

Barcelona 2010 less than one month away

With less than one month to go before the great show begins, the European athletics world is mobilising to ensure the main stars arrive at the competition in their best form. The first part of the summer season has been dominated by the first meetings of the Diamond League, which have taken place on three continents, and by the European Team Championships, which took place over four leagues in different cities in June. After this, the most important objective of the elite, which is recognised by all athletics fans and the 1,600-plus athletes who will compete in Barcelona 2010, is the event that will start in Montjuïc on 26 July.

Some important one-day meetings and national championships are still to be held in most European countries. However, the analysis set out below will give statistics lovers some essential facts in preparation for the final straight, so that the event can be followed better.

MEN

100 metres (28/07, 21:45)

Previous champions: 1998, Darren Campbell (GBR) 10.04; 2002, Francis Obikwelu (POR) 10.06; 2006, Francis Obikwelu (POR) 9.99

Goteborg Podium: 1. Francis Obikwelu (POR) 9.99; 2. Andrey Yepishin (RUS) 10.10; 3. Matic Osovnikar (SLO) 10.14

Favourites: Dwain Chambers (GBR), Christophe Lemaître (FRA), Martial Mbandjock (FRA), Jaysuma Saidy Ndure (NOR)

Spanish medal chances: 5%



Christophe Lemaître

200 metres (30/07, 19:25)

Previous champions: 1998, Doug Walker (GBR) 20.53; 2002, Konstantinos Kenderis (GRE) 19.85; 2006, Francis Obikwelu (POR) 20.01

Goteborg Podium: 1. Francis Obikwelu (POR) 20.01; 2. Johan Wissman (SWE) 20.38; 3. Marlon Devonish (GBR) 20.54

Favourites: Martial Mbandjock (FRA), Ramil Guliyev (AZE), Paul Hession (IRL), Christian Malcolm (GBR)

Spanish medal chances: 5%

400 metres (30/07, 21:25)

Previous champions: 1998, Iwan Thomas (GBR) 44.52; 2002, Ingo Schultz (GER) 45.14; 2006, Marc Raquil (FRA) 45.02

Goteborg Podium: 1. Marc Raquil (FRA) 45.02; 2. Vladislav Frolov (RUS) 45.09; 3. Leslie Djhone (FRA) 45.40

Favourites: David Gillick (IRL), Martyn Rooney (GBR), Kévin Borlée (BL), Jonathan Borlée (BEL), Vladimir Krasnov (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: ---

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800 metres (31/07, 19:35)

Previous champions: 1998, Nils Schumann (GER) 1:44.89; 2002, Wilson Kipketer (DEN), 1:47.25; 2006, Bram Som (NED) 1:46.56

Goteborg Podium: 1. Bram Som (NED) 1:46.56; 2. David Flegen (LUX) 1:46.59; 3. Sam Ellis (GBR) 1:46.64

Favourites: Yuri Borzakowski (RUS), Marcin Lewandowski (POL), Michael Rimmer (GBR), Bram Som (NED)

Spanish medal chances: 15%

1.500 metres (30/07, 22:00)

Previous champions: 1998, Reyes Estévez (ESP) 3:41.31; 2002, Mehdi Baala (FRA) 3:45.25; 2006, Mehdi Baala (FRA) 3:39.02

Goteborg Podium: Mehdi Baala (FRA) 3:39.02; 2. Ivan Heshko (UKR) 3:39.50; 3. Juan Carlos Higuero (ESP) 3:39.62

Favourites: Mehdi Baala (FRA), Diego Ruiz (ESP), Juan Carlos Higuero (ESP), Carsten Schlangen (GER)

Spanish medal chances: 70%

5.000 metres (31/07, 21:20)

Previous champions: 1998, Isaac Viciosa (ESP) 13:37.46; 2002, Alberto García (ESP) 13:38.18; 2006, Jesús España (ESP) 13:44.70

Goteborg Podium: 1. Jesús España (ESP) 13:44.70; 2. Mo Farah (GBR) 13:44.79; 3. Juan Carlos Higuero (ESP) 13:46.48

Favourites: Mo Farah (GBR), Jesús España (ESP), Alemayehu Bezabeh (ESP), Sergio Sánchez (ESP)

Spanish medal chances: 95%

10.000 metres (27/07, 21:05)

Previous champions: 1998, Antonio Pinto (POR) 27:48.62; 2002, Chema Martínez (ESP) 27:47.65; 2006, Jan Fitschen (GER) 28:10.94

