



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

Activity Report 2012



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Photos The European Handball Federation receives many photos over the course of the year. We would like to use this space to thank all the photographers, whether professional or just simply handball lovers, for the many photos which the EHF has used this year.

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From the President



Jean Brihault
EHF President

European handball: a work in progress...

It is not only on the court where speed plays a central part of the handball game, also off the court, at the centre of European handball in the EHF office in Vienna, the fast pace of the handball industry is also embraced. However, at the end of each year respectively the business year, the European Handball Federation has the opportunity to reflect, a moment to pause and contemplate the activities and undertakings of the past 12 months. It is a chance to see how the handball family has grown and how our constructive and robust working relationships have benefitted the game both on and off the court. Charged with the development and promotion of handball on the European continent is not a task that we at the European Handball Federation take lightly.

Over the course of the year, the European Handball Federation has also had the opportunity to reaffirm and emanate the values for which the organisation stands. Through this report, we affirm that we stand by our mission statement as we continue to undertake various actions to promote and develop handball in Europe. We, as the administrators of handball, stand united in our conviction that it is our duty to mirror the values of the European Handball Federation in our actions.

Together, we stand...

...for stability

Over the course of two decades, the European Handball Federation has made tremendous advancements in terms of internal development and growth, which in turn has allowed the organisation to play the Line Player role when assisting its members. We are a base of support for all European national federations and the methods we use to support and assist our 49 Member Federations cover a broad spectrum; this includes the distribution of materials and the exchange of expert knowledge, a service that is highly valuable to the recipients.

The EHF is also advantageously based in the City of Vienna, which serves as a European gateway demonstrating that we are not only symbolically available; but we are factually accessible. Moreover, with fifty members of staff, serving the EHF and EHF Marketing, at the disposal of our clients, the European Handball Federation continues to ensure the best level of service for our members and stakeholders.

...for progression

In 2012, the European Handball Federation came to the end of its four-year administrative cycle. For many, the highlight of the year was the 11th EHF Ordinary Congress, which took place in Monte Carlo, Monaco. The event saw many positive changes and decisions that will benefit the EHF Member Federations for a long time. Likewise, on 23 June 2012, they elected a new EHF Executive Committee to serve the sport and its stakeholders until 2016. It is my honour to serve this organisation at the highest level. In Monaco, across the spectrum of the EHF Committees and Boards, 2012 saw 47 per cent of the elected members change. The EHF Statutes were also modernised based on the success of the motions presented before the Congress. Subsequently one member increased the EHF Methods Committee in accordance with the motion that called for a gender representative in each Technical Commission. Another highlight of the gathering in Monte Carlo was the awarding of the next cycle (2014 – 2016) of senior and junior European Championships where the hosting nations were chosen.



...for high quality competitions

This activity reports begins, as always, with a concise review of the entire national and club competitions, from the data it is clear that we have fulfilled our mission on a competitive level. In the area of club competitions, we look back at the success of the past season 2011/12. In the men's events, three titles went to German teams and for the first time in the history of the country, a team from Greece lifted the Challenge Cup. In the women's competitions, two trophies were won by Hungarian teams, a French team lifted one trophy and a Russian team lifted the EHF Cup. In the area of national teams, the organisation enjoyed the success of two European Handball Championships. The tenth EHF EURO event broke records in transmission hours and viewing figures, once again we delighted in capacity crowds, that was a reassuring indicator that despite on-going economic situation across Europe, a top handball event always seems to fill the arenas.

...for cooperation and development

This year the European Handball Federation was able to reaffirm the value we place in the opinions and actions of our stakeholders. Whether directed from the national federations, the clubs, the leagues or the players, we have listened to the messages and information coming from all quadrants of the game and this has been reflected in our governance of the sport. We have also worked in close cooperation with top sports photographers and journalists who, in word and image, capture the spirit of handball. In 2012, relationships with our key partners have been taken to another level as cooperation elements were determined and prolonged. In the second part of this activity report, we let the European handball voices speak for themselves. We give you the opportunity to see the proof of our development and cooperation from the recipients. Furthermore, in our constant efforts to cement the global position of European handball, we must not forget the progress of our strategic goals. The EHF continues to utilise our internal marketing arm (EHF Marketing GmbH) and through this collaboration, we have attained strategic targets of bringing European handball to North America and in Asia our followers are growing.

Ultimately, we can report growth; the EHF is bigger and stronger than ever before and looking to the future, we visualise a continuation of the positive trends set in 2012. With the sustained support of the handball stakeholders, we can take handball beyond all borders. For all the activities we undertake, there is no natural conclusion; as external and internal influences continue to mould the sport of handball on all levels, the European Handball Federation continues to flex when necessary for the benefit of the sport. As stated, handball in Europe continues to be a work in progress.

At this time, I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the people who have served handball over the past 20 years. Especially, I pay tribute to the men who served on the Executive Committee until June 2012: Tor Lian, Jan Tuik, František Táborsky, László Sinka, Tarik Cengiz and Andrey Lavrov. This year will be remembered as the year in which the entire administrative level of the EHF underwent a 'Changing of the Guard'. Also on an office level, we said goodbye to old friends and welcomed new keepers of the sport. To all, please accept my gratitude for your unwavering dedication to the sport and the charismatic ways in which you fulfilled your roles. Thank you!

As we stand on the eve of the New Year and look towards new chances, changes and challenges, the European Handball Federation invites you to join us as we continue the next part of our exciting sporting journey...

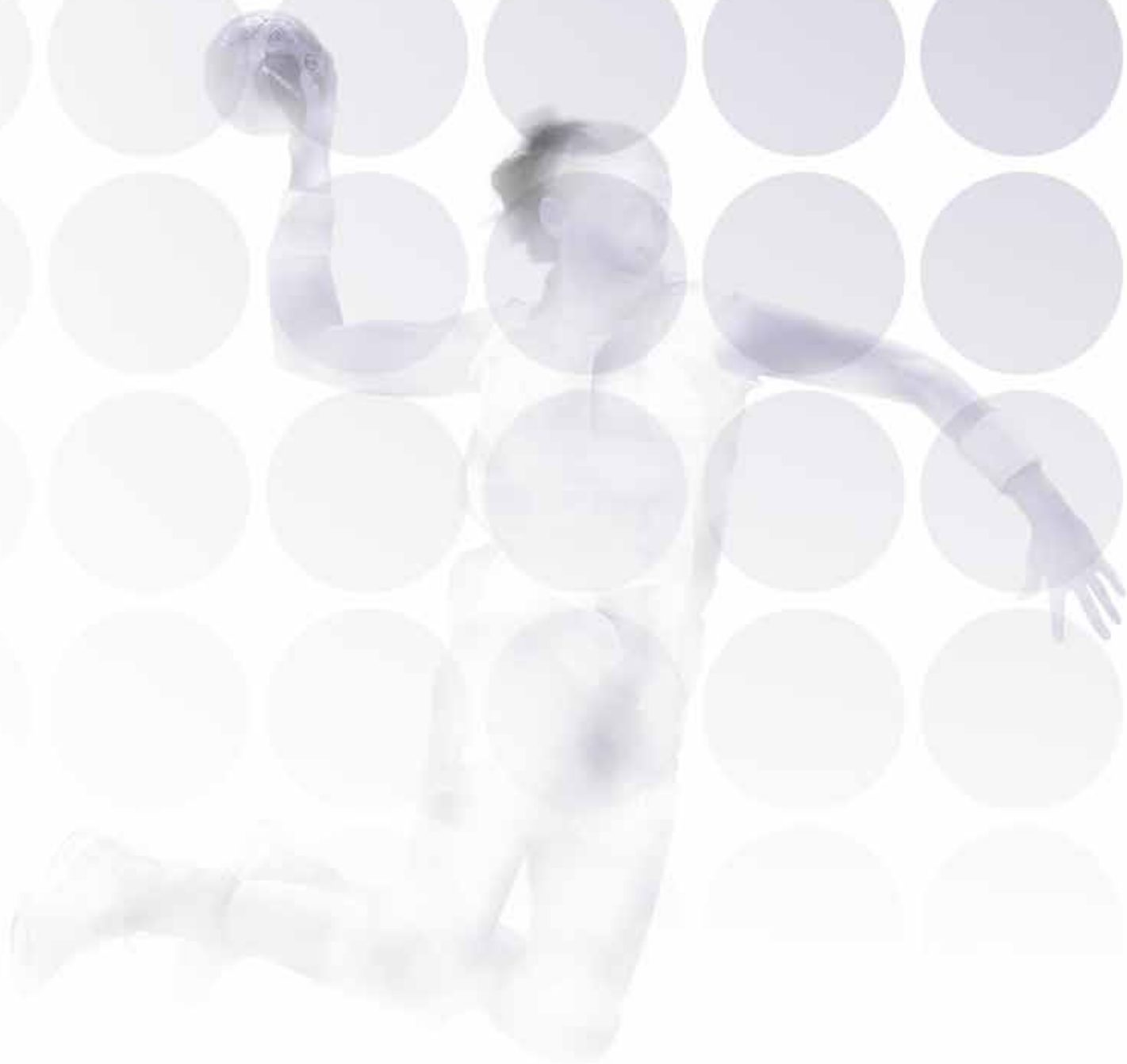






EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

Activity Report 2012 - Competitions -





Men's EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia

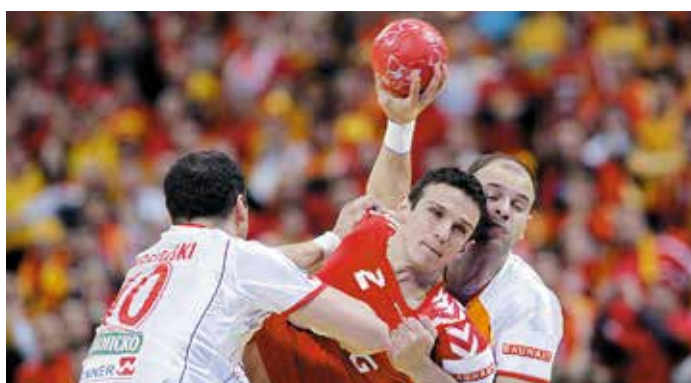
Throughout the match, they remained calm and refused to be swept away by the spectacular atmosphere created by the 20,000 fans; and then, for the second time since 2008, the Danish men's national team were crowned European Champions – thus securing the third European title for Coach Ulrik Wilbek. Upon their return to Copenhagen, thousands of people wildly celebrated the team. If you look at the Preliminary Round, then the Danish triumph is surprising; but from the start of the Main Round, the likes of Mikkel Hansen and Co. played effectively and brilliantly. The victory of the northern Europeans was the culmination of an EHF EURO imprinted by records: never in the history of a European Championship were there so many spectators in the arenas – over 300,000; never in the history of the EHF EURO had such a large arena been used as the Beogradska arena. With 20,000 fans, the arena was sold-out prior to the start of the Main Round – and the fans gave the host team an extra boost, which carried them to their greatest victory in decades, as nobody reckoned with Serbia walking away with EHF EURO silver.

Altogether it was a European Championship marked by the success of national teams from the former Yugoslavia: the Croatians secured the bronze medal after losing the highly emotive semi-final against Serbia 22:26; FYR Macedonia ranked fifth and like Serbia, secured their ticket to the qualification for the 2012 Olympic Games; Slovenia ranked sixth. In Kiril Lazarov, the Macedonians had the top scorer and his 61 goals were the highest number of goals scored at an EHF EURO event. The Serb, Momir Ilić was voted Most Valuable Player and his compatriot Darko Stanić was voted Best Goalkeeper of the tournament. "The children of Serbia have new idols, we are proud of this team", said Bozidar Djurković, head of the Serbian Organisation Committee, at the end of the EHF EURO. Following many years of failure, it is time to celebrate once again. The European Championship has revived handball in Serbia. And in terms of organisation, it was all there: "Serbia has done an outstanding job", lauded Tor Lian, for whom the men's EHF EURO in Serbia was the last European Championship Final Tournament in his tenure as EHF President.

Lian also handed over the Championship Plate to the victorious Danes under a shower of confetti in Belgrade. With 21:19, Denmark won the Final, but Serbia also had their opportunity to celebrate on the podium; it was an amazing weekend for sport in Serbia as the Serbian water polo team won their European Championship and tennis player Novak Djoković won the Australian Open. Another exceptional player in the Final was the nine-time scorer Mikkel Hansen whose strengths, along with those of his entire team, were put to the test in the Main Round. His goal that brought the score to 21:18 just 20 seconds prior to the end of the match sealed the fate of the Serbs.

