SUPPORT RUNNERS WITH DISABILITIES IN SERBIA

Project Document | Inclusive Running Academy | 2027 Overview & Indicative Budget

$38,000	4	3
2027 funding goal	Academy members: three runners with disabilities and one guide runner	World Marathon Majors planned for 2027: Tokyo, Boston and Berlin



Milan and his guide runner Dejan approaching the finish of the Chicago Marathon.

The project at a glance

The Inclusive Running Academy is an initiative of the Heroes of the Belgrade Marathon Foundation in Serbia. It supports runners with disabilities through individualized training, sporting opportunities and ongoing guidance. The Academy currently includes three runners with disabilities and one guide runner.

The Academy's existing donor supports training and scholarships. This GlobalGiving project seeks additional funding for international competition costs and activities that can help identify and welcome new runners with disabilities. These are distinct funding needs.

Why additional support matters

Opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in competitive sport in Serbia remain limited. According to the proposed Sports Development Strategy 2026–2035, at least 4,333 athletes with disabilities were registered with national sports federations in 2024, roughly 1.2% of the 356,404 people with disabilities counted in the 2022 census.

International competition also brings substantial travel, accommodation, registration and support-team expenses. Some runners need a guide runner or accompanying support. The Academy estimates that participation by a four-person team at one World Marathon Major costs approximately $8,800. Without additional funding, participation in planned 2027 events remains uncertain.

A RECORD OF PARTICIPATION AND PROGRESS

The Foundation’s 2025–2026 partnership impact report documents a year-long Academy program with professionally guided, individualized training, equipment, race registration, local transport and motivational activities. It also documents international marathon participation and the public recognition of Academy athletes.



Milan and Dejan in London.



Dejan, Norseman finisher 2025.



Zoja at the 2026 Belgrade Marathon.



Pavle at the 2026 Belgrade Marathon.

Milan

blind runner

Completed the Chicago, London and New York City Marathons with guide runner Dejan; these three events demonstrate experience at the World Marathon Majors.

Dejan

guide runner

Academy member who supports Milan at major international marathons and is also an accomplished endurance athlete and a 2025 Norseman Xtreme Triathlon finisher.

Zoja

adaptive athlete

Runner with cerebral palsy who participates in running events using an adaptive recumbent tricycle, including the Belgrade Marathon.

Pavle

para-athlete

Young runner with autism who competed for Serbia at the 2026 Virtus European Cross Country Championships in Sweden.

2027 PLAN & FUNDING NEED

Planned activities

Support international competition for Milan, his guide runner and accompanying team members at the Tokyo, Boston and Berlin Marathons; support Pavle's participation in the European Para Championships; and help the Academy identify, assess and welcome additional runners with disabilities. Participation depends on eligibility, event arrangements and available funding.

Indicative project budget (USD)

Activity / expense	Estimated amount
Tokyo, Boston and Berlin Marathons: 3 four-person teams × $8,800	$26,400
European Para Championships participation	$3,300
Identifying and welcoming new Academy members	$1,000
Additional competition and athlete support	$2,000
Platform and administrative fees, and contingency reserve	$5,300
TOTAL FUNDRAISING GOAL	**$38,000**

Budget figures are planning estimates, not confirmed bookings or guaranteed expenditures. Amounts may be adjusted between lines as event arrangements are confirmed.

Expected outcomes

- Up to three four-person team trips to World Marathon Majors (Tokyo, Boston and Berlin) in 2027.
- Participation in the 2027 European Para Championships.
- Continued support for four current Academy members: three runners with disabilities and one guide runner.
- New members welcomed as suitable candidates are identified. No fixed number is promised, as enrollment depends on suitable candidates and available resources.
- Progress reported to donors on GlobalGiving at least every three months.

Longer term, the project aims to reduce financial barriers for Academy members, build international competition experience and increase the visibility of runners with disabilities.

Funding transparency

The Academy's existing donor provides support for its training and scholarship program. Donations to this GlobalGiving project are intended for the additional 2027 activities outlined above, avoiding duplicate financing of already supported scholarships.

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