Goteborg Podium: 1. Jan Fitschen (GER) 28:10.94; 2. Chema Martínez (ESP) 28:12.06; 3. Juan Carlos de la Ossa (ESP) 28:13.73

Favourites: Sergio Sánchez (ESP), Carles Castillejo (ESP), Christopher Thompson (GBR)

Spanish medal chances: 80%

Marathon (1/08, 10:05)

Previous champions: 1998, Stefano Baldini (ITA) 2:12.01; 2002, Janne Holmen (FIN) 2:12.14; 2006, Stefano Baldini (ITA) 2:11.32

Goteborg Podium: 1. Stefano Baldini (ITA) 2:11.32; 2. Viktor Rothlin (SUI) 2:11.50; 3. Julio Rey (ESP) 2:12.37

Favourites: Stefano Baldini (ITA), Dmytro Baranowsky (UKR), Oleg Kulkov (RUS), Chema Martínez (ESP)

Spanish medal chances: 40%



Sergio Sanchez

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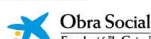
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110 hurdles (30/07, 19:50)

Previous champions: 1998, Colin Jackson (GBR) 13.02; 2002, Colin Jackson (GBR) 13.11; 2006, Stanislav Olijar (LAT) 13.24

Goteborg Podium: 1. Stanislav Olijar (LAT) 13.24; 2. Thomas Blaschek (GER) 13.46; 3. Andy Turner (GBR) 13.52

Favourites: Petr Svoboda (CZE), Andrew Turner (GBR), Artur Noga (POL), Daniel Kiss (HUN)

Spanish medal chances: 15%



Periklis Iakovakis

400 hurdles (31/07, 20:10)

Previous champions: 1998, Pawel Januszewski (POL) 48.17; 2002, Stephane Diagana (FRA) 47.58; 2006, Periklis Iakovakis (GRE) 48.46

Goteborg Podium: 1. Periklis Iakovakis (GRE) 48.46; 2. Marek Plawgo (POL) 48.71; 3. Rhys Williams (GBR) 49.12

Favourites: David Greene (GRB), Periklis Iakovakis (GRE)

Spanish medal chances: ---

3.000 steeplechase (1/08, 20:15)

Previous champions: 1998, Damian Kallabis (GER) 8:13.10; 2002, Antonio Jiménez (ESP) 8:24.34; 2006, Jukka Keskisalo (FIN) 8:24.89

Goteborg Podium: 1. Jukka Keskisalo (FIN) 8:24.89; 2. José Luis Blanco (ESP) 8:26.22; 3. Bouabdellah Tahri (FRA) 8:27.15

Favourites: Bouabdellah Tahri (FRA), Mahiedine Mekhissi-Benabbad (FRA)

Spanish medal chances: 20%

High Jump (29/07, 18:30)

Previous champions: 1998, Artur Partyka (POL) 2,34 m; 2002, Yaroslav Rybakov (RUS) 2,32 m; 2006, Andrey Silnov (RUS) 2,36 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Andrey Silnov (RUS) 2,36 m; 2. Tomas Janku (CZE) 2,34 m; 3. Stefan Holm (SWE) 2,34 m

Favourites: Ivan Ukhov (RUS), Yaroslav Rybakov (RUS), Andrey Silnov (RUS), Linus Thörnblad (SWE)

Spanish medal chances: 5%

Pole Vault (31/07, 18:00)

Previous champions: 1998, Maksim Tarasov (RUS) 5,81 m; 2002, Alex Averbukh (ISR) 5,85 m; 2006, Alex Averbukh (ISR) 5,70m; 2010, Jérôme Clavier (FRA) 5,80 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Alex Averbukh (ISR) 5,70 m; 2. R. Mesnil (FRA) 5,65 m; 2. T. Lobinger (GER) 5,65 m

Favourites: Renaud Lavillenie (FRA), Malte Möhr (GER), Romain Mesnil (FRA)

Spanish medal chances: ---

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Long Jump (1/08, 20:10)

Previous champions: 1998, Kirili Sosunov (RUS) 8,28 m; 2002, Aleksey Lukashevich (UKR) 8,08 m; 2006, Andrew Howe (ITA) 8,20 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Andrew Howe (ITA) 8,20 m.; 2. Greg Rutherford (GBR) 8,13 m; 3. Aleksey Lukashevich (UKR) 8,12m

Favourites: Salim Sdiri (FRA), Christian Reif (GER), Tommy Evila (FIN), Pavel Shalin (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: 5%