› FACTS AND FIGURES

- 1.47 billion TV viewers
- 75 licensed broadcasters transmitted the EHF EURO to over 200 countries and territories
- 40% increase on EHF EURO 2010 figures
- 20% increase on EHF EURO 2008 figures (previous cumulative viewers record of 1.22 billion)
- 1898 broadcast hours
- 300,000 cumulative spectators across the five venues
- 9.9 million page impressions on www.ehf-euro.com
- 860,000 EHF EURO video views on youtube.com/ehfeuro
- Over 35,000 fans 'liked' the official Facebook Page



In addition, in the close victory over Spain (25:24) in the semi-final that was played in the same constellation as the 2011 World Championship, it was Hansen and the young goalkeeper Niklas Landin who led Denmark to victory. "This European Championship was a nerve-wracking rollercoaster ride for us. Our advantage was that in the Final, the Serbs were tired, but they played a fantastic tournament," praised Wilbek. Up until the semi-final, the Croatians played a strong tournament, but they could not withstand the pressure put upon them by the hosts. Nevertheless, the bronze medal following the 31:27 win over Spain appeased the team of Coach Slavko Goluža who said, "We did our best and won precious metal, I'm proud of my guys."

From the very first match of the Preliminary Round, one could note the great importance that this European Championship carried for the qualification to the Olympic Games – every point, every goal counted. And it was the Danes, who will host the men's EHF EURO 2014, who won the jackpot; they qualified directly for London 2012 and, just like Serbia and Croatia, for the 2013 World Handball Championship in Spain.

The biggest, most positive surprises of the Final Tournament were the performances of the teams from FYR Macedonia and Slovenia: the Macedonians were buoyed in every match by thousands of fans; the young Slovenian team convinced the crowds with very fast, modern handball. Both scarcely missed entering the semi-finals by ranking third in their respective Preliminary Round groups. Speaking of the Main Round, nobody was paying attention to Denmark who arrived with zero points, but then went on to win all five matches and with luck (as their competitors took points away from each other) moved to the semi-finals.

On the other hand, great nations fell by the wayside – especially defending champion France, after numerous defeats in the preliminary and main rounds, at the end of the tournament, they ranked 11th. Many experts predicted the end of the golden age for France, but only seven months later, they were back at the very top. Even the performances of Iceland (10th) as well as Poland (9th) were disappointing; the greatest walking disasters were Germany: if they had scored two more goals against Denmark or Poland in the Main Round, they would have made it to the semi-finals, but in the end, they missed the semi-finals and also their last chance to qualify for the Olympics.

As the podium was dismantled, nobody suspected that only ten months later, the handball world would again look to Serbia – where the Women's EHF EURO 2012 was held.

› FINAL RANKING

Gold:	Denmark
Silver:	Serbia
Bronze:	Croatia
4.	Spain
5.	FYR Macedonia
6.	Slovenia
7.	Germany
8.	Hungary
9.	Poland
10.	Iceland
11.	France
12.	Sweden
13.	Norway
14.	Czech Republic
15.	Russia
16.	Slovakia



› ALL STAR TEAM

Goalkeeper: Darko Stanić (SRB)
 Left Wing: Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson (ISL)
 Left Back: Mikkel Hansen (DEN)
 Centre Back: Uroš Zorman (SLO)
 Line Player: René Toft Hansen (DEN)
 Right Back: Marko Kopljar (CRO)
 Right Wing: Christian Sprenger (GER)

Top Scorer: Kiril Lazarov (MKD) 61 goals
Best Defence Player: Virán Morros (ESP)
Most Valuable Player (MVP): Momir Ilić (SRB)

› RESULTS

Semi-finals

Serbia vs. Croatia 26:22 (13:14)
 Denmark vs. Spain 25:24 (12:10)

Placement match 5/6

FYR Macedonia vs. Slovenia 28:27 (16:12)

Bronze medal match

Croatia vs. Spain 31:27 (12:13)

Gold medal match

Serbia vs. Denmark 19:21 (7:9)



Women's EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia



What a drama, what an atmosphere, what a game, what a winner: the Final in Belgrade will be known as one of the longest, most exciting and dramatic women's handball matches in history. Never before had a European Championship Final been decided after two periods of extra time and never before has Montenegro stood on the podiums first place. And the 34:31 (12:11, 24:24, 28:28) Final victory against defending champions Norway had many faces: the young Milena Knezević, who scored ten times, but especially goalkeeper Sonja Barjaktarović who fended off 18 shots from the Norwegian women – but in the end, it was the irrepressible desire to win. Everyone had eventually expected to see a slump in the Balkan team that played through nearly the entire tournament with only nine players. But the defensive wall held strong for 80 minutes - and given the amount of possession, the success is greatly deserved. In the entire 80 minutes, there were only three situations in which a team was able to take a three-goal lead. In the closing stages of normal time, Montenegro missed an opportunity for an early decision, and then in the first period of extra-time with the score at 27:24, they were just moments away from their dream, before the superior Ida Alstad scored three goals in a row, which led to the second period of extra-time. In the second extra, Norway seemed to have the better hand at 31:30, but then relentless Montenegrins scored four times in succession, Barjaktarovic kept her goal clean and a wonder was seen in Belgrade - for the first time since 2004, after dominating the last four tournaments, Norway were no longer champions.

The 13,598 spectators, who set a new world record for women's handball matches, celebrated the new champion, who is only the fourth nation to win EHF EURO gold in the women's event after Norway (5), Denmark (3) and Hungary (1). As EHF President Jean Brihualt presented the golden championship plate to the team, they could no longer hold back their jubilation as they danced on the podium. "This is unbelievable; it will take a while until I can process this. I am so proud that I cannot put into words," was the first reaction from Coach Dragan Adzic, who also coaches the club team in Podgorica. After the Champions League victory with his club and Olympic silver with Montenegro, they added the crowning glory on the culmination of the most successful year in the history of Montenegrin handball. After seven titles at world and European championships and Olympic Games over the past eight years, it was time for Norway to step aside and let another team take centre stage.

For the Serbs on the other hand, the tears just flowed: "We deserved this medal, from the very first match, we have worked so hard for our country, this cannot be it," sobbed Andrea Lekić after the defeat in the bronze medal match just one day after the unfortunate 26:27 defeat in the semi-finals against Montenegro, the Serbs faced an even tougher time: 38:41 after extra-time in favour of the Hungarians who like in 1998 and 2004, took the bronze medal. "We came from nothing, so in that respect, the fourth place is a huge success; but when you are so close, you also want a medal," said Lekić, and with emotion in his voice, Coach Sasa Bosković said: "I'm so proud of this team, they have brought women's handball in Serbia back to life."

For the first time in their history, the Serbian women had reached a semi-final, but then their luck ran out. Halfway through the period of extra-time, Serbia were in the lead in their match against Hungary with the score at 37:36; then the Hungarians scored five consecutive goals to the delight of their Coach Karl-Erik Böhn who said: "I am so proud of my team, which throughout this tournament have exceeded all expectations. Nobody would have expected us to win bronze. This team is sensational."

Although their team ended the EHF EURO without a medal, there was plenty of praise for Serbia as an organiser. "We are more than satisfied with the cooperation. Serbia has done a very great job for the second time in a year," praised EHF President Jean Brihualt.

On the day of the semi-finals, with nearly 13,000 spectators in the Kombank Arena, two wholly different matches played out; while Norway swept the hapless Hungarians with 30:19, the game which saw Serbia pitched against Montenegro was a battle of pure nerves, which saw the Olympic silver medallist win narrowly with 27:26.



“With this defence, the goalkeeper and these counter attacks Norway is unbeatable.” There was nothing to add to the statement of the Norwegian born Hungarian coach Karl-Erik Böhn after the first semi-final. The Hungarians had a strong start, led 9-7 before the Norwegian Express started to pick up steam. Goalkeeper Katrine Lunde Haraldsaen was an impenetrable force before the goal, the defence was like a brick wall, and one counter attack after the other took care of an already pre-decisive 9-1 series until 16:10. Shortly after the break, the Hungarian fire briefly flared up again, and then Anita Görbicz & Co. resigned themselves to their fate.

In contrast, the Balkan duel was a real battle of nerves for the two countries that once were one. 12,500 spectators made for an emotional atmosphere that emanated from the court in this defensive battle. No team was able to take a crucial lead and everything came down to the last second. Montenegro was 8:4 ahead before a time-out from Coach Sasa Bosković woke the Serbian spirits. With a brilliant burst of speed and spurred on by their fans, the hosts took the score to 14:11. Montenegro took over after the half-time break, and thanks to the eight goals from the sensational Milena Knezević, they were in control of the match once again. But the Montenegrins had to stay on tenterhooks right until the very end - and thanks to their goalkeeper Marina Vukević, who fended off the decisive shots in the closing stages, including the all-important throw of Serbia's top player Biljana Filipović four seconds before the end, the team held on.

The four semi-finalists were known after the second to last round of the 18 Main Round matches were concluded and it was only after the final whistle of last two games in the Main Round that determined the participants of the placement match 5/6. Norway, Hungary and Montenegro, who had already finished the Preliminary Round without a single loss, were the first teams to enter the semi-finals - but in the Main Round, all three teams suffered defeat. While Norway, with five victories in five games were the clear winners of Group I, the Hungarians lost their opener to Montenegro in a tough game that saw three red cards given by the referees.

Nevertheless, coming out of Group I the biggest winners were Serbia who in the last eight minutes of their game against Sweden, managed to let a six-goal lead (23:17) slip through their fingers and were relieved to finish on equal footing (23:23), but it was clear that after this result their bubble had burst. But thanks to their 29:26 win over the young Danish team, they were 'at' the semi-finals before their match against France even threw off, and convinced of their advance thanks to the unconvincing performance of France against Norway – a duel that ended 19:30. Even against the Czech Republic, who had still to earn a single point, the Serbs managed only a flimsy 24:22 win. So, it was to be the last day of Main Round matches that decided the fate of the team. Serbia needed a draw against France to progress, but the French and the Danes were still dreaming of their semi-final appearance. However, it was the dramatic 18:17 victory that finally sealed Serbia's second place in the group, it also helped that Denmark pierced the Norwegian armour with a 35:33 victory – giving their reigning champions their first defeat of the competition, with Montenegro delivering the second defeat of the Final Tournament and thus, taking their crown.



› FINAL RANKING

- Gold:** Montenegro
Silver: Norway
Bronze: Hungary
4. Serbia
 5. Denmark
 6. Russia
 7. Germany
 8. Sweden
 9. France
 10. Romania
 11. Spain
 12. Czech Republic
 13. Croatia
 14. Ukraine
 15. Iceland
 16. FYR Macedonia



› ALL STAR TEAM

Goalkeeper: Katrine Lunde Haraldsaen (NOR)
Right Wing: Jovanka Radicević (MNE)
Right Wing Right back: Katarina Bulatović (MNE)
Centre Back: Andrea Lekić (SRB)
Line Player: Heidi Löke (NOR)
Left Back: Sanja Damjanović (SRB)
Left Wing: Kuznetsova Polina (RUS)

Top scorer: Katarina Bulatović (MNE) 56 goals
Best Defence Player: Anja Althaus (GER)
Most Valuable Player: Anja Edin (NOR)

› RESULTS

Semi-finals

Norway vs. Hungary 30:19 (16:11)
 Serbia vs. Montenegro 26:27 (14:13)

Placement match 5/6

Denmark vs. Russia 32:30 (15:15)

Bronze medal match

Hungary vs. Serbia 41:38 (21:19, 33:33)

Gold medal match

Norway vs. Montenegro 31:34 (11:12, 24:24, 28:28)



2012 Women's EHF/IHF Challenge Trophy



Host Bulgaria finished the 2012 EHF/IHF Challenge Trophy on home ground with a clean sheet and secured the title at this edition of the competition, for the first time ever, hosted by their federation. In Veliko Tarnovo and Gabrovo a total of eight women's teams – divided in two groups - fought for the medals. After attaining three victories each in the Preliminary Round, Bulgaria and Faroe Islands qualified for the Final, played in Gabrovo. The host dominated the game, celebrating a clear 36:27 victory – the first ever in their history. In all, it was the fourth victory for a hosting nation at the Women's EHF/IHF Challenge Trophies, organised since 2000. In contrast to the final, the placement match 3/4 became a real thriller with Israel defeating Latvia 29:28 after two periods of extra-time.

› ALL STAR TEAM

Goalkeeper: Anna Baikova (LAT)
 Left Wing: Dana Epelboim (ISR)
 Left Back: Neli Dobрева (BUL)
 Centre Back: Liljan Djurhuus (FAR)
 Line Player: Xenia Garea (MDA)
 Right Back: Marjun Falkvard Danberg (FAR)
 Right Wing: Viktoriya Hristova (BUL)

Best defence player: Elizabeth Omoregie (BUL)

Most Valuable Player: Neli Dobрева (BUL)

Top scorer: Vikrat Shir (ISR)



› RESULTS

Placement matches

7/8: Malta vs. Armenia 10:22

5/6: Estonia vs. Moldova 28:24

Bronze medal match

Israel vs. Latvia 29:28

Gold medal match

Faroe Islands vs. Bulgaria 27:36

› FINAL RANKING

- Gold:** Bulgaria
- Silver: Faroe Islands
- Bronze: Israel
- 4. Latvia
- 5. Estonia
- 6. Moldova
- 7. Armenia
- 8. Malta

2012 Men's EHF/IHF Challenge Trophy Final

On the fringes of the Men's EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, the Final of the 2012 Men's EHF/IHF Challenge Trophy was played in the Beogradska Arena on 21 January 2012. Tor Lian, President of the European Handball Federation (EHF), and Miguel Roca Mas, first Vice President of the International Handball Federation (IHF) awarded the winner's plate to the Moldovans. Moldova were dominant throughout the first half and thanks to a total of five goals from Anatolii Butov (including a last second hammer on the half-time buzzer) and the great saves of goalkeeper Valeriu Erhan, they were in the lead somewhat decisively at 15:9 going into the break.

