

+++ PRESS RELEASE INDOOR MEETING KARLSRUHE 2021 +++

**29.01.2021**

Europahalle Karlsruhe

## **Gesa Felicitas Krause to participate in the middle-distance race at the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe**

[www.meeting-karlsruhe.de](http://www.meeting-karlsruhe.de)

**Hygiene standards and contact tracing to be ensured at the meeting/INDOOR MEETING live on the SWR online stream**

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Karlsruhe, 14 January 2021

The women's 1500-metre race at the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe has traditionally been a major event. Even today, everyone can remember the world record set by Genzebe Dibaba in 2014, back then in the Karlsruhe Europahalle. Now, the 1500-metre run is returning to the Europahalle with, amongst others, Gesa Felicitas Krause, European champion in the 3000-metre steeplechase in 2016 and 2018, as well as bronze medallist at the 2019 World Championships.

The 28-year-old recounts some of her best memories as being from Karlsruhe, where she ran what is still her current personal best of 4:08.91 minutes at the INDOOR MEETING in the Messehalle in 2016. One year earlier, she was crowned as German champion for the 3000-metre race in the same hall in Karlsruhe. "It's good to know how much effort goes into planning such an event in the day and age of corona," says Gesa Felicitas Krause, connected virtually from her training camp in Kenya, during a press conference on the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe. "I am full of anticipation. I am looking forward to my start in Karlsruhe and am utterly grateful that this meeting can still take place during such trying times," she continues.

The planning for the spectator-less INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe began in the middle of last year. The necessary relocation back to the Europahalle posed significant challenges to the event organisers, the team from KME Karlsruhe Marketing und Event GmbH and the sports director Alain Blondel. "In the past few months, I have been in a process of constant idea sharing with international colleagues to collect as much experience for the INDOOR MEETING as possible," says Alain Blondel. "We have a major responsibility towards our INDOOR MEETING fans, the athletes as well as the numerous helpers, to carry out the meeting to the best we can. Karlsruhe and its INDOOR MEETING as a platform for world-class athletics have stood for tradition since 1985." Blondel continues.

Veranstalter:

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When it comes to the areas of hygiene and contact tracing, the team behind the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe has been preparing at full speed for weeks now. In doing so, Karlsruhe Marketing und Event GmbH, who are organising the event, relies on tested innovations from the TechnologieRegion Karlsruhe to ensure secure contact tracing. Just like professional sports elsewhere, the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe will also be based on the concept of a bubble, meaning that all participants entering the hall, the athletes' hotel or the production office will have been tested with a negative result. "For this purpose, we are collaborating with a professional team with the relevant experience when it comes to elite sports," says Thomas Sauer, the person responsible for the hygiene and tracking concept at the INDOOR MEETING 2021. In addition to the separation of surface areas and pathways, routing systems for individual groups of participants and valid access restrictions, individual departments, such as anti-doping control, the production office and test stations will be relocated to other buildings. "We are aware of the fact that we have a special responsibility in light of this dynamic situation, which is why we are constantly adapting our measures to the current developments. Furthermore, we are in a close consultation with the health department, the public order office and the international federations. Consequently, our hygiene concept combines regional and international expertise," Saur continues. To reduce the tracking efforts in the case of an outbreak as much as possible, the INDOOR MEETING will utilise a contact tracing system by the company Race Result for specific tracing. This means that every single participant will be recorded when entering or exiting the hall by means of transponder technology. "Once again, we can utilise the great expertise of our strong TechnologieRegion to overcome a difficult situation. We would like to thank all of the individuals that have done everything they can for months now, to make this meeting possible. We have the experience and the technology – who, if not us, should lead the way to offer athletics a platform in these trying times," says Martin Wacker, meeting director and general manager of Karlsruhe Marketing und Event GmbH.

Due to the corona pandemic, the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe cannot take place with spectators this year. However, fans will not have to miss out on athletics. The INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe can be viewed on 29 January via the SWR live stream. Furthermore, Baden TV will broadcast highlights of the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe the following day, as per usual.

*With its INDOOR MEETING, the athletics location in Karlsruhe has been a founding member of the World Athletics Indoor Tour since 2016 and has thus been firmly established in the international athletics calendar. In 2021, the INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe will kick off the World Athletics Indoor Tour on 29 January. Further stages will be the meetings in Liévin, France (9 February), Boston, USA (13 February), Torun, Poland (17 February), as well as the tour finale in Madrid, Spain (24 February).*

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**World Athletics Indoor Tour stages 2021:**

- 29.01.2021: INDOOR MEETING Karlsruhe (Karlsruhe, GER)  
09.02.2021: Meeting Hauts-de-France Pas-de-Calais (Liévin, FRA)  
13.02.2021: New Balance Indoor Grand Prix (Boston, USA)  
17.02.2021: ORLEN Copernicus Cup (Torun, POL)  
24.02.2021: Villa de Madrid (Madrid, ESP)

[www.meeting-karlsruhe.de](http://www.meeting-karlsruhe.de)  
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