

OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF 2019 TRAIL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Coimbra and Miranda do Corvo will host the event

It was officially presented the 2019 Trail Running World Championships, on last Friday, September the 14th, at the Convento de S. Francisco, in Coimbra. It is confirmed that between June 6th and 9th 2019, the center of Portugal will be the center of the world in Trail Running. The best national and international mountain racing athletes will test the limits of their resistance in the most iconic race. The event will be part of Trilhos dos Abutres, in Miranda do Corvo, a reference Trail Running event in Portugal, respectfully titled "Epic", already in its 9th edition.

Tiago Araújo, President of Associação Abutrica and also of Local Organization Committee (LOC), mentioned the difficulty faced in winning this application: *"It was an application that gave a lot of work, but against all odds it ended up winning."*

Present at this conference was also the Coimbra Municipal Council Vice-President, Carlos Cidade, who considers that *"to carry out an event of this dimension, is extremely important for the country"*, essentially because we are talking about *"people capable of organizing with quality, efficiency and effectiveness"*. Miguel Baptista, Miranda do Corvo Municipal Council President, was also proud: *"this event is important not only for Coimbra and for the Central Region, but also for the whole country."* The Opening Ceremony will take place on June 6th in Coimbra. The race for the title of world champion in the categories of women, men and team, is scheduled for June 8th. The athletic event ends on *the 9th June* with Trilhos dos Abutres, the most emblematic race in Portugal, with thousands of annual applications, which increase significantly each edition. Also to mention, there will be several activities in the city of Coimbra, as well as the Closing Ceremony to be held in Miranda do Corvo. Pedro Machado, Tourism Center of Portugal President, believes that this event translates *"new opportunities in territories with less density and less projection, but with unique and exceptional characteristics that will make the athletes ambassadors of the region."* *"This type of event influences tourism demand,"* added the ADXTUR – Aldeias de Xisto Executive Manager, Rui Simão.

The event is sponsored by Berg Outdoor, a Portuguese company of the Sonae Group. Diana Pinto, Marketing Manager considers that this is an *"event that involves many resources, time and a lot of passion"*.

The International Trail Running Association (ITRA) Vice President, José Santos, mentioned that *"in the long history, only France has organized 2 World Championships editions, but only Portugal will host 2 editions in 4 years. It's a historical landmark that fills me with pride!"* Also the Portuguese Athletics Federation, as one of the official supporters of the event, in the figure of the President, Jorge Vieira, expressed *"pride for National Athletics to receive an event of this kind"* adding that *"by including trail running in our modality, Portuguese Athletics became richer."*

The 2019 Trail World Championships will be the most outstanding sport event that Miranda do Corvo has ever received. The forecasts show that over 20 thousand people and more than 50 nationalities will visit this territory, with an economic return of about € 1,500,000.