After the break, the northern Europeans improved slightly, as Moldova started to lose power in their defence and attack but still led with a five-goal margin (28:23) five minutes before the end. The Faroe catch-up chase was led by the strong Danjal Torgard (who scored 10 goals), but it came too late. Even though they had a great chance to reduce the deficit to just one goal difference one minute before the end, another save from goalkeeper Erhan against a shot of Runi Hojgaard secured the 30:28 victory, with Butov being the top scorer for Moldova with seven goals. Moldova and Faroe Islands had qualified for this EHF/IHF Challenge Trophy Final as the winners of their respective tournaments in Malta and Ireland in October 2011.

› RESULT

Faroe Islands vs. Moldova 28:30



2012 Men's 20 European Championship

"A historic gold" was the headline on the website of the Royal Spanish Handball Federation. Because, in impressive fashion, the Spanish junior national team won the Final of the Men's 20 European Championship in Turkey against Croatia with a 34:21 (13:10) win – and with that, securing the first ever medal for Spain in this age category. Against the same opponent, the 'Rojita' were defeated in the Main Round in a close match that ended with 24:25, Spain's only defeat during the course of the tournament. The Final was also a repeat of the Men's 18 Championship Final in 2010, when Spain won the silver medal and a year later at the Youth World Championship was followed by another silver medal. Thus, these young men are the most successful Spanish youth team of all time.

Setting the tone of the match, Spain made a great impression right from the start of the Final with a strong approach. The Croatians, 2010 Men's 18 European Champions, placed much responsibility on the shoulders of Ante Kaleb, the outstanding player of the tournament from 2 years ago; however, he was not having a great game and managed to score only once. It was above all thanks to Filip Ivić that Croatia was still able to dream about the European Championship title at the half-time break (10:13). In the second half, the young Spanish players were unstoppable. Led by Pablo Cacheda, who was later named Most Valuable Player of the match, as well as Aitor Ariño, Ignacio Plaza and Ferran Solé who each contributed to the 18 goals that led to the 34:21 victory; their opponents were officially outclassed.

The top scorer for the Spanish team was the six-times successful, Juan Jose Fernandez and over the course of the tournament, Alex Dujšhebaev, son of the Madrid Coach Talant Dujšhebaev, managed to score 44 goals for his team.

However, the team from Spain were on tenterhooks until the moment that they made it into the Final because in the semi-final against Sweden they had to play a period of extra-time until the match ended in 29:26 victory. In contrast, the Croatians had no trouble in getting past the Slovenian defence in a match that finished 30:23. In the placement match, Slovenia had to endure two periods of extra-time against Sweden before winning the bronze medal. Portugal, led by the top scorer of the tournament Martins da Silva Rui Sousa (54 goals), secured fifth place against Norway despite their sensational win over Croatia in the Main Round, which cost Croatia the first place in the group. In the Main Round Group II, Sweden did not concede any points. The host team Turkey could not meet the expectations and at the end of the tournament ranked on the 16th and last place.



› ALL STAR TEAM

Goalkeeper: Peter Johansson (SWE)
 Left Wing: Patrick Zieker (GER)
 Left Back: Stipe Mandalinić (CRO)
 Centre Back: Rui Silva (POR)
 Line Player: Teo Ćorić (CRO)
 Right Back: Alex Dujšhebajev (ESP)
 Right Wing: Mario Šoštarić (SLO)

Best Defence Player: Juan Jose Fernandez Sanchez (ESP)
Top Scorer: Rui Silva (POR) 54 goals
Most Valuable Player: Stipe Mandalenić (CRO)

› RESULTS

Gold medal match
 Spain vs. Croatia 34:21 (13:10)

Bronze medal match
 Sweden vs. Slovenia 34:36 (12:13, 23:23, 27:27, 32:32)

Semi-finals
 Spain vs. Sweden 29:26 (12:14, 24:24)
 Slovenia vs. Croatia 23:30 (11:14)

› FINAL RANKING

Gold: Spain
Silver: Croatia
Bronze: Slovenia
 4. Sweden
 5. Portugal
 6. Norway
 7. Germany
 8. Switzerland
 9. Russia
 10. Denmark
 11. Iceland
 12. Poland
 13. Czech Republic
 14. France
 15. Serbia
 16. Turkey



2012 Men's 18 European Championship



It was one of the most exciting Final matches in the history of the Younger Age Category European Championships, with an impressive finish; the German national team managed to push the match against Sweden into extra-time bringing about a double whammy by taking the score to a draw (26:26) in last second. In the period of extra-time, the German team used the psychological advantage and it worked; in the first five minutes the Germans had gained a two-goal lead and went on to take the score to 30:27. Sweden managed to close the gap once, but the cheering and celebrations in the German bench had already begun. German capped a brilliant tournament with the title and spoke of reaching the seventh rung of Jacob's ladder. Only two minutes before the end of the match, it looked like a triumph for Sweden who was leading by 26:24, but then a suspension provided the chance for Germany to score their two late goals to even the score and then in extra-time, Germany dominated the game.

All the experts evaluated the level of the entire European Championship as a high-class event. "We have seen outstanding games and individual talents," praised for example, EHF Executive Committee member, Arne Elovsso. Moreover, the host, who organised a great tournament, ensured their own highlights on the court and at the end the team ranked 6th place.

Denmark secured the bronze medal, but only after a while and with much effort before they could gain the advantage over the Spaniards. Nevertheless, in the end phase, the difference was greater and the match ended with 37:32.

Both finalists ended their semi-final contents decisively: Main Round group winner Sweden finished the Scandinavian duel against Denmark with a 35:28 victory and Germany, in their match against Spain, introduced a stream of goals.

In the Preliminary Round, Germany and Sweden had already faced each other – and it was Sweden that had the upper hand taking the points with a clear 29:20 victory. Leading up to the Final, Sweden had won all their matches. Also Spain, winner of Main Round Group II, managed to secure each point until their semi-final defeat. Following a weak Preliminary Round as well as a Main Round defeat against their neighbours Slovenia, it was clear early on that Croatia would not be able to defend their title won in 2010; eventually, Croatia ranked 7th place.



› ALL STAR TEAM

Goalkeeper: Niklas Kraft (SWE)
 Left Wing: Matic Verdinek (SLO)
 Left Back: Marko Mamic (CRO)
 Center Back: Simon Ernst (GER)
 Line Player: Diego Martín (ESP)
 Right Back: Niklas Vest Kirklökke (DEN)
 Right Wing: Kasper Kildelund (DEN)

Best Defense player: Marcel Engels (GER)
Most Valuable Player: Pontus Zettermann (SWE)
Top Scorer: Luka Maros (SUI) 60 goals

› RESULTS

Gold medal match
 Germany vs. Sweden 30:29 (13:14, 26:26)

Bronze medal match
 Denmark vs. Spain 37:32 (19:12)

Semi-finals
 Sweden vs. Denmark 35:28 (16:10)
 Spain vs. Germany 37:42 (16:20)

› FINAL RANKING

- Gold:** Germany
- Silver: Sweden
- Bronze: Denmark
- 4. Spain
- 5. Slovenia
- 6. Austria
- 7. Croatia
- 8. Belarus
- 9. Norway
- 10. Serbia
- 11. Romania
- 12. France
- 13. Switzerland
- 14. Czech Republic
- 15. Iceland
- 16. Finland

2012 Men's and Women's 18 Beach Handball Championships

History was made on the beach of Batumi – for the first time in the story of the European Handball Federation, Georgia had hosted two European Championships. The best young beach handball players in Europe were in Georgia to determine the beach handball champions. At the end of the event, it was the Hungarian women and the Russian men that stood on the podium, each followed by the very strong Turkish teams, which both made it to the Finals, only for both teams to take the silver medal back home; hosts Georgia, in both the men's and the women's competition, ranked 7th. For the development of beach handball in this country, for this sport, the European Championships were a decisive milestone. Over the course of three days, altogether eight men's and eight women's teams from across the continent began the tournament.

In the women's competition, with a clear 2:0 win against Turkey, Hungary successfully defended their title won in the previous year in Umag, Croatia. The Russian women's team were participating for the first time and after losing the semi-final 0:2 against Hungary, they eventually won the bronze medal following a 2:0 victory against the previous world champions, Norway, who lost their semi-final bout against Turkey. Russia and Hungary exited the Preliminary Round undefeated; after the Main Round, it was Turkey and Russia at the top of the group. Throughout the entire tournament, the Russians only lost one match, namely the semi-final; Hungary achieved the same balance, though they lost a match in the Main Round against Turkey.

In the men's competition, Russia was the dominant team in this event and finished the European Championship without a single defeat. Moreover, the three KO matches against Norway (quarter-final), Switzerland (semi-final) and Turkey (final) ended in clear 2:0 victories. Surprisingly, Switzerland made it to the semi-finals following a quarter-final victory against Ukraine. Nevertheless, the Swiss missed winning a medal after losing to defending champions Hungary in the race for third place. Hungary and Russia both came out on top at the end of the Preliminary Round and the Main Round; but then Hungary lost the dramatic semi-final against Turkey 1:2 following a penalty shoot-out (6:9). Turkey suffered three defeats in the Preliminary Round and it was thought the event was over for them, then the team came back rising like the phoenix from the ashes defeating Croatia in the quarter-final after a penalty shoot-out. Regardless, they did not stand a chance against Russia in the final.



Women's event

› RESULTS

Gold medal match:

Turkey vs. Hungary 0:2 (13:15, 25:31)

Bronze medal match:

Norway vs. Russia 0:2 (8:25, 12:20)

Semi-finals:

Turkey vs. Norway 2:0 (17:10, 15:4)

Hungary vs. Russia 2:0 (18:16, 25:16)

› FINAL RANKING

Gold: Hungary

Silver: Turkey

Bronze: Russia

4. Norway

5. Ukraine

6. Switzerland

7. Georgia

8. Armenia



Men's event

› RESULTS

Gold medal match:

Turkey vs. Russia 0:2 (16:23, 24:25)

Bronze medal match:

Hungary vs. Switzerland 2:0 (23:18, 20:17)

Semi-finals:

Hungary vs. Turkey 1:2 (18:24, 22:20, 6:9)

Switzerland vs. Russia 0:2 (11:24, 17:22)

› FINAL RANKING

Gold: Russia

Silver: Turkey

Bronze: Hungary

4. Switzerland

5. Croatia

6. Ukraine

7. Georgia

8. Norway



2012 Women's 18 European Open



2000 spectators attended the exciting Final of the 2012 European Open in Gothenburg, Sweden between Norway and Russia. Norway were ahead for most of the game and the match ended 26:22 - some weeks later both teams faced each other again in the semi-final of the Youth World championships in Montenegro, with Russia achieving the better result. The national team from the Czech Republic took the victory in the Bronze medal match against Germany in this traditional tournament played on the fringes of the Partille Cup. The last day of the Main Round of the Women's 18 European Open was exciting; in both groups, the last games decided who would make it to the final. The Main Round had ended with Russia and Norway winning their groups, as they beat their biggest opponents Czech Republic and Germany in the decisive final matches. Both finalists remained unbeaten until the final direct duel.

› ALL STAR TEAM

Goalkeeper: Dinah Eckerle (GER)
 Left wing: Kristin Venn (NOR)
 Right wing: Aneta Labuda (POL)
 Left back: Marketa Jerabkova (CZE)
 Right back: Hanna Bredal Oftedal (NOR)
 Playmaker: Michelle Urbicht (GER)
 Line Player: Roxana Diana Cirjan (ROU)

Top scorer: Irene Fanton (ITA) 48 goals
Best defence player: Julia Eriksson (SWE)
Most valuable player (MVP): Irina Snopova (RUS)

› FINAL RANKING

- Gold:** Norway
- Silver: Russia
- Bronze: Czech Republic
- 4. Germany
- 5. Sweden
- 6. Romania
- 7. Poland
- 8. Austria
- 9. Switzerland
- 10. Iceland
- 11. Italy
- 12. Lithuania
- 13. Belgium
- 14. Finland

› RESULTS

Bronze medal match
 Czech Republic vs. Germany 23:22 (8:12)

Gold medal match
 Norway vs. Russia 26:22 (15:13)





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2011/12 VELUX EHF Champions League



36 teams from 24 countries were present in the VELUX EHF Champions League and four teams from three countries qualified for the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne after 160 matches and 9600 minutes of play. From the Group Phase onwards, there were 78 home victories, 11 draws and 55 away wins.