Triple Jump (29/07, 19:40)

Previous champions: 1998, Jonathan Edwards (GBR) 17,99 m; 2002, Christian Olsson (SWE) 17,53 m; 2006, Christian Olsson (SWE) 17,67 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Christian Olsson (SWE) 17,67 m; 2. Nathan Douglas (GBR) 17,21 m; 3. Marian Oprea (ROM) 17,18m

Favourites: Phillips Idowu (GBR), Christian Olsson (SWE), Teedy Tamgho (FRA), Marian Oprea (ROM), Viktor Kuznyetsov (UKR)

Spanish medal chances: ---

Shot put (31/07, 18:30)

Previous champions: 1998, Aleksandr Bagach (UKR) 21,17 m; 2002, Yuri Belonog (UKR) 21,37 m; 2006, Ralf Bartels (GER) 21,13 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Ralf Bartels (GER) 21,13 m; 2. Andrei Mikhnevich (BLR) 21,11 m; 3. Joachim Olsen (DEN) 21,09 m

Favourites: Tomasz Majewski (POL), Andrei Mikhnevich (BLR), Maris Urtans (LAT), Ralf Bartels (GER)

Spanish medal chances: ---

Discus (1/08, 19:45)

Previous champions: 1998, Lars Riedel (GER) 67,07 m; 2002, Robert Fazekas (HUN) 68,83 m; 2006, Virgilius Alekna (LTU) 68,67 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Virgilius Alekna (LTU) 68,67 m; 2. Gerd Kanter (EST) 68,03 m; 3. Aleksander Tammert (EST) 66,14m

Favourites: Robert Harting (GER), Gerd Kanter (EST), Piotr Malachowski (POL), Zoltan Kovago (HUN)

Spanish medal chances: 15%

Hammer (28/07, 20:25)

Previous champions: 1998, Tibor Gecsek (HUN) 82,87 m; 2002, Adrian Annus (HUN) 81,17 m; 2006, Ivan Tikhon (BLR) 81,11m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Ivan Tikhon (BLR) 81,11 m; 2. Olli-Pekka Karjalainen (FIN) 80,84 m; 3. Vadim Devyatovski (BLR) 80,76 m

Favourites: Krisztian Pars (HUN), Libor Charfreitag (SVK), Pavel Kryvitski (BLR), Yuri Shayunou (BLR)

Spanish medal chances: ---

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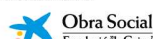
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Javelin Throw (31/07, 20:05)

Previous champions: 1998, Steve Backley (GBR) 89,72 m; 2002, Steve Backley (GBR) 88,54 m; 2006, Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR) 88,78 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR) 88,78 m; 2. Tero Pitkämäki (FIN) 86,44 m, 3. Jan Zelezny (CZE) 85,92m

Favourites: Andreas Thorkildsen (NOR), Tero Pitkämäki (FIN), Petr Frydrych (CZE)

Spanish medal chances: ---



Tero Pitkämäki

Decathlon (28-29/07)

Previous champions: 1998, Erki Nool (EST) 8.667 p; 2002, Roman Sebrle (CZE) 8.800 p; 2006, Roman Sebrle (CZE) 8.526p

Goteborg Podium: 1. Roman Sebrle (CZE) 8.526 p; 2. A. Zsvoczky (HUN) 8.356 p; 3. Aleksey Drozdov (RUS) 8.350 p

Favourites: Aleksey Kasyanov (UKR), Aleksandr Pogorelov (RUS), Michael Schrader (GER)

Spanish medal chances: ---

4x100 metres (1/08, 19:35)

Previous champions: 1998, Great Britain 38.52; 2002 Ukraine 38.53; 2006 Great Britain 38.91

Goteborg Podium: 1. Great Britain 38.91; 2. Poland 39.05; 3. France 39.07

Favourites: Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy

Spanish medal chances: 5%

4x400 metres (1/08, 21:55)

Previous champions: 1998, Great Britain 2:58.68; 2002, Great Britain 3:01.25; 2006, France 3:01.10

Goteborg Podium: 1. France 3:01.10; 2. Great Britain 3:01.63; 3. Poland 3:01.73

Favourites: Rusia, France, Great Britain, Ukraine

Spanish medal chances: 5%

20km Walk (27/07, 08:05)

Previous champions: 1998, Ilya Markov (RUS) 1:21.10; 2002, Paquillo Fernández (Esp) 1:18.37; 2006, Paquillo Fernández (ESP) 1:19.09

