

## [Andrea Mayr and Piotr Lobodzinski are Towerrunning European Champions 2014](#)

Having conquered the tallest buildings of Austria (Danube Tower Vienna) and Czech Republic (AZ Tower Brno) and Bratislava's iconic Ufo in an innovative three-day tournament Andrea Mayr (AUT) and Piotr Lobodzinski (POL) emerged as the 2014 Towerrunning European Champions. While Mayr celebrated superior wins in all three stages, Piotr Lobodzinski had to struggle for the overall victory on the last 430 stairs of the championships.

After his triumphs in Vienna and Brno, Lobodzinski entered the final as the clear leader in the point standings and a fourth place in Bratislava would have been sufficient to secure the title. Reaching the finish with his last ounce of strength, Lobodzinski took the third rank in the final and thus the European Champion title - just two seconds apart from losing the gold medal. The Bratislava win and the ECH silver medal were claimed by Tomas Celko (SVK, 1:44.6), who was able to shave another 5.1 seconds from his own track record. Christian Riedl, narrowly defeated by Lobodzinski in Brno and equal in points with Celko before the grand final, was without a chance against the Slovak in the final race. Riedl became fifth in Bratislava and ECH bronze medallist. Ranks four to six in the ECH tournament went to Bratislava runner-up Bartosz Swiatkowski (POL, 1:45.8), Fabio Ruga (ITA) and Matjaz Miklosa (SLO).

In the women's competition Andrea Mayr broke the track record (2:15.1) and crowned herself to the tournament's triple winner and undisputed Towerrunning European Champion. In the difficult and narrow spiral staircase Lenka Svabikova (CZE, 2:33.2) could beat Suzanne Walsham (AUS, 2:23.7) for the first time in her career and cemented the ECH silver medal. In the battle for the bronze medal Dominika Wisniewska-Ulfik (POL) and Maria Theresa Handlbauer (AUT) entered the last race with equal point standings. With a fourth place (2:28.4) Austria's young stair racing talent Handlbauer gathered the decisive points for the ECH bronze medal. Wisniewska-Ulfik finished the ECH fourth and Zuzana Krchova (CZE) took an unexpected fifth overall rank.

Under ideal weather conditions an outstanding selection of the strongest European athletes started their race on the Danube promenade before storming in and up the spectacular pylon of Most SNP Bridge up to the Ufo's observatory. Similar to the first two races the ECH final was coined by fair play, a great atmosphere and an incredibly high competition level. Elite athletes from 18 countries competed in the 3 days – 3 towers – 3 countries tournament and made the European Towerrunning Championships 2014 a huge success. A total of 1909 stairs had to be climbed before the champions could hold the trophies in their hand. Austrian Towerrunning legend Andrea Mayr, extending her unbeaten series in stair races, and reigning World Cup champion Piotr Lobodzinski from Poland became worthy champions and an emotional award ceremony on the banks of the Danube River was the brilliant finale of a great event.

Further information, photo gallery and complete results are available at [www.towerrunning.com](http://www.towerrunning.com).  
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