The Qualification

Twenty teams qualified automatically for the Group Phase of the VELUX EHF Champions League, the remaining four participants were determined through three Qualification Tournaments as well as a Wild Card tournament. Sixteen nations participated in the tournaments held in Prešov (Slovakia), Vienna (Austria), Rishon (Israel) and Kielce (Poland). The Polish runners up Vive Targe Kielce won the Wild Card Tournament and they were the only Qualification Tournament host to qualify for the Group Phase. In Prešov, the Serbian champions Partizan Belgrade faced AEK Athens in the semi-final and a clear 33:26 victory against FC Porto secured their place in the Group Phase. In Vienna, Dinamo Minsk (after semi-final success against hosts AON Fivers) met IK Sävehof (after defeating Besiktas Istanbul) in the last game of the tournament. The Swedes made it through with a close 33:32 win. In Israel, Metalurg Skopje were on edge right until the final seconds before making it through with a 29:28 win over the Norwegian champions Haslum HK. Hafnarfjörður and hosts Rishon Lezion did not stand a chance.

In the Wild Card Tournament, the favourites fell at the first hurdle: only four months after participating in the VELUX EHF FINAL4, Rhein Neckar Löwen failed to defeat Vive Targe Kielce in the final, following extra-time. In the semi-final, the 'Löwen' stopped HB Dunkerque in extra-time (36:30) as Kielce barely won (21:19) their match against BM Valladolid. Later, the strength of the qualified teams was shown as three of them survived the Group Phase and made it through to the Last 16.

The Group Phase

The Group Phase saw 120 matches across four groups played out with much sensation from September 2011 to February 2012. Sixteen of the 24 teams (from 15 nations combined) moved on to the Last 16 and a few favourites stayed on course, while alleged 'underdogs' caused a furore. In the 'Group of Death' B, Chekhovskie Medvedi, who participated in the inaugural 2010 VELUX EHF FINAL4, failed to make the leap to the Last 16. In a breathtaking moment, on the final playing day of the Group Phase, Vive Targi Kielce and VELUX EHF Champions League debutants, Füchse Berlin, moved past the Russians. BM Atlético Madrid secured an effortless group win, but due to the home win against the Spaniards on the last day of play, MKB Veszprém KC ranked second in the group and caused Atlético's first defeat of the season.

In Group A, defending champions FC Barcelona Intersport and RK Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb quickly broke away from the rest – in the direct duels, there was an away win for each team. Behind them, the sensational qualifier IK Sävehof secured third place in the group ahead of Kadetten Schaffhausen, who decided the crucial match to their advantage against Chambéry Savoie, surprisingly putting the French team out of the competition early. Bosna Sarajevo did not stand a chance and exited the Group Phase without a single point; the same held true for teams Bjerrinbro Silkeborg (Group B) and Partizan Beograd (Group D) who also failed to notch up a single point.

The fastest result was the victory in Group C, where HSV Hamburg was the only team in the Group Phase who remained unbeaten and only conceded one point. Behind the Germans, the duel between Metalurg Skopje and RK Cimos Koper for second place erupted, but Koper won out. The Polish champions, Wisła Płock ranked fourth in the group ahead of St. Petersburg and HCM Constanta.

Group A was another unpredictable and difficult mixture and was decided on the final whistle of the last group match: thanks to a draw, the newcomer, AG København ranked second behind THW Kiel. The biggest sensation was the poor performance of co-favourites Montpellier MAHB, who ranked fourth behind the home strong Spaniards from León. In the end, 16 teams from 11 countries qualified for the Last 16 – as many as never before since the changes to the playing system.



The Last 16

In the eighth final, two of the top favourites crashed out of the competition: in the top battle, Montpellier MAHB against defending champions FC Barcelona Intersport, the French team said 'au revior' to their European top flight campaign. Though Montpellier led by seven goals during the first leg, Barcelona managed to close the gap to 28:30 at the final whistle and steamrolled Montpellier in the return match with 36:20. The Hungarians from Veszprém exited the EHF Champions League for the fourth consecutive time at the hands of a Spanish team. Reale Ademar León jumped into the quarter-finals only because of their goal in the 2nd leg match that took the score to 25:27 in the final seconds following their 1st leg win of 31:28. Füchse Berlin continued to surprise with two wins against HSV Hamburg. Another close match was the Balkan duel between Metalurg Skopje and RK Zagreb. After the Macedonians won the first leg 19:18; the Croatians ensured their advancement into the next round with a 26:21 victory in the closing stages of the second leg match. Even closer was the match of RK Cimos Koper and Vive Targi Kielce. The first leg went to the Polish team 27:26; at home, RK Cimos Koper, with a result of 25:23, qualified for the quarter-final for the first time in the club's history. Other significant quarter-finals advancements surrounded THW Kiel (two wins against Wisła Płock), AG København (double victory against IK Sävehof) and Atlético Madrid who, despite an embarrassing home defeat, secured a clear away win against Kadetten Schaffhausen.

The Quarter-finals

AG København (DEN) vs. FC Barcelona Intersport (ESP) 29:23, 33:36

With their first ever participation in the VELUX EHF Champions League, AG København made it to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 – and deservedly so. Following the 29:23 first leg victory, even in Barcelona, the Danes never doubted their advancement and celebrated despite defeat. With eight goals, Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson was the top scorer for the Danes and Olafur Stefansson scored seven times. In front of 21,193 spectators, the superior defence of Kasper Hvidt, as well as the eight goals by Mikkel Hansen, laid the foundation for their ticket to Cologne.

RK Cimos Koper (SLO) vs. Atlético Madrid (ESP) 26:23, 24:31

Atlético Madrid is the only constant of the VELUX EHF FINAL4, as they are the only team that has been part of every event since the inauguration in 2010. Nevertheless, it was close for match against the young team from Slovenia. Even though the end result of the second leg was decisively clear, the match itself was not; ten minutes before the end of the match, it seemed to be the end of the Spanish campaign, before the Atlético goalkeeper, Arpad Sterbik, gave a world class performance by saving 19 shots.

Reale Ademar León (ESP) vs. Füchse Berlin (GER) 34:23, 18:29

Despite losing the first leg of the quarter-final 23:34 against Reale Ademar León in Spain, Füchse Berlin sensationally qualified for the VELUX EHF FINAL4. On home ground, due to a 29:18 (13:6) second leg result and thanks to the excellent performance of goalkeeper Silvio Heinevetter, Füchse Berlin came through and secured their ticket to Cologne based on aggregate. In the first leg, a strong defence and goalkeeper Vicente Alamo was the key to the clear victory of León. In Berlin, Füchse Berlin turned the tables: in the 42nd minute, they had an 11-goal advantage with 21:10 and on their way to Cologne.

RK Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb (CRO) vs. THW Kiel (GER) 31:31, 27:33

Following a draw in the first leg, THW Kiel had to work hard all the way up to the 50th minute to break through the Croatian resistance; for their effort, the end result of 33:27 was clear. In the first match, Zagreb was temporarily in the lead with seven goals, but thanks to a strong conclusion, Kiel secured a draw. Again, in the return match, the Croatians were either level or ahead of Kiel in the first half and until the 40th minute, but when Kiel took the score to 29:23, the fate of the guests was sealed.



2012 VELUX EHF FINAL4



The hero was the same as in 2010: Goalkeeper Thierry Omeyer was the key to the third THW Kiel title in the Champions League since 2007. Omeyer had been the match winner two years ago in the Final against Barcelona. 21 saves from the Frenchman during the 26:21 (13:10) Final victory against Atlético Madrid secured the third trophy for the Germans after 2007 and 2010. The Final of the 2012 edition of the VELUX EHF Final4 in Cologne was a 100 percent defence battle, in which Kiel had more alternatives, the greater will and power – and Thierry “Titi” Omeyer, who won the Champions League title for the fourth time. Atlético Madrid lost their second straight VELUX EHF Champions League Final after 2011 against FC Barcelona – and after two victories during the old playing system, it was the first time that Atlético Madrid (formerly BM Ciudad Real) was beaten by THW Kiel following their 2008 and 2009 titles.

Both teams and 20,000 spectators had been stirred and stimulated right before the starting whistle by being treated to the legendary “The Final Countdown”, performed live by the rock band EUROPE in the LANXESS arena. Madrid got the better start, leading 6:4 after 13 minutes, before the great performance of THW shooter Kim Andersson began. Scoring his fifth goal, the Swede brought the first lead to Kiel at 7:6. However, the Spaniards easily turned it around to 9:7. Thanks to some saves by Omeyer and a superb defensive performance, THW started their engines for the 13:9 halftime lead. Moreover, at the beginning of the second half history repeated itself: like in the successful 2010 Final, Omeyer shut up shop, driving the Madrid attackers wild with his outstanding saves. At this point, the reason for Madrid being unable to close the gap was seemingly the lack of ideas in the offence. Thirteen minutes before the Final buzzer and with Kim Andersson’s sixth goal, Kiel was ahead for the first time in the match with five goals at 18:13 – and they kept this gap until the end. In Cologne, under a shower of confetti and champagne, EHF President Tor Lian and EHF Secretary General Michael Wiederer handed over the trophy to THW Kiel team captain Marcus Ahlm, whilst Coach Alfred Gislason received the loudest applause when ascending the podium. Gislason won his third Champions League trophy after 2002 (SC Magdeburg) and 2010 (Kiel).

In the duel of the former Austrian men’s national team coaches, Magnus Andersson took the victory against his predecessor Dagur Sigurdsson, as his current team AG København beat Füchse Berlin in the 3/4 placement match of the VELUX EHF Final4 in Cologne 27:20 (13:9). Two excellent goalkeepers both characterised and made the match – and especially the first half with Kasper Hvidt (København) saving the incredible number of 15 shots; Silvio Heinevetter notched up ten saves after only 30 minutes. In the end, Hvidt saved 23 shots and Heinevetter 19 shots. Both Champions League debutants performed really well in being so close to reaching the Final, but in the end, the experience and stronger defence of Kiel and Atlético were decisive in the semi-Finals. Eleven goals of the unstoppable former World Handball Player of the Year Filip Jicha secured the Final for THW Kiel in the all-German semi-Final against Berlin. In a Hitchcock-style thriller, the favoured German champion really had to struggle hard to overcome the debutants Füchse Berlin 25:24 (15:12). For THW Kiel it was the sixth Final of the Champions League after 2000, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Atlético Madrid won the second high-tension semi-final thriller against Danish debutant AG København 25:23 (12:15) after a clear improvement in the second half and thanks to eleven goals from Kiril Lazarov. Nevertheless, the Danes took one title in Cologne: Mikkel Hansen, who was later awarded 2011 World Handball Player of the Year title, was the top scorer of the VELUX EHF Champions League with 98 goals and received a golden handball for his performance. To conclude, Hansen scored one goal more than Lazarov and scored four goals more than Zlatko Horvat (Zagreb).

› RESULTS

Semi-finals:

Füchse Berlin (GER) vs. **THW Kiel** (GER) 24:25

BM Atlético Madrid (ESP) vs. AG København (DEN) 25:23

Placement match 3/4:

Füchse Berlin (GER) vs. **AG København** (DEN) 21:26

Final:

THW Kiel (GER) vs. BM Atlético Madrid (ESP) 26:21

› FINAL4 FACT

3 VELUX EHF FINAL4 events have been played in Cologne and the only team to be at all three events was and is Atlético Madrid, who in the previous season played under the banner of BM Ciudad Real.





› FINAL4 FACT

Two debutant teams have reached the VELUX EHF FINAL4 only once. In 2012 AG København of Denmark and Fühse Berlin of Germany made it to the final tournament of the competition in their premier season in the VELUX EHF Champions League. However, both teams missed the Final.

› FINAL4 FACT

In total, 36 teams started in the VELUX EHF Champions League season 2011/12. Following the conclusion of the qualification phase, 24 teams from 15 countries went through to the Group Phase of the competition. The Last 16 teams represented 11 countries, the eight quarter-finalists came from 5 nations and at the VELUX EHF FINAL4, and three countries were represented by the four teams.

2011/12 Women's EHF Champions League



A final score of 54:54 is a result never seen before in a Women's EHF Champions League Final; never has a decision in the elite class been so exact. In the end, it was the players from Budućnost Podgorica that ran jubilantly across the court having won the match that for 120 minutes resembled a thriller. Following the 25:27 result from the first leg in Veszprém, the team won the return leg on home soil by 29:27 and thanks to the greater number of away goals scored, the team were rewarded with the most important title in women's handball for the first time in the history of the club.