Goteborg Podium: 1. Paquillo Fernández (ESP) 1:19.09; 2. Valeriy Borchin (RUS) 1:20.00; 3. Joao Vieira (POR) 1:20.09

Favourites: Valeriy Borchin (RUS), Eryk Tysse (NOR), Alex Schwazer (ITA)

Spanish medal chances: 10%

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50km Walk (30/07, 07:35)

Previous champions: 1998, Robert Korzeniowski (POL) 3:43.51; 2002, Robert Korzeniowski (POL) 3:36.39; 2006, Yohan Diniz (FRA) 3:41.39

Goteborg Podium: 1. Yohan Diniz (FRA) 3:41.39; 2. Jesús Ángel García Bragado (ESP) 3:42.48; 3. Yuri Andronov (RUS) 3:43.26

Favourites: Sergey Kiryapkin (RUS), Jesús Ángel García Bragado (ESP), Alex Schwazer (ITA)

Spanish medal chances: 40%



Jesús Angel Garcia Bragado

WOMEN

100 metres (29/07, 21:45)

Previous champions: 1998, Christine Arron (FRA) 10.73; 2002, Ekaterina Thanou (GRE) 11.10; 2006, Kim Gevaert (BEL) 11.06

Goteborg Podium: 1. Kim Gevaert (BEL), 11.06; 2. Yekaterina Grigoryeva (RUS) 11.22; 3. Irina Khabarova (RUS) 11.22

Favourites: Verena Sailer (GER), Marion Wagner (GER), Evgeniya Polyakova (RUS), Véronique Mang (FRA), Yelena Nevmenzhistkaya (BLR)

Spanish medal chances: ---

200 metres (31/07, 19:50)

Previous champions: 1998, Irina Privalova (RUS) 22.62; 2002, Muriel Hurtis (FRA) 22.43; 2006, Kim Gevaert (BEL) 22.68

Goteborg Podium: 1. Kim Gevaert (BEL) 22.68; 2. Yulia Gushchina (RUS) 22.93; 3. Nataliya Rusakova (RUS) 23.09

Favourites: Yulia Gushchina (RUS), Eleni Artymata (CYP), Elizabeta Bryzhina (UKR), Aleksandra Fedoriva (RUS), Anastasiya Kapachinskaya (RUS),

Spanish medal chances: ---

400 metres (30/07, 19:35)

Previous champions: 1998, Grit Breuer (GER) 49.93; 2002, Olesya Zykina (RUS) 50.45; 2006, Vania Stambolova (BUL) 49.85

Goteborg Podium: 1. Vania Stambolova (BUL) 49.85; 2. Tatyana Veshkurova (RUS) 50.15; 3. Olga Zaytseva (RUS) 50.28

Favourites: Antonia Krivoshapka (RUS), Anastasiya Kapachinskaya (RUS), Christine Ohuruogu (GBR), Kseniya Ustalova (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: ---

800 metres (30/07, 21:50)

Previous champions: 1998, Yelena Afanasyeva (RUS) 1:58.50; 2002, Jolanda Ceplak (SLO) 1:57.65; 2006, Olga Kotlyarova (RUS) 1:57.38

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Goteborg Podium: 1. Olga Kotlyarova (RUS) 1:57.38; 2. Svetlana Kluyka (RUS) 1:57.48; 3. Rebecca Lyne (GBR) 1:58.45

Favourites: Anna Alminova (RUS), Mariya Savinova (RUS), Jennifer Meadows (GBR), Nataliia Lupu (ROM)

Spanish medal chances: 10%

1.500 metros (1/08, 21:15)

Previous champions: 1998, Svetlana Masterkova (RUS) 4:11.91; 2002, Sureyya Ayhan (TUR) 3:58.79; 2006, Tatyana Tomashova (RUS) 3:56.91

Goteborg Podium: 1. Tatyana Tomashova (RUS) 3:56.91; 2. Yulia Chizhenko (RUS) 3:57.61; 3. Daniela Yordanova (BUL) 3:39.37

Favourites: Natalia Rodríguez (ESP), Nuria Fernández (ESP), Anna Alminova (RUS), Lisa Dobriskey (GBR), Anna Mishchenko (UKR)

Spanish medal chances: 85%



Nuria Fernandez

5.000 metros (1/08, 20:40)

Previous champions: 1998, Sonia O'Sullivan (IRL) 15:06.50; 2002, Marta Domínguez (ESP) 15:14.76; 2006, Marta Domínguez (ESP) 14:56.18

