

## European Best Veterans 2014

### Emma Mazenga (ITA)

Emma Mazzenga, "Mimma" to her friends, is an athlete, who wrote and is writing the history of female master athletics. Mimma met athletics during her University years. Her best result as an absolute athlete, dates back to 1958, when she came fourth in the 400 meters at the Italian

Championships with the absolute time 61"1. Her best veteran chronometric results got in 1993, the year of her 60th anniversary, marking 14"8 in 100 meters dash and 31"1 in 200 meters, which are still the best performance for the Italian category W60.

At the international field, in 27 years of activity, she has collected 6 World Master and 26 European titles. Currently she holds 4 European records for the W75 category and 24 Italian records at distances ranging from 60 to 800 meters. On 4 August 2013 she became 80 years old and, during the International Meeting of Padua, on September the 1st, she saw her name in the book of world master records on 400 meters W80 running in 1'31" 21 – previous record: 1'35"76 by the Canadian, Alice Cole. After this amazing record, in Marcon, next to Venice, during the "Mennea day" in memory of the historic feat accomplished 34 years ago by the great Italian sprinter, Emma has honored his memory and ran 200 meters in 39"92 setting a new World Record W80 (previous record: 40"78 by the Japanese Mitsu Morita). In particular, Emma is the first woman in the world " over 80" breaking the barrier of 40 seconds and, despite this, at the end of the race she said " I was hoping to do a little better because I ran in 39"51 during the Italian Championships, last June, ". A woman who really never gives up.