While Podgorica managed to end their downswing that included seven defeats in the semi-final phase of the EHF Champions League, their final opponents, Györi Audi ETO, had to deal with an extended run of bad luck. The Hungarians had made it to a women's European Cup final (to the Champions League Final for the second time since 2009), and for the sixth time, it was their opponent that hoisted the trophy on the podium. The defeat was especially heartrending for Györi's Anita Görbicz, who really wanted to win her first title on her birthday; she nearly went home empty handed after the match. In the end, with 133 goals scored, she was declared and awarded the accolade for being the top scorer of the Women's EHF Champions League season ahead of the two Budućnost-players Bojana Popović (89 goals) and Katarina Bulatović (88 goals) - cold comfort for Görbicz who scored 21 times across both legs of the Final.

In the first leg of the Final, Bojana Popović scored 14 times and in the second leg; with nine decisive goals, it was Bulatović (later named as a top scorer in the Olympic tournament) who pushed open the game and left her mark on the match that was a true battle of defensive skills. Moreover, in her last game on a club level, Bojana Popović was able to celebrate her sixth victory in this elite women's competition. She celebrated winning the Champions League title three times with Slagelse and twice with Viborg. For this, she also had her German teammate, Clara Woltering to thank for the victory as Woltering saved 17 goals in the second leg match. Because of Bulatović's performance, Podgorica were often ahead, but still this was not enough to decide the match. With the score at 24:20, ten minutes prior to the end of the match, also failed to give the hosts as sense of security. For Popović, it was the "highpoint of my career to have won the Champions League with a club from my home country." Just like veteran Maja Savić, Popović bade farewell to the game.

In addition, the best Montenegrin handball player of all time had triumphed mightily throughout the season, her penalty goal against former teammate Cecilie Leganger (Larvik) in the semi-finals was legendary in a match that the team from Podgorica unexpectedly turned to their advantage. On the turf of the defending champions, Budućnost won 22:20, and in the return match at home, they went one better and prevailed with 23:13, whereas Larvik only managed to score five more goals after the break. In the semi-final against the finalists of 2010, Oltchim Vâlcea, the team from Győr had a lot of work to do. Vâlcea won the first leg with 35:31; the second leg was another 'Görbicz gala' whose twelve goals made for an impressive 31:23 victory.





With this quartet, the four best teams of the entire season had qualified for the semi-finals. Budućnost attained six wins from six Main Round matches; Oltchim also secured early qualification to the semi-finals. In the other Main Round group, it was significantly more exciting, because prior to the last day of play, Györi was already fixed as a semi-finalist. However, a win against Midtjylland (Denmark) did not help the 2011 finalists Itxako (Spain), because parallel to this match Larvik kept Györi at bay and in the end was one point ahead of Grupo Asfi Itxako Navarra, who eventually ranked third. Surprisingly, from the Group Matches stage, the three-time CL winner Viborg, the Russian champion Volgograd and record winner Hypo Niederösterreich failed to progress to the next round.

› RESULTS

Semi-finals

C.S. Oltchim Rm. Vâlcea (ROU) vs. **Györi AUDI ETO KC (HUN)**
35:31, 23:31

Larvik HK (NOR) vs. **Budućnost (MNE)** 20:22, 13:23

Finals

Györi AUDI ETO KC (HUN) vs. **Budućnost (MNE)** 29:27, 25:27

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2011/12 European Cup

In the men's competitions of the 19th European Cup season, the German teams dominated once again, by winning three of the four titles that were available. The only non-German winning team was A.C. Diomidis Argous of Greece, who won the Challenge Cup. In the women's events, the European Cup winners of 2011/12 came from four different countries. In total, 302 clubs from 44 countries participated across eight competitions, a clear increase on the previous season of 2010/11 (267 teams from 42 countries).



Men's 2011/12 Season – facts & figures

The number of registered clubs increased slightly across all competitions from 150 to 158 from 41 countries. Nevertheless, in comparison to the previous season and despite the small increase in teams, the number of matches decreased from 416 to 402. In terms of spectators however, a new record was set; firstly, the figure broke through the magic 1 million mark with 1,052,258 visitors to the arenas across Europe, yet another increase on the previous season where 954,768 spectators were recorded. From the new record, the 164 matches of the VELUX EHF Champions League including the FINAL4 were solely responsible for 750,850 of these visits. In the 2010/11 season, the Champions League accounted for 672,418 of all visitors. On average, 500 additional fans came to each match (4,578 compared to 4,050). 147,478 fans came to watch the matches of the EHF Cup; the amount of visitors was nearly identical to last season (147,400), which averages out at 1,446. The matches of the Cup Winners' Cup welcomed 105,900 fans, which was a considerable increase on last year (74,850) and which raised the average attendance to 1,100 per match. On the contrary, the attendance to the matches of the Challenge Cup sank from 60,100 to 48,030.

For the second consecutive year, in line with the reduction in the number of matches, the number of goals scored has fallen. In the 2010/11 season, the players hit the back of the net 22,710 times. In the 2011/12 season, this number fell to 22,221 although the average of goals per match did increase from 53.3 to 55.2. The average number of goals scored in the VELUX EHF Champions League was 56.1; the smallest average number of goals was found in the Challenge Cup with 53.4 goals per game.

VELUX EHF Champions League: 36 teams from 24 different nations
EHF Cup: 52 teams from 34 different nations
Challenge Cup: 35 teams from 23 different nations
Cup Winners' Cup: 35 teams from 33 different nations

Since the start of the current handball season 2012/13, the Men's European Cup competitions were reformed. The former Cup Winners' Cup and the EHF Cup were merged and the playing system was changed. Following three qualification rounds, the group phase will begin in February 2013 with sixteen team spread across four groups. The quarter-finals will follow and in May, the winner of the new EHF Cup will be decided in a final four style tournament in Nantes, France. Thus SG Flensburg-Handewitt and Frisch Auf Göppingen are the last winners of the separate competitions; no changes were made to the Challenge Cup.



Women's 2011/12 Season - facts & figures

144 clubs from 38 countries and with that, a clear increase on the 117 teams who participated in the previous season of the Women's European Cup. In comparison to the men's competitions, the winners of the four competitions came from four different countries: Montenegro, Russia, Hungary and France.

Due to the increased number of participants, the number of matches transmitted rose slightly from 319 to 324. The number of spectators was exactly the same as in the season 2009/10 as 398,000 fans came to the arenas to watch the matches, but compared to the past season, this figure rose by approximately 11,000. The obvious crowd puller was the Women's EHF Champions League with 201,890 spectators followed by the Cup Winners' Cup (99,550), the EHF Cup (62,010) and the Challenge Cup (34,550). On average, 1,228 fans followed each match, whereby in the Champions League, the median was approximately 2,000 fans per match.

In all, across the four competitions, 17,399 goals were scored and this was considerably more as in the previous 2010/11 where only 16,753 goals made it to the back of the net, but only slightly less than in the 2009/10 season (17,473). Over the course of the season, the goal average per match was 53.7. Compared to the men's competition, in the women's Champions League the average number of goals scored was 52.6, this was the lowest average. More goals were scored in the Cup Winners' Cup (55.2) and in the EHF Cup (54.3); however, in the Challenge Cup the average matched that of the Champions League, again with 52.6 goals per match.

Women's EHF Champions League: 32 teams from 23 different nations
EHF Cup: 36 teams from 25 different nations
Challenge Cup: 30 teams from 19 different nations
Cup Winners' Cup: 46 teams from 29 different nations

2011/12 Men's EHF Cup

The dominance of German teams in the Men's EHF Cup continued: Frisch Auf Göppingen defended their title, it was the 14th time since 1993 that a German side took the trophy – and even more impressive: the ninth consecutive time. And the supremacy even becomes more obvious by looking to the 2011/12 semi-finals with three German teams involved.

After a 26:26 draw in the first final encounter in France, Frisch Auf Göppingen outclassed Dunkerque HB by six goals in the second leg. After a tough and close first half of the decisive battle, the German side decided the game in the first 15 minutes of the second half by extending the gap to 24:18.

Dunkerque had broken the German spell in the first leg of the semi-finals by defeating the former EHF Champions League winner SC Magdeburg 30:25, but it was luck that took Dunkerque to the final after losing the second leg by four goals. In the German semi-final derby, both teams lost their home-matches – but Göppingen held the clear away-goal advantage against Rhein Neckar Löwen from the first leg.



EHF CUP

› RESULTS

Semi-finals

Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER) vs. **Frisch Auf Göppingen** (GER)
29:33, 33:32

SC Magdeburg (GER) vs. **Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral** (FRA)
22:18, 25:30

Finals

Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral (FRA) vs. **Frisch Auf Göppingen** (GER)
28:34, 26:26



2011/12 Women's EHF Cup

For the third time since 2007 the Women's EHF Cup winner comes from Russia: after Zvezda Zvenigorod in 2007 and Dinamo in 2008, and now Lada Togliatti took this title for the first time in the history of the club, adding another trophy to the tally of Coach Evgeny Trefilov. And the duels with Romanian side Zalau were the most distinctive of all European Cup competitions, as the Russians dominated both legs of the final.

After an equal first period of the first leg, the Russians increased the pressure and showed a much stronger performance in the second half that allowed them to build the tight half-time lead to a favourable six goals advantage at the final buzzer. In the re-match, the hosts had a period of approximately 35 minutes where they managed to surprise and slightly turn the tables on Lada, but the physical strength of Lada decided the match in favour of the Russians.

After the semi-finals had been concluded, it was confirmed that the series of Danish victories in this competition would come to an end, after Randers (2010) and Midtjylland (2011) had previously won the trophies before. Lada eliminated the final Danish participant Vejen by beating them twice. On the other hand Zalau turned the tide with a clear home victory after they had lost the first encounter in Alicante by two goals.

› RESULTS

Semi-finals

Lada Togliatti (RUS) vs. KIF Vejen (DEN)
22:21, 21:16

C.B. Mar Alicante (ESP) vs. **Handball Club Zalau** (ROU)
26:24, 20:30

Finals

Lada Togliatti (RUS) vs. Handball Club Zalau (ROU)
21:20, 30:24



2011/12 Men's Challenge Cup



In 2012, A.C. Diomidis Argous made history: for the first time ever a club from Greece won an EHF European Cup competition – but before the players of Argous could raise the winner's trophy, there was a thriller of a match to be played. Their three-goal lead from the first leg in Greece (26:23) was enough as they lost 20:22 to Wacker Thun in the second leg. After an equal start of the first final Argous extended the gap to six goals, nevertheless, thanks to six consecutive goals, Wacker Thun managed to equalize but failed to turn the match completely. Ten minutes before the end A.C. Diomidis Argous were ahead by three goals with the score at 20:17 and managed to keep this advantage until the final buzzer.

In the second final goalkeeper Christoforos Nungovitch, who saved 17 shots including the decisive final goal, and Charalampos Mallios who scored nine goals, were instrumental to the victory for Argous. In the semi-finals, Wacker Thun had luck on their side against Sporting CP from Portugal. Wacker won the match on aggregate by one goal, while Argous had no problems in beating Maccabi Tel Aviv despite a draw in the second leg.



› RESULTS

Semi-finals

Maccabi "Tyrec" Tel Aviv (ISR) vs. **A.C. Diomidis Argous** (GRE)
21:21, 26:29

Sporting CP (POR) vs. **Wacker Thun** (SUI)
26:28, 31:29

Finals

A.C. Diomidis Argous (GRE) vs. Wacker Thun (SUI)
20:22, 26:23

2011/12 Women's Challenge Cup

For the second successive time the top Turkish team Muratpasa Belediyesi were in the EHF Challenge Cup Final, and for the second time they were defeated by a French side. After Mios Biganos had raised the trophy in 2011, one season later H.A.C. Handball from Le Havre celebrated the final victory – the first ever international title in their club history.

And the deal was already sealed after the clear 36:27 away victory in Turkey, with intermediately double-figured leads. The second leg was an easy walk for the French team.

H.A.C. Handball had to struggle much harder in their semi-finals against the Croatian runners-up Lokomotiva Zagreb, taking an aggregate win by only three goals. Muratpasa Belediyesi had paved the way to the Final by only one aggregate goal against VS Fleury Loiret Handball from France.



› RESULTS

Semi-finals

H.A.C. Handball (FRA) vs. Lokomotiva Zagreb (CRO)
19:22, 23:17

VS Fleury Loiret Handball (FRA) vs. **Muratpasa Belediyesi SK** (TUR)
37:39, 30:29

Finals

Muratpasa Belediyesi SK (TUR) vs. **H.A.C. Handball** (FRA)
30:27, 27:36

2011/12 Men's Cup Winners' Cup

After winning the first leg of the Cup Winners' Cup Final 34:33 in Gummersbach, the team secured their first international title since 2005 by a clear 32:28 (16:11) victory in the re-match of this all-German encounter on home ground in Flensburg – eleven years after they had won this trophy for the last time. It was the fifth time a German team won this competition – and the third straight since 2010.