Goteborg Podium: 1. Marta Domínguez (ESP) 14:56.18; 2. Liliya Shobukhova (RUS) 14:56.57; 3. Elvan Abeylegesse (TUR) 14:59.29

Favourites: Elvan Abeylegesse (TUR), Sara Moreira (POR), Yelena Zadorozhnaya (RUS),

Spanish medal chances: ---

10.000 metres (28/07, 21:05)

Previous champions: 1998, Sonia O'Sullivan (IRL) 31:29.33; 2002, Paula Radcliffe (GBR) 30:01.09; 2006, Inga Abitova (RUS) 30:31.42

Goteborg Podium: 1. Inga Avitova (RUS) 30:31.42; 2. Susanne Wigene (NOR) 30:32.36; 3. Lidiya Grigoryeva (RUS) 30:32.72

Favourites: Mariya Konovalova (RUS), Liliya Shobukhova (RUS), Elvan Abeylegesse (TUR), Ines Monteiro (POR), Jessica Augusto (POR), Sabrina Mockenhaupt (GER)

Spanish medal chances: ---

Marathon (31/07, 10:05)

Previous champions: 1998, Manuela Machado (POR) 2:27.10; 2002, Maria Guida (ITA) 2:26.05; 2006, Ulrike Maisch (GER) 2:30.01

Goteborg Podium: 1. Ulrike Maisch (GER) 2:30.01; 2. Olivera Jevtic (SBR) 2:30.27; 3. Irina Permitina (RUS) 2:30.53

Favourites: Hilda Kibet (NED), Mara Yamauchi (GBR), Inga Abitova (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: 5%



Sabrina Mockenhaupt

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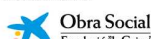
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100 hurdles (31/07, 20:25)

Previous champions: 1998, Svetla Dimitrova (BUL) 12.56; 2002, Glory Alozie (ESP) 12.73; 2006, Susanna Kallur (SWE) 12.59

Goteborg Podium: 1. Susanna Kallur (SWE) 12.59; 2. Derval O'Rourke (IRL) 12.72; 2. Kirsten Bolm (GER) 12.72

Favourites: Derval O'Rourke (IRL), Susanna Kallur (SWE), Carolin Nytra (GER), Tatyana Dektyareva (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: ---

400 hurdles (30/07, 21:40)

Previous champions: 1998, Ionela Tirlea (ROM) 53.37; 2006, Ionela Tirlea (ROM) 54.95; 2006, Yevgeniya Isakova (RUS) 53.93

Goteborg Podium: 1. Yevgeniya Isakova (RUS) 53.93; 2. Fani Halkia (GRE) 54.02; 3. Tatyana Tereschuk-Antipova (UKR) 54.55

Favourites: Angela Morosanu (ROM), Nataliya Antyukh (RUS), Zuzana Hejnova (CZE), Anne Jesien (POL)

Spanish medal chances: ---

3.000 steeplechase (30/07, 20:25)

Previous champions: 2006, Alesia Turava (BLR) 9:26.05

Goteborg Podium: 1. Alesia Turava (BLR) 9:26.05; 2. Tatyana Petrova (RUS) 9:28.05; 3. Wioletta Janowska (POL) 9:31.62

Favourites: Marta Domínguez (ESP), Yuliya Zarudneva (RUS), Wioletta Frankiewicz (POL)

Spanish medal chances: 90%



Marta Domínguez

High (1/08, 19:30)

Previous champions: 1998, Monica Dinescu (ROM) 1,97 m; 2002, Kajsa Bergqvist (SWE) 1,98m; 2006, Tia Hellebaut (BEL) 2,03 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Tia Hellebaut (BEL) 2,03 m; 2. Venelina Veneva (BUL) 2,03 m; 3. Kajsa Bergqvist (SWE) 2,01 m

Favourites: Blanka Vlasic (CRO), Ariane Friedrich (GER), Ruth Beitia (ESP), Antonietta di Martino (ITA), Svetlana Shkolina (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: 25%

Pole Vault (30/07, 18:30)

Previous champions: 1998, Anzhela Balakhonova (UKR) 4,31 m; 2002, Svetlana Feofanova (RUS) 4,60 m; 2006, Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS) 4,80 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS) 4,80 m; 2. Ponyka Pyrek (POL) 4,65 m; 3. Tatyana Polnova (RUS) 4,65 m

