

Lausanne, 14 December 2024

EMACI 2026 AND EMACNS 2026 – FINAL STATEMENT

Dear Members, Dear Master Athletes,

We understand that you have all been eagerly awaiting the announcement regarding the next European Masters Indoor Championship (EMACI) and the next European Masters Non Stadia Championship (EMACNS).

Your concerns are valid, and we sincerely apologize for the delay. However, we want to assure you that we have not been idle during this time, nor have we wasted your or our time.

Before announcing the final decisions of the EMA Council, we would like to briefly summarize the actions taken since the last editions of these events.

EMACNS

After two unsuccessful application periods with no feedback, we received in October 2023 a strong expression of interest from a well-connected and centrally located European city. Despite months of negotiations and an on-site visit during EMACNS 2024 in Porto Santo, the bidder unexpectedly withdrew just before signing the contract.

Meanwhile, four additional expressions of interest emerged. One of these was not supported by the respective National Member due to internal circumstances. The EMA Council carefully reviewed all documentation, engaged with the Local Organizing Committees (LOCs), and conducted an evaluation site visit for one case.

During its November 2024 meeting, the Council selected a new organizer, only to face another withdrawal due to financial constraints.

Finally, the EMA Council evaluated the two remaining bidders, considering factors such as accessibility, location, venues, accommodation facilities, and overall appeal of the area. Following a majority vote, the Council decided to award the **EMACNS 2026** to **Catania, Italy**. The other bidders are encouraged to apply for **EMACNS 2028**.

EMACI

The path to securing the EMACI organizer has been even more complex. Following two application periods with no responses, the EMA Council initiated direct outreach.

A promising bid from an experienced LOC was withdrawn after several months due to delays in facility renovations, with the bidder expressing interest in EMACI 2028 instead.

Other efforts included:

- A formal bid rejected due to the inadequacy of a four-lane indoor arena for hosting the championship.
- Negotiations with six additional potential organizers, many of whom requested deadline extensions due to technical, administrative, or financial challenges.

Given the need for adequate preparation time for the future organizer and the athletes' need for clarity in planning, the Council decided, after a majority vote, to entrust **EMACI 2026** to **Torun, Poland**, the only LOC ready to sign the contract with full support from local authorities.

While this will be Torun's third time hosting the championship, the Council's foremost priority is to provide athletes with a well-organized event managed by experienced professionals. We hope for your understanding and look forward to seeing everyone in Torun in March 2026.

EMA League

This year marked the first official edition of the EMA League, comprising two indoor and five outdoor events. Planning for the 2026 edition is already underway, with the goal of expanding the circuit. Meanwhile, we encourage all of you to register for the EMA League 2025 events. Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of a similar circuit for Off-Road running and would greatly appreciate your involvement. If anyone is interested in contributing to this initiative, please let us know.

Best regards,

Valentina Fedjuschina
EMA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valentina Fedjuschina', written in a cursive style.