Flensburg was dominant across the whole 60 minutes and had broken the resistance of the guests at the beginning of the second half. "I am so proud of this team and now we will have a real big celebration," said Flensburg Coach Ljubomir Vranjes. Gummersbach Coach Emir Kurtagic congratulated their successor as Cup Winners' Cup winner: "Flensburg had beaten us four times in this season, so they are the well-deserved winner of this European competition." And it was a surprise to see Gummersbach in the Final as they had been close to elimination in their semi-finals against Slovenian club Celje. After losing the away match by 27:34, they only progressed to the Final thanks to the aggregate rule, as they won at home by 32:25. In contrast Flensburg marched through to the Final by a clear 39:30 home victory against Aragon from Spain.



› RESULTS

Semi-finals

SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER) vs. Caja3 BM. Aragon (ESP)
31:34, 39:30

HC Celje Pivovarna Laško (SLO) vs. **VfL Gummersbach** (GER)
34:27, 25:32

Finals

VfL Gummersbach (GER) vs. SG Flensburg-Handewitt
28:32, 33:34



2011/12 Women's Cup Winners' Cup

FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria successfully defended their title in the EHF Women's Cup Winners' Cup. After they had won the first leg at home against Viborg HK (Denmark) 31:30 they took the trophy by winning the re-match at Viborg with exactly the same result after a thrilling match. For 120 minutes both Finals were played on the razor's edge. In the first leg FTC were leading by five goals after 51 minutes, but then the Danes caught up, led by Rikke Skov, to a one goal difference at the end of the battle. A week later, Viborg started better with an early 5:2 lead, but then FTC turned the game completely, scoring a 9:1 series to 11:6. The Danes caught up again and could dream of the title, after taking the lead to 25:24 several minutes before the end. But three straight goals (27:25), the Hungarian side turned the roller coaster again remained in control until the final buzzer.

FTC was unstoppable in the semi-finals, though they had lost the first leg in Russia to Dinamo Volgograd (35:38) – they went on to strike back with a clear 34:26 win in the second leg. Viborg had paved their way to the Final by a dominant 33:27 home victory against German side HC Leipzig, so the close defeat in the re-match was not any cause for concern.

› RESULTS

Semi-finals

FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria (HUN) vs. Dinamo Volgograd
35:38, 34:26

HC Leipzig (GER) vs. **Viborg HK** (DEN)
27:33, 30:29

Finals

FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria (HUN) vs. Viborg HK (DEN)
31:30, 31:30





2011 European Beach Tour Finals

The 2011 European Beach Tour (EBT) Finals took place in Lagoa, Portugal from 2 to 3 June 2012. This event was the culmination of the eighth season (2010/11) of the European Beach Tour. Once again, it was a Croatian show. The men's and women's teams, both named Detono Zagreb, proved that they were the best in the business – the men's team won the title for the fourth consecutive time and the women's team took the victory away from their opponents for the second straight time. In 2012, Croatia made beach handball history.

After the huge success of 2010 Finals in Espinho, northern Portugal, and in their bid to further develop beach handball in Portugal, the Federação de Andebol de Portugal applied to host the event once again. And for the second time, the Portuguese Federation made it an event to remember. Sixteen teams (eight men and women); the teams ranked 1-6 across Europe alongside the 2011 defending champions and two wildcard teams from each category made a play for the title.

In the sunny setting of the Algarve, Detono Zagreb beat Budaörs Beachstars BHC from Hungary in the men's Final, winning both sets, 21-10 and 14-13. Zagreb's women's team also took out a Hungarian side, OVB Beach Girls 2-1, taking the title in a shoot-out. OVB won the first set 17-12, and Zagreb the second 21-14. Detono Zagreb won the final battle against the goalkeeper 6-5. Prizes and awards were presented by members of the EHF Beach Handball Commission (László Sinka, Ole R. Jørstad and Marco Trespidi) and the Vice President of the Handball Federation of Portugal, António Galambas and Rui Correia, Vice President of Lagoa city council.

On the fringes of the event, the 8th EHF Beach Handball Referee Course, the 7th Beach Handball Delegates' Course and the 5th Beach Handball Coaches' Course were carried out. The participants on the referee and delegate courses were also the officials nominated to oversee the matches of the EBT Final. The courses were open to all Portuguese referees and coaches who showed interest in gaining further knowledge of the sport.



› FINAL RANKING - MEN

1. Detono Zagreb (CRO)
2. Budaörs Beachstars BHC (HUN)
3. BHC SKKM-Ekaterinodar (RUS)
4. NOR Beach Handball (NOR)
5. Club Balonmano Playa Alcalá (ESP)
6. B.C. Sand Devils Minden (GER)
7. BHT Dany Rade Inowroclaw (POL)
8. OS Gordos/ Aposta Ganha (POR)

› FINAL RANKING - WOMEN

1. Detono Zagreb (CRO)
2. OVB Beach Girls (HUN)
3. Bumblebee Wildeshausen (GER)
4. Beachqueens (SUI)
5. BM. Playa Mijas G-7 (ESP)
6. Reflex Pyrkki AZS AWF Poznan (POL)
7. Leiria Beach Handball (POR)
8. TSHV Camelot (NED)

2011/12 European Beach Tour

The ninth season of the European Beach Tour began on 1 October 2011 and concluded on 30 September 2012. The beach handball club team season saw 131 teams from 19 countries register for the competition played in a tournament style format with teams earning points for fulfilling and exceeding certain criteria. 83 teams participated in the men's competition and 48 teams took part in the women's event. Altogether, 37 tournaments were played in 13 host countries.

Always played in the spirit of fair play, the EBT participating teams earn points not only for performance during the season but also for organising tournaments across Europe. At the end of the season, the beach season concludes just as the indoor season begins, the thoughts of all the teams that have embarked on the EBT campaign turn to which teams will make it to the Finals and who will take the title.

On 15 December 2012, the EHF Executive Committee awarded the organisation rights of the 2013 edition of the European Beach Tour Finals to the Croatian Handball Federation. The event will take place in June 2013; this event will officially close the ninth EBT season.

With season 2012/13 already under way, all details to the European Beach Tour events in its tenth season - including the all-important ranking and results - can be found at www.eurohandball-beachtour.com.



2012 European Masters Handball Championships

Ljubljana was the setting for ninth edition of the men and women's European Masters Handball Championship. The Slovenian capital welcomed teams from across Europe over the weekend 15 to 17 June 2012. During the two-day tournament, 42 teams comprised of over 800 players and team officials from 13 countries played out the event across the five categories – Women's 33+ and 43+, and Men 35+, 45+ and 50+.

As in previous editions of the Masters, many of the stars of top-class handball returned to the game including Pavel Sukosyan, Valerya Gopina and Andrey Tyumentseva – all of them, in their time, Olympic gold medallists. In Ljubljana, handball returned to the playing courts in the Hala Tivoli, Slovan, Kodeljevo, Galjevica, Krim arena complexes, and the hall of Sports Association in Jama Za Bežigradom.

In the men's category, the host team ŠD RD Slovan Veterani successfully defended their title, which they won in 2011 when the event was hosted in Lignano, Italy. In the 45+ event, the team from Russia, aptly named Russia 1 fended off Kolding IF from Denmark to win the title and in the 50+ category, the Old Boys from Budapest showed the spectators that despite their age, they still have what it takes to win. Angyalok8 stole the show by defeating ŠD Akcija of Slovenia and taking the title in the women's 33+ category. In the women's 43+ category, with three Hungarian teams in the group it was fated that one of them would get to the Finals, Viktoria was that team. Nevertheless, they were not strong enough to snatch the victory away from the Master Team Brixen from Italy.

At the meeting of the EHF Executive Committee in September 2012, the organisational right of the next edition of the European Masters Handball Championship was awarded to the Italian Handball Federation. They will host the matches in Bressanone in the region of Brixen from 14 to 16 June 2013.

› FINAL RANKING - MEN

Men 35+

1. Slovan Veterani (SLO)
2. Russia (RUS)
3. Medve (UKR)
4. SC Legion (UKR)
5. Slavia Prague (CZE)
6. Puerto Sagunto (ESP)
7. Brno (CZE)
8. Veterani RK Trimo Trebnje (SLO)
9. Mokerc Veterani (SLO)
10. Kolding IF (DEN)
11. Urk Studentski Grad (SRB)
12. Rdv Škofja Loka (SLO)
13. Veterans Handbol S.Quirze (ESP)

Men 45+

1. Russia 1 (RUS)
2. Kolding IF (DEN)
3. SC Legion XXI (UKR)
4. Budapest Old Boys (HUN)
5. Sczcecin Polska (POL)
6. Vienna Masters (AUT)
7. Hort S.E. (HUN)
8. Italian Master Team (ITA)
9. Brno (CZE)
10. Roma Handball (ITA)
11. Cat +45 (ESP)
12. HC Bask Beograd (SRB)

Men 50+

1. Budapest Old Boys (HUN)
2. Slask Silesia Poljska (POL)
3. Nebušeni Dragukji (SLO)
4. RTU – Riga (LAT)
5. Trionfale Roma Over 50 (ITA)
6. MHK Martin (SVK)
7. Veteran Škofja Loka (SLO)
8. MAFC Old Boys Budapest (HUN)



› FINAL RANKING - WOMEN

Women 33+

1. Angyalok8 (HUN)
2. ŠD Akcija (SLO)
3. Frederiksberg Idreast-Forening (DEN)
4. ADS Sasari (ITA)
5. Žabice Duplje (SLO)

Women 43+

1. Master Team Brixen (ITA)
2. Viktoria (HUN)
3. Angyalföld (HUN)
4. ETO - XXL (HUN)



Women's U20 World Championship (IHF Event)



Heja Sverige or Allez Les Bleus? That was the question prior to the start of the Final of the Women's Junior World Championship between France and Sweden. Attended by 1,000 spectators in the Sareza hall in Ostrava (Czech Republic) the answer was given after 60 thrilling minutes of pure handball at its best. Sweden took the gold medal at the 18th Women's Junior World Championship after defeating France by 29:22; they successfully defended their title and did not lose a single match in this tournament.

Sweden had the better start and went into half-time break leading the match 14:7. In the first period of the second half, it looked as if France would find a way back into the match. Nevertheless, the Swedes kept their concentration and answered by scoring four consecutive times and were again seven goals in the lead (20:13 after 43 minutes) and they kept this safe advantage until the end of the match. Hungary won the bronze medal, they defeated Serbia with 26:24 after extra-time and celebrated the third place and the bronze medal. Korea, though they eventually ranked sixth, were the only non-European team among the top ten in the final ranking.



› FINAL RANKING

Gold	Sweden	13.	Romania
Silver:	France	14.	Spain
Bronze:	Hungary	15.	Czech Republic
4.	Serbia	16.	D.R. Congo
5.	Russia	17.	Netherlands
6.	Korea	18.	Uruguay
7.	Poland	19.	Angola
8.	Norway	20.	Argentina
9.	Denmark	21.	Japan
10.	Croatia	22.	China
11.	Austria	23.	Tunisia
12.	Brazil	24.	Kazakhstan

› RESULTS

Bronze medal match
Serbia vs. Hungary 24:26

Gold medal match
Sweden vs. France 29:22

Women's U18 World Championship (IHF Event)



Just as in 2006, Denmark are once again women's youth World Champions. In a nail-biting Final against Russia in Bar, Montenegro, the Scandinavians profited from a last second goal from Freja Kyndbal and took revenge for the last second defeat against Russia in the European Championship Final in 2011. Norway won the bronze medal, beating Romania in the 3/4 placement match. European teams took the first seven positions in the final ranking of this World Championship, albeit in a different order, it was the exact same teams, which had finished the 2011 W17 European Championship on the first seven positions.

A brilliant tournament ended with the most thrilling of games – and a last second fast-break goal allowed the Danish girls celebrate the gold medal after a high-class Final. Moreover, like in the 2011 W17 European Championship Final, the match was decided with the final whistle. One year ago, Russia took gold through a penalty shot with the final buzzer; in Montenegro Kyndbal took the advantage of a save by goalkeeper Louise Egestorp after a shot from the most valuable player of the World Championship, Anna Vyakhireva six seconds before the end with the score of 26:26.