Favourites: Silke Spiegelburg (GER), Anna Rogowska (POL), Yuliya Golubchikova (RUS), Svetlana Feofanova (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: 5%

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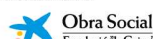
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Long Jump (28/07, 20:00)

Previous champions: 1998, Heike Drechsler (GER) 7,16 m; 2002, Tatyana Kotova (RUS) 6,85 m; 2006, Lyudmila Kolchanova (RUS) 6,93 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Lyudmila Kolchanova (RUS) 6,93 m; 2. Naide Gomes (POR) 6,84 m; 3. Oksana Urmurtova (RUS) 6,69m

Favourites: Naide Gomes (POR), Darya Klishina (RUS), Olga Kucherenko (RUS), Eloyse Lesueur (FRA), Lyudmila Kolchanova (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: ---

Triple Jump (31/07, 19:10)

Previous champions: 1998, Olga Vasdeki (GRE) 14,55 m; 2002, Ashia Hansen (GBR) 15,00 m; 2006, Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS) 15,15 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS) 15,15 m; 2. Hrisopiya Devetzi (GRE) 15,05 m; 3. Anna Pyatykh (RUS) 15,03 m

Favourites: Tatyana Lebedeva (RUS), Olha Saladuha (UKR), Anna Pyatykh (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: ---

Shot put (27/07, 19:35)

Previous champions: 1998, Viktoriya Pavlysh (UKR) 21,69 m; 2002, Irina Korzhanenko (RUS) 20,64 m; 2006, Nataliya Khoronenko (BLR) 19,43 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Nataliya Khoronenko (BLR) 19,43 m; 2. Nadezhda Ostapchuk (BLR) 19,42 m; 3. Petra Lammert (GER) 19,17 m

Favourites: Nadine Kleinert (GER), Petra Lammert (GER), Natallia Mikhnevich (BLR), Nadezhda Ostapchuk (BLR), Yanina Provalinskaya-Karolchik (BLR)

Spanish medal chances: ---

Discus Throw (28/07, 18:30)

Previous champions: 1998, Franka Dietzsch 67,49 m; 2002, Ekaterini Vogoli (GRE) 64,31 m; 2006, Darya Pishchalnikova (RUS) 65,55 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Parya Pishchalnikova (RUS) 65,55 m; 2. Franka Dietzsch (GER) 64,35 m; 3. Nicoleta Grasu (ROM) 63,58 m

Favourites: Natalya Sadova (RUS), Nadine Muller (GER), Sandra Perkovic (CRO), Nicoleta Grasu (ROM)

Spanish medal chances: ---



Nadine Muller

Hammer Throw (30/07 20:20)

Previous champions: 1998, Mihaele Melinte (ROM) 71,17 m; 2002, Olga Kuzenkova (RUS) 72,94 m; 2006, Tatyana Lysenko (RUS) 76,67 m

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Goteborg Podium: 1. Tatyana Lysenko (RUS) 76,67 m; 2. Gulfiya Khanafeyeva (RUS) 74,50 m; 3. Kamila Skolimowska (POL) 72,58 m

Favourites: Anita Wlodarczyk (POL), Tatyana Lysenko (RUS), Darya Pchelnyk (BLR), Betty Heidler (GER)

Spanish medal chances: ---

Javelin Throw (29/07, 20:40)

Previous champions: 1998, Tanja Damaske (GER) 69,10 m; 2002, Mirela Manjani (GRE) 67,47 m; 2006, Steffi Nerius (GER) 65,82 m

Goteborg Podium: 1. Steffi Nerius (GER) 65,82 m; 2. Barbora Spotakova (CZE) 65,64 m; 3. Mercedes Chilla (ESP) 61,98m

Favourites: Barbora Spotakova (CZE), Maria Abakumova (RUS), Christina Obergföll (GER)

Spanish medal chances: 10%

Heptathlon (30-31/07)

Previous champions: 1998, Denise Lewis (GBR) 6.559 p; 2002, Carolina Klufft (SWE) 6.542 p; 2006, Carolina Klufft (SWE) 6.740 p

Goteborg Podium: 1. Carolina Klufft (SWE) 6.740 p; 2. Karin Ruckstuhl (NED) 6.423 p; 3. Lilli Schwarzkopf (GER) 6.420 p

Favourites: Jessica Ennis (GBR), Nataliya Dobrynska (UKR), Tatyana Chernova (RUS)

Spanish medal chances: ---

4x100 metres (1/08, 19:50)

Previous champions: 1998, France 42.59; 2002, France 42.46; 2006, Russia 42.71

Goteborg Podium: 1. Russia 42.71; 2. Great Britain 43.51; 3. Belorussia 43.61

Favourites: Russia, Germany, Great Britain, France

Spanish medal chances: ---

4x400 metres (1/08, 21:40)

Previous champions: 1998, German 3:23.03; 2002, Germany 3:25.10; 2006, Russia 3:25.12

Goteborg Podium: 1. Russia 3:25.12; 2. Belorussia 3:27.69; 3. Poland 3:27.77

Favourites: Russia

Spanish medal chances: ---

20km Walk (28/07, 08:05)

Previous champions: 1998, Annarita Sidoti (ITA) 42:49 (10 km); 2002, Olimpiada Ivanova (RUS) 1:26.42; 2006, Rita Turova (BLR) 1:27.08

Goteborg Podium: 1. Rita Turava (BLR) 1:27.08; 2. Olga Kaniskina (RUS) 1:28.35; 3. Elisa Rigaudò (ITA) 1:28.37

Favourites: Olga Kaniskina (RUS), María Vasco (ESP), Vera Santos (POR), Vera Sokolova (RUS), Beatriz Pascual (ESP)

Spanish medal chances: 45%



Beatriz Pascual

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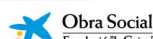
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- **10** districts in the city of Barcelona, three of which will see the Barcelona 2010 road events on their streets
- **1,621,537** million inhabitants is the city of Barcelona. A total of 3.186.461 inhabitants correspond to the metropolitan area
- **5,010** inhabitants/km² is the density of Barcelona
- **23°** centigrade is the average July temperature in Barcelona
- **1.4 %** is the increase in tourist visits to Barcelona compared to last year
- **34,392** hotel rooms in Barcelona
- **182,682** is the number of sports centres in Barcelona. The San Martí district is the one with most public spaces (215)
- **55** museums in the city of Barcelona
- **621** available hotels in the city
- **5** kilometres of coastline alongside
- **2** million people visit the Sagrada Familia every year. It is the most visited monument
- **1st** place for Barcelona in terms of quality of life compared with other European countries
- **3.5** million visitors in Fira de Barcelona

Barni is fit



Together with the 58,024 participants of La Cursa race, who had the honour of crossing for the first time the new Olympic Stadium Lluís Companys in Montjuïc, Barni - who finished the 11km in 1:49 - showed that the training he has followed has been more than adequate and that he is fit and ready to face the last stretch of the project. In his first official race, the Barcelona 2010 mascot was accompanied

by many friends who ran with him, amongst them the ultramarathon runner Alexandra Panayotou, who a few days later ran for 24 hours (183.99km) around La Maquinista in order to raise awareness of integration in sports.



Special bibs for the Göteborg 2006 champions



For the first time in the history of the European Athletics Championships Barcelona 2010, athletes will wear their names on

their bibs so that they can be easily identified by spectators. Moreover, to highlight the presence in the stadium of those who are defending a title obtained in Göteborg 2006, the 2006 champions will wear a bib with an orange background, the colour of Barcelona 2010. Athletes who have obtained the best result of the year will wear a bib with a blue background. To highlight the presence of combined events leaders (Heptathlon and Decathlon), the organisation will use a bib with a yellow background, to be worn by those in top positions before the last event: the 800m for women and the 1500m for men.

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- **27,421,686** passengers landed at Barcelona Airport in one year
- **170,935** departures and arrivals registered in the new Terminal 1 in its first year
- **13.5** kilometres of Gran Vía de les Corts Catalanes in Barcelona, the longest street in Spain
- **173** metres is the height of Montjuïc mountain
- **158,407** people participated in the athletic races organised in Barcelona between 2004 - 2008, according to the latest survey on spots habit
- **37.5%** of people who take part in sport to keep fit
- **51.2%** of all women claim to practice sports, the majority between 15 and 19 years of age.
- **37.5%** of the women practicing sports say they want to keep in shape
- **4** is Barcelona's position in the ranking of world's most important harbours
- **2** million people visited Barcelona in 2009 on a cruise liner

The B10 stamp

Barni, the Barcelona 2010 mascot, has been chosen to illustrate the commemorative stamp that the Sociedad Estatal de Correos y Telégrafos has produced on the occasion of the European Athletics Championships Barcelona 2010. 320,000 copies have been produced and they have been on sale since the beginning of June. The stamp is 2.88 cm wide by 4.09 cm long and it can be bought for 0.64 Euros, which is the basic postage rate in Spain for letters to the European Union.



The final campaign



The European Athletics Championships Barcelona 2010 marketing and promotion areas entered the final stage of the project in mid June with a multimedia campaign that featured the first adverts in the written press. The central theme of this campaign - the most important asset of which is the television advert presented with all the honours on 27 June, - is to show that while athletics is a sport that can be enjoyed by everybody, at

the highest level it is a very complex endeavour that, even if it looks easy, can only be performed by talented sportsmen and women.

Televisions, radios, newspapers, websites, public transport and different urban structures will be used to advertise Barcelona 2010. All these media will be strategically combined to ensure the organisation's message is heard during the most important month.

"From a distance it looks easy" claims the television advert repeatedly. We thought everyone knew this wasn't the case, but it's clear that competing in Barcelona 2010 is only possible for an elite few, from whom the great stars of the championships will emerge.

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Does history beckon for Mehdi Baala in Barcelona?

Mehdi Baala is well aware of the history of his event at the European Athletics Championships.

France's 2002 and 2006 1500m gold medallist will arrive in Barcelona later this month seeking to become the first man ever to win three titles in the event.



"It's my target because nobody else has done it. None of the recent greats in the event from Europe such as Sebastian Coe, Steve Ovett and Steve Cram have done it. Nor, more recently Fermin Cacho," Baala told Newsletter B10.

In fact, in addition to Baala, only Cram with his back-to-back victories in 1982 and 1986 has won the title more than once despite the event being contested at every European Athletics Championships since the inaugural edition in 1934.

The role of honour of former champions is an illustrious one even by comparison with other events at the championships.

Many men on the list who won a gold medal in the cauldron of continental competition also set 1500m and mile world records: such as the three British runners mentioned by Baala, early champions Luigi Beccali of Italy and Great Britain's Sydney Wooderson, who won in 1934 and 1938, the legendary Roger Bannister in 1954, as well as the only other Frenchman apart from Baala to win the title, Michael Jazy, who won in 1962.

Olympic and World Championships medallists also permeate the list of former European 1500m champions

"However, I'm not thinking quite like that and a place in history ahead of these great runners; to put it simply my goal is to defend my title. Whatever else the history books say about me would come as a result of defending my title."

Baala has a sense of anticipation about the championships that goes beyond mere numbers of titles.

"I'm also looking forward to stepping out on the track in Barcelona because I've never been there as an athlete and it has a reputation, as a former Olympic venue, as being one of the great stadiums of the world.

"I hope to also be able to restore a bit of French pride when I'm in Barcelona, after the disaster of our football team in South Africa," he joked, on the day that Les Bleus had ended their World Cup campaign.

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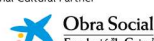
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Not everything has gone smoothly for Baala in recent months in his bid for an unprecedented hat-trick but he feels he is back on track to show his best in Barcelona.

"I haven't raced since the World Championships and there's been a delay to my preparations as about two months ago I had calf and Achilles inflammation on my left leg, but things are going well now and I'm close to being back on my schedule now.

"I still haven't decided about the races I'll do ahead of arriving in Barcelona, I don't want to hurry, although I'd like to compete at the French championships".

"For me, as the defending European champion, this is a help because I'm the guy everyone is looking at rather than it being the other way around.

"Of course, it's very early to assess who will be my most serious rivals, apart from any of the three guys wearing Spanish vest, but I don't expect to see five or six youngsters coming through in the next few weeks," added Baala, giving some thought to who might be pretenders to his crown as Europe's top 1500m runner".

Baala trained at altitude for almost all of June in the French Pyrenean resort of Font Romeu, having also skipped the indoor season, as he has habitually done since 2006 apart from last year when he decided to stretch his legs a few times during the winter.

"I know what to do, how I can get to Barcelona and be in gold medal contention, and in my case, after having won two titles, winning is everything. Realistically, I only need one or two races before Barcelona and then I can tune up through the rounds. It's not like in 2002 or even 2006, at 33 I'm not a rookie anymore, I know the routine," added the quietly confident man from Strasbourg.

In July...

Days 7/7 to 8/8: Photography exhibition "Athletics, values and emotions" in CaixaForum

Day 8: Conference "Athletics and its infinite nuances" in CaixaForum

Day 9: International Athletics Meeting Ciutat de Barcelona

Days 26 to 1/8: 20th European Athletics Championships Barcelona 2010

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