revive our discipline and attract new competitors and fans to it," said Petr Balogh, chairman of the cyclo-cross commission of the Czech Cycling Federation. It is through the setting of the race in the unusual location of the Vítkovice ironworks that promises quality of sporting performances and an attractive spectacle for fans.

UEC Cyclo-cross European Cup is primarily for male and female competitors in the cadet U17, junior and men and women's under 23 categories. *"So that as wide a field of young cross-country athletes as possible will get the opportunity to compete in quality international competition. Their races in Ostrava are therefore included in the UCI calendar at C2 level. This means for them the opportunity to gain points in the international ranking and a decent prize money, which they would hardly reach in the UCI World Cup in the competition of Belgian and Dutch riders,"* explained race director Miloš Židík. In Ostrava, there will also be competitions for boys and girls up to 15 years old or for Masters and Elite men and women. These are already outside the C2 level.

"The cyclo-cross race will be held in Ostrava for the second time and it can be said that the last one was a trial race. Based on the feedback of the competitors who went through last year's race, we have clearly concluded that we want to continue organizing it. And it so happened that one day I was walking around the Dolní Vítkovice and I met Jan Světlík, who is the person who has probably the biggest and most passionate relationship with this area. He told me that if we wanted to do the race again, we definitely had to go through one of the factory halls. Thanks to this, our track really and uniquely passes through the hall around blast furnace number 4," described one of the main innovations of the track course director Radovan Šťastný.

The cyclo-cross discipline is gaining in attractiveness and popularity thanks to the ever-evolving trend to prepare an original race course with unusual types of obstacles and a variety of surfaces. The three-kilometre European Cup circuit features seven different types of surface. *"We start on cobblestones, cross asphalt, get onto dirt and grass, then crossing the asphalt road again and through the technical pit into the sand. Then onto the gravel, from which the riders ride onto a wooden bridge. If I'm not mistaken, we've got everything. Unless, of course, there is snow and ice. And that could happen in December. There is of course also the steepest staircase in the whole Czech basin. I don't think there's anything like it anywhere else. I would almost say that it is something between a slide, a lift and a staircase,"* said Radovan Šťastný with exaggeration.

Television viewers will have the opportunity to watch the races from Ostrava live. *"We have managed to establish cooperation with O2 Production, which has experience, for example, from the*

last two editions of the cycling stage race *Tour of Slovakia*, for the production of the TV broadcast. We are still negotiating the placement on TV channels," said race director Miloš Židík.

Cyclo-cross racers can register online on the website <https://cycling.sportsoft.cz/registration/> until 14th December.

The 2022 UEC Cyclo-cross European Cup in Ostrava will be held with the support of the Moravian-Silesian Region, the City of Ostrava, HSF System, the Czech Cycling Federation, UEC, AT Computers, Craft and Vavrys, Radioking, Bombus, Ha-vel, ARPEX Morava and Jiří Team Ostrava.

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2022 UEC CYCLO-CROSS EUROPEAN CUP, OSTRAVA Time Schedule:

Date	Time	Category	Race duration
Friday, 16. 12. 2022	13:00 - 15:30	Official training on the race course	
	16:00 - 17:00	Distribution of start numbers for races 17. 12. 2022	
Saturday, 17. 12. 2022	8:00 - 9:15	Official training on the race course	
	9:30	Girls U15	15 - 20 minutes
	10:05	Boys U15	20 - 25 minutes
	10:07	Masters Women 35 – 39	25 minutes
	10:07	Masters Women 40 – 44	25 minutes
	10:07	Masters Women 45 and older	25 minutes
	10:07	Masters Men 60 and older	25 minutes
	10:35 - 11:10	Official training on the race course	
	10:40	Prize giving ceremony for Girls and Boys U15, Masters Women, Masters Men 60 and older	
	11:15	Cadet Women U17	25 - 30 minutes
	12:00	Cadet Men U17	30 - 35 minutes
	12:02	Masters Men 55 – 59	35 minutes
	12:02	Masters Men 50 – 54	35 minutes
	12:50	Women Elite	50 minutes
	12:50	Masters Men 45 – 49	50 minutes
	13:55	Masters Men 40 – 44	55 minutes
	13:55	Masters Men 35 – 39	55 minutes
	13:55	Men Elite	55 minutes
	15:00	Prize giving ceremony for Cadet Women and Men U17, Masters Men, Women and Men Elite	
14:55 - 15:55	Official training on the race course		
16:00 - 17:00	Distribution of start numbers and chips for races 18. 12. 2022		
Sunday, 18. 12. 2022	8:30 - 9:45	Official training on the race course	
	10:00	Junior Women (C2)	40 minutes
	11:05	Junior Men (C2)	40 minutes
	12:10	Women U23 (C2)	45 minutes
	13:20	Men U23 (C2)	50 minutes