› FINAL RANKING

Gold:	Denmark	11.	Montenegro
Silver:	Russia	12.	Brazil
Bronze:	Norway	13.	Czech Republic
4.	Romania	14.	Croatia
5.	Hungary	15.	Angola
6.	Sweden	16.	Kazakhstan
7.	France	17.	Uruguay
8.	Japan	18.	D.R. Congo
9.	Korea	19.	Portugal
10.	Netherlands	20.	Paraguay

› RESULTS

Semi-finals
Romania vs. Denmark 28:39
Russia vs. Norway 33:27

Bronze medal match
Romania vs. Norway 30:36

Gold medal match
Denmark vs. Russia 27:26

Games of the 30th Olympiad

(IOC / IHF Event)

Olympic handball – women’s event

The Golden Girls had done it again! European Champion 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010; World Champion 2011; Olympic Champion 2008 and now again in 2012, bravo Norway! The dominating power of women’s handball got off to a shaky start; in the preliminaries, they lost to France and then the ‘easy victory’ against Korea disappeared before they lost their last match of the preliminaries to Spain. Thorir Hergeirsson did not even break a sweat despite his powerhouses far from being on top form. Even Heidi Løke, who up until the 34th minute of the quarter-final, was just a shadow of herself. However, just as the defending champions were at their lowest and faced with elimination with the score at 9:16 in favour of Brazil, Løke surged and at the same time, energized her teammates; in the 21:19 victory, Løke scored eight goals. “It is the team spirit that makes us so strong. We sat together in the changing room and said that this is not it,” said Løke describing the special nature of the Norwegians.

The celebrations over the silver medal were just as jubilant as those over the gold. For the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, Montenegro won a medal. “The best day of my life and a worthy end to my career,” said Bojana Popović.

The fact that it was not the winners of the Preliminary Round, but the fourth ranked teams that stood in the Finals, not only showed the balance but also the unpredictability of this tournament. Competition favourites Denmark were out of the running in the first round. Other favourites, France (against Montenegro) and Russia (against Korea) were out by the end of the quarter-finals. On the other hand, there were also big smiles: “This is the best day of my career. We were not expecting this, therefore it is even nicer,” beamed Centre Back Marta Mangué who led her team to the first ever Olympic medal for her team. The match for the bronze medal against Korea was exciting in terms of that it took the Spaniards 80 minutes and 2 periods of extra-time to bring down the Asian champions with a score of 31:29.

Olympic handball – men’s event

Once again, France rewrote history in London by securing their second consecutive gold medal at the Olympic Games and with it the national team of France has become legendary. In the past two cycles, they have won the past two world championships (2009, 2011) and a European championship (2010). “This team is the greatest that has ever been in handball” according to Argentinian Coach Eduardo Gallardo who continued: “In the future, all true champions will be measured against this French team.”

It was true that the defending champions got off to a weak start, but their luck changed and they won the quarter-final duel against Spain. From this point on, France were at their best and went on to defeat Croatia in a one-sided semi-final; at the end, the big favourite in the Final also had a wealth of luck on their side in order to claim a 22:21 victory over the surprise finalist Sweden. Nevertheless, for the Swedes, they remain the jinxed Olympic team – Sweden has been part of four Olympic Finals and for the fourth time it was silver.

Just as in 2008, European Champions Denmark failed to get to the semi-finals losing out to their neighbour Sweden in the quarter-final. “There is nothing to gloss over, we did not deserve the semi-finals,” said Coach Ulrik Wilbek after the 22:24 defeat. In addition to the Swedes, the Hungarian team also positively surprised during the tournament, but nevertheless, for the fifth time, Hungary were among the top four, and for the fifth time, they walked away empty handed as they ranked fourth once again.

For the Serbian national team, the Olympic thorn sat much deeper, after their silver performance in Belgrade in January 2012, they officially stated that the semi-finals were the objective of the team. But without the frantic support from the stands as at EHF EURO on home soil nothing seemed to work and at the end of the Preliminary Round, it was over. Right up until the end of the semi-finals, the Croatians were the best team of the tournament; after their sensational defeat over Denmark (32:21), they were tipped to take the gold medal. But because France did not win the group, there was already a final within the semi-final. France was just a tad better – but in the end, Croatia was still thrilled with their Olympic bronze medal.



Women’s event

› FINAL RANKING

Gold:	Norway
Silver:	Montenegro
Bronze:	Spain
4.	Korea
5.	France
6.	Brazil
7.	Croatia
8.	Russia
9.	Denmark
10.	Angola
11.	Sweden
12.	Great Britain

Men’s event

› FINAL RANKING

Gold:	France
Silver:	Sweden
Bronze:	Croatia
4.	Hungary
5.	Iceland
6.	Denmark
7.	Spain
8.	Tunisia
9.	Serbia
10.	Argentina
11.	Korea
12.	Great Britain



A HIT WITH HANDBALL



Fast shots, jump throws and exciting goal action – this is what makes the EHF EURO appeal to fans around the world. As the sport grows, the media and marketing platform is going from strength to strength.

Since 1993, the EHF and Infront Sports & Media have worked together developing a successful media and marketing partnership that has continuously enriched and enhanced the federation's flagship events. Innovations have helped to raise the profile of the platforms from year to year. The adoption of digital media to expand exposure, the integration of technical improvements in LED advertising technology and the introduction of full HDTV productions have all delivered increased commercial value and even more gripping action to fans.

Held biennially in January and December, the Men's and Women's EHF EURO are a true showcase for the sport of handball and appeal to sponsors, broadcasters and fans alike. With cumulative audiences close to 1.5 billion, the EHF EUROs prove to be more popular than ever before. Infront is taking great strides forward, looking to continue the successful momentum of the platform and deliver more innovations and unforgettable handball highlights into the future.

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EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

Activity Report 2012 - One Voice -



The voice of the... Irish Olympic Handball Association



Handball in Ireland was mainly played in universities, but since the launch of numerous programmes, the sport is now widely seen in schools and is encouraging many children and young people to play – now there are over 2800 young people playing handball in Ireland. Moreover, Irish teams, on both a club and national level, take part in EHF competitions. Established in 1975, the Irish Olympic Handball Association became a member of the European Handball Federation in 1992 shortly after the foundation of the EHF. As an emerging handball nation that has actively participated in the EHF programmes over the past years. IOHA President Fintan Lyons has been deeply involved in handball for many years and with the assistance of IOHA General Manager Lúcas Ó'Ceallacháin and the rest of the IOHA team, handball on the island of Ireland has made significant progress.

What can you learn from bigger handball nations / how are bigger handball nations giving you a helping hand?

Ireland signed an EHF Foster Programme with Denmark this year and this programme is starting to reap benefits already with IOHA staff travelling to Denmark to learn about development projects, marketing and high performance. The Danish federation have been a great partner welcoming and sharing our passion for handball. They recognise that we are all on a handball journey together and that we need to ensure that we help each other every step of the way. What is especially interesting is their desire to learn about our challenges and how we overcome them.

How do you promote your national team to become role models for handball kids?

In 2012 we are launching our School Ambassadors Programme which will send national team players back to their old school to deliver a handball session as part of physical education, whilst providing equipment such as iGoals, Balls and Playing Kit for the school. Handball in Ireland is a sport with no political or cultural “baggage” and allows us to operate in all areas of the community. This is especially relevant in Northern Ireland where we work with groups from both Catholic and Protestant communities, and in the Republic of Ireland where handball can be a tool for social integration with non-indigenous ethnic groups.

What effect does the participation at EHF events like EURO qualifications of EHF/ IHF trophies have on your development?

The importance of taking part in the European Championship Qualification Round 1 cannot be underestimated. Every EHF nation should have the dream of playing at and winning the European Championship. It is an expensive challenge for us, but we appreciate the need to have a strong product at the top end of our sport to inspire the next generation of player as well as the current one. We hope that other emerging nations will join us there in the coming years and this is something we should all work towards together to achieve.



The voice of the... Dansk Håndbold Forbund

For 86 years, the Dansk Håndbold Forbund has been one of the most successful federations in the world: at the World and European Championships and Olympic Games, Denmark has won over 70 medals. 2011 was the most successful year of the Danes, who won six medals in all categories male and female. Ulrik Wilbek became the first Coach to lead the women's national team to gold at the World Championships, European Championships and Olympics, and later became European champion as the men's national team coach. In Denmark, there are approximately 120,000 handball players. Moreover, Denmark has directed numerous World and European championships and has seen success not only in the hall, but also on the beach. They are the driving force of many ground-breaking projects such as school or street handball.



How important is the public and media interest for the development of handball in Denmark?

The public and media interest is very decisive for the development of Danish handball. On the one hand the great interest creates opportunities for getting sponsors, partners and support from public/political institutions and on the other hand the attention that handball has publicly also creates opportunities to recruit more members for the clubs. The more the attention, the better the possibilities to recruit and implement projects for the benefit of the development of Danish handball on all levels.

What structures and support does the Federation offer to clubs or schools?

We have a large range of training and educational material and interactive tools adjusted to all levels for both clubs and schools. Furthermore, we have a large course programme similarly adjusted to all levels and age groups. We have implemented development projects: Kids' handball (indoor), Street Handball, the Handball Caravan (a recruiting programme three years in a row that visited more than 100 schools in one year). We also have Trille and Trolle in the Underwood, a handball and fairy tale universe for children aged 2 – 5 in cooperation with clubs and child care centres – just to mention a few among many projects.

Women's handball was n°1, now the men's teams are in lead in Denmark - what is DHF doing to balance both sides, also concerning Younger Age Category (YAC) projects?

The Danish Handball Association invests extra resources and finances in the development of women's handball as we are very focused on keeping the balance between men and women as we consider it essential to secure handball as one of the leading sports in Denmark and Europe. The problem is not to recruit girls or secure the best but to secure the lot, and with them the basis for women's handball, as an essential factor in sport. We have implemented a number of elite projects with the purpose of strengthening our national teams. Our YAC national teams produce results as well as new senior national team players but we have had difficulties in sustaining the development and our competitiveness in connection with the shift from young player to senior player. Hard work is done in cooperation with the best women's clubs in Denmark to change this development. The fact is also that commercial interests are more focused on the men's side than on the women's. We are working on raising the level of entertainment and experience of women's handball to regain a more equal position compared to men's handball.





The voice of the... Fédération Française de Handball

The history of the French Handball Federation (FFHB) dates back to 1941, however, the official functioning of the FFHB is recorded from 1952. Today, the most successful men's national team of all time is French – they are the only team to ever become the simultaneous World and European and Olympic champion in one four-year handball cycle. The women's national team have also won the World Championship title. 37 per cent of the 441,942 handball players in France are women. In France, there are also a number of projects targeted to make handball more attractive to a wider audience such as the wheelchair handball project, mini-handball for nine to twelve year olds or "Handball premier pas" for children aged five to eight years and "sand ball" tournaments in the summer. France has also organised numerous events such as men's and women's World Championships.

For many years, the FFHB have intensified school-connected youth programmes with bases all over the country – was it hard to install this structure, and what can other Federations learn from this structure?

This programme was implemented in 1996 with several aspects creating a global project. To get the programme running, many elements had to be aligned; this included an agreement with national education ministry and the creation of national event at the local level. Moreover, the FFHB concluded a contract with a company to provide handball equipment to our youth, as well as coordinating a national event that included materials being distributed at a local level – all this was necessary to get this programme operating. The ultimate objective of this project was to get children connected to handball through special practice. Claude Rinck and Philippe Bana were instrumental in getting this project started. Today, more than 120,000 under 12's are playing handball yearly.

FFHB make the same budget available for the women's and the men's national teams. Was it difficult to implement this financial structure and is France a role model for other Federations?

Yes, it was hard due to 'macho' global background everywhere. In terms of budget, we decided to have the same levels of remuneration e.g. for the coaches, for accommodation and for daily allowances. In 1998, many people found our approach curious, to say the least, but the national team was immediately successful; we could rely on them and they were 1999 World Champion finalists in front of 12 million TV spectators. After that, it became easier...

How important are the youth programmes for a long-lasting success of the national teams – or is the individual work of the clubs more important?

The FFHB devotes 50 days per year to the young national teams; this is necessary for them to learn and to train to reach the international level; but simultaneously, we have 47 regional handball schools that where our specialist teachers guide players between 15 and 18 years of age. Following on, we have the professional handball club centres where the focus is on the age range from 18 to 22; therefore, it is a combined strategy of necessary work.



The voice of the... Handball Federation of Armenia

Founded in 1992, the Handball Federation of Armenia became a member of the European Handball Federation in the same year. As an emerging nation, the federation has undergone structural changes over the past few years and it is especially delighted with its new headquarters in the capital city of Yerevan. Currently, there are over 1300 active players practising both beach and indoor handball in Armenia and many regions in the country have seen new handball clubs established. Through the dedication of the Armenian managerial and administrative leadership, the federation achieved their objective of getting handball included on the scholastic physical education roster for fourth through to twelfth graders. Moreover, the Handball Federation of Armenia was instrumental in the creation of the University Championship.

In October 2009, Armenia entered into a SMART agreement with the EHF and based on the benefits that the agreement offers, they have been able to steer newly established teams to participation in international championships and competitions and develop the national championships into different categories, thus offering more players the chance to participate in more age/skill appropriate events. Also via the SMART Programme, the Federation was able to engage with the Armenian Ministry of Education and Science to make handball an obligatory subject in schools and also integrate handball as a discipline in the Pan-Armenian World Games. Additionally, the SMART Programme has enabled the Federation to focus on women's handball. Now, with handball in schools, more young women have been encouraged to play the sport and Armenia's existing women's teams are being given the right tools, in terms of material and coaching, to further the development and bring the teams to a point where they are regularly competing on a European stage. The cooperation with the regional and territorial structures and, of course, with the specialised sport academies in Armenia has been instrumental in the development of handball in Armenia over the past few years.



The voice of the... Hrvatski Rukometni Savez

After football, handball is the most popular sport in Croatia. This is, of course, due to the great success of the teams and the long and lasting tradition of the sport in the country. Only four years after the foundation of the Croatian Handball Federation, the men's national team were the 1996 Olympic Champions; they repeated this incredible feat in 2004 in Athens. In 2005, the national team added a World Championship title to their numerous accolades. Croatia is a relatively small handball nation with just over 10,000 players, but they continue to excel – in 2011 at the men's and women's Beach Handball European Championship, both gold medals went to Croatia. Handball is on a great level in Croatia and it is by far the most successful team sport in Croatia. Handball is becoming the brand in Croatia.

Beach handball's popularity has meant that more indoor players are willing to be involved in beach handball activities though most of the 'stars' are prevented from being actively involved due to contract clauses. Still, it is very nice to see players such as Lindberg and other stars giving excellent performances on the beach as well. As soon as the action on the beach begins all players are equal and the fascination with the 'stars' dwindles.

The Croatian Handball Federation claims that when it comes to organising beach handball events and the success of its teams, there is no secret recipe to success. It is all a matter of good planning and numerous training sessions. Success is just the by-product. Croatian players play the game with heart, using their heads and they are very well prepared. The organisation of beach events is similar to organising indoor events, but on a smaller scale. Having lot of skilled volunteers and good organisational leadership is the key factor, but finding sponsors and financing the event is the biggest challenge nowadays.





The voice of the... Federação de Andebol de Portugal

FC Porto, ABC Braga as well as the two Lisbon clubs, Sporting and Benfica are the hallmarks of Portuguese handball. Braga even participated in the Final of the EHF Champions League in its first season back in 1994. Nowadays, there are about 40,000 male and female players in Portugal, where the sport of handball is the second most popular indoor sport in the country. The most famous Portuguese handball players are Hugo Laurentino, Tiago Roca, Carlos Carneiro, Claudio Pedroso, who were in part responsible for the greatest successes of the national team. Portugal's junior national team already have a few championship titles under their belt as they won the European Championship in 1992 and 1994; the next generation of players won the silver medal, becoming vice champions at the 2010 Men's 20 European Championship in Slovakia. One particular goal of the Portuguese federation is to qualify for the Olympic Games in 2020.

Men's handball has become successful and strong, what are you doing to improve the women's handball?

In order to improve women's handball, we have tried to strengthen the competitions among the younger age categories and we have taken time to stimulate the competitions on a senior level also, in order to encourage more women to play handball. At the same time, we are doing all we can to increase our participation in international matches, mainly within the younger national teams, by establishing cooperation programmes. The Portuguese Federation has also created training centres in different areas of the country for the best players, all this and in addition we also try to financially assist women's handball clubs where we can.

You have a former world class player as a coach for the men's national team – how much help from outside is needed to strengthen handball in Portugal?

Portugal is the most western country in Europe and therefore the possibility of playing international games is far less possible than for countries located in central or northern Europe. Incentives in this direction are always welcome.

What are your projects to attract more youngsters to the game?

Federação de Andebol de Portugal continues to be proactive by forging strong levels of cooperation within schools, we have gained a foothold in this area by organising and promoting new school clubs, namely in the areas in which handball is not so well developed. At the same, we continue to establish cooperation programmes with the local municipalities in order to keep the practice of handball alive in these regions.

Here in Portugal, we are trying to ensure that all areas of handball receive sufficient attention in order to see development across the board. For instance, we take the education of referees and coaches very seriously, this, as far as we are concerned, is as a major factor for the development of handball. Furthermore, in addition to school and mini-handball, the federation also has developed projects for wheelchair users and inmates.



Changing of the guard...

Tor Lian

How much 'handball' could one man fit into a lifetime...well, if you are Tor Lian, the answer is sixty years' worth. He has done it all; from a young player to a coach; from Executive Committee member of the Norwegian Handball Federation to becoming its President; from Board Member of the Norwegian National Olympic Committee to becoming its Vice President and of course, the past 20 years spent with the European Handball Federation.

Tor Lian, one of the 'founding fathers' of the European Handball Federation, has been instrumental in the development of handball on the European continent for two decades. At the foundation congress in 1991, Lian became one of the seven men to sit on the very first EHF Executive Committee with its President Staffan Holmqvist. In 2000, he served Vice President until he was elected President of the continental federation in 2004 at the EHF Congress in Cyprus. In 2012, with the next EHF election congress approaching, it was at the Executive Committee meeting in January, held on the fringes of the men's EHF EURO in Serbia, that he announced that he would not be seeking another term of office. Here we reproduce, in part, an interview that Tor Lian gave eurohandball.com in June 2012.



Tor Lian

"I addressed my departure early, in this way it wasn't such a great shock for people. I wanted to leave on good terms and to give the new president a chance to begin building his new team. After a 20-year career with the EHF and also working very demanding jobs in business, I felt that my Vice President, Jean, should have the chance to be president. We have been a very strong team, but now I am looking forward to spending much more time with my family and with my six grandchildren."

Additionally, off the court, Lian has experienced much success as an executive recruiter having worked for major international concerns such as Ernst & Young, Capgemini and most recently for A.T. Kearney. Looking back on the achievements of Tor Lian together with the Executive Committee prior to and during his tenure as president, the European handball family has achieved much and made great advancements.

"We have initiated a lot of projects, starting with the setting up of the EHF Office. I have been very impressed with the work of the EHF staff and with their attitude both to the job and to the development of handball. This is part of the culture of the EHF, we have been happy to meet challenges and I think we have had the right combination of skills of both professional staff and officials. I strongly believe that we are ahead of many other international sports organisations, when we look at the way we work and the technology we use. We not only have the best people on the court, but also off it."

Talking about the federation's achievements, Lian highlighted the successful development of the EHF EURO and club handball with pride:

"The EURO has become a very strong competition for Europe's national teams. I am very proud of it, the way we organise the event, the number of teams, and the set-up. This is something we have right. Just recently, we have had to deal with the withdrawal of the Netherlands from the women's event in December, but the fact that 11 nations put themselves forward at short notice to take on the organisation of the event, shows just how attractive the EURO has become. Moreover, we have a very good working relationship with our clubs, and very positive support. I have to say that my experience of sitting on the Professional Handball Board has been a very good one. For me, the establishment of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 has been a particular highlight; it is an event that everybody, both inside and outside the sport, is talking about. We have done everything right and we have some very good partners."

With people at the heart of the success he has attained over many years, Tor Lian remembers many dedicated people, who have made great contributions to handball and to his own career.

"For me, on the side of the executive, I have to point out Staffan Holmqvist in particular, my predecessor as EHF President. He was an inspirational and motivational leader. I was extremely upset when he died suddenly, his life was handball, and he was one of my best friends. Michael Wiederer too, I hired him when we first founded the EHF, and we have become good friends. I am very proud – and Michael can be too – of the way the federation has developed. He sees new areas and possibilities and is good with people. The EHF office has become a centre for the development, promotion, and management of the sport."

On the eve of his departure after 20 years of service for the European Handball Federation, in addition to a busy schedule, which saw the president travelling across the world, often up to 10 to 12 days per month, Tor Lian was clear about what he would miss.

"The people," he said simply. "I will miss working directly with the people in our sport, from the clubs, the federations and within the EHF itself. We really do have a fantastic group of people; the human side of the sport is marvellous."

Changing of the guard...

Jan Tuik



Jan Tuik

In his enviable career that saw his play handball in the first division, then coach on a national team level, before joining the European Handball Federation in the year of its foundation, Jan Tuik has been the guiding hand that has influenced all the competitions in the EHF repertoire since 1991. Having served on the EHF Technical Commission to eventually leading the Competitions Commission, his expertise in the area of event organisation and the dedication with which he continues to work, is boundless. Here we reproduce his expert opinion on the development of the EHF European Championship also globally known as the EHF EURO.

“Breaking boundaries and building bridges was always my light motive to achieve new goals.” Jan Tuik

From the initial organisation of the very first EHF EURO, we have witnessed major development across all the years. The first championships in Portugal (men) and Germany (women) were good experiments for us and starting the point for the future developments. Nowadays, we have reached a level where we can compete with the major sport events in Europe. Basic standards for the halls and arenas are good and moreover, our media management has especially grown to a very high level over the years. This process is still on-going and will lead us to the number one spot in Europe for indoor sports. Our Member Federations realise that we can compete with other sports and this is key in leading them to invest in the organisation to improve the quality and to make our handball sport more attractive to young people.

Across Europe, the arenas and the infrastructure required for an event of this magnitude, have also developed in a positive way. In the beginning the organising Member Federations were afraid to invest in the halls and the infrastructure needed for the championships. But more and more the media continued to show the way to promote the sport and the measures needed to increase the quality - a handball arena is more than a playing court of 20m by 40m. Space around the court is needed for the necessary facilities; we need studios, commentary positions, the written press and photographers also need working areas in the halls. This underlines that the conditions for the EHF Member Federations to organise an EHF EURO also continued to grow not to mention that the sponsors of the event also played an influential role in the area of development.

The role of the European Handball Federation was oriented towards all these items and especially the education of the organisers was needed to improve the standards. The tremendous progress made in this area is clearly visible in the bidding documents. These documents give the organisers explicitly detailed information about the requirements needed to hold an EHF EURO. During the workshops, in the preparatory phase of any championship, the organising Member Federation receives good instruction on how to organise specific details in a better way.

Over the years, the remarkable work supporting all the positive developments has been carried out in good cooperation with the staff at the EHF office in Vienna and naturally, the intensive discussions held and the decisions taken by the EHF Competitions Commission, where we brought practice and theory together, was the foundation for the vast development of the EHF EUROS. And here, I take the opportunity to thank the members of the Competitions Commission and the office staff.

Besides the national team competitions, we have also been privy to the major developments that have been seen on a club level over the past two decades, from the organisation of a single match on a club level to the FINAL4 in Cologne to conclude the VELUX EHF Champions League. We also see that the interest of the spectators is growing and clubs must use the possibilities available for the future development of their activities for instance, the creation of a good concept for sponsors must guarantee the basic financial expenditure of the clubs. In this area, the EHF can be a useful partner to the clubs in the coming years; as a good cooperation between the clubs and the EHF can only increase the interest in the sport.

Changing of the guard...

František Táborsky

Having spent 17 years playing handball, followed by a coaching career that spanned two decades, before spending a total of 18 years on the EHF Competitions and Method Commissions, František Táborsky is one of the most important educators of handball in Europe today. As an author and co-author of over 180 scientific publications and textbooks, he has lectured in across Africa, Asia, Europe and Pan-America. We asked 'Franta' to contribute to this publication and here we reproduced his thoughts on the phenomenon that is handball.

When using the term 'handball', we understand a game of sport, which has been part of the Olympic Games Programme since 1972. Nevertheless, seventy years prior to this date and for 50 years after, handball has undergone a massive development. Over time, we have had the opportunity to investigate the most important milestones of this progress delineating substantial features of the sport, primarily from a professional aspect.

Handball in its current form has its roots in the industrial society of 19th century. The modern sport has binding institutional and organisational structures on different territorial levels (local, national, continental, and world). This is connected with the mutually accepted modification of the rules, statutes and regulations and correlates to the performance levels (sport for all, competitive sport, top sport).

The end of 18th and beginning of 19th century were very favourable for the genesis of new games, mostly within schools activities. Some of those games gradually gained the sport character. We consider the first writing Rules: 1906 Haandbold (Denmark), 1908 Házená (Czechia) and 1919 Großfeld Handball (Germany) to be the starting point of Handball Sport Games (H.S.G.) These H.S.G. were practiced until the middle of 20th century exclusive in the European Continent. In the mutual competition among H.S.G., Haandbold (alias Handball or Handball Olympic) was finally the most successful. Nowadays we can note more variants of handball under the umbrella of different international sport bodies.

Historically, in a relatively short period, handball has demonstrated an extraordinary dynamic development. The most important increasing of interest in handball has been noticed approximately during the last fifteen years. Among other positive influences, we can mention the more intensive activities of IHF and Continental Federations, the modification of Rules of the Game, the establishment of different programmes emerging nations and the enlargement of top competitions.

Globally, handball is viewed as a modern and attractive sport; an indisputably significant sport, cultural, social and marketing phenomenon. Handball attracts vast number of people to both direct and indirect participation and challenges the people to the admiration of sport idols and to self-improvement. From the 'sport for all' forms of mini- and street handball to high performance handball, we find many levels of the competitive form. Nevertheless, under the millions of players involved in performance handball, only few talented athletes have the opportunity to train and compete in extraordinary favourable conditions. National handball federations exist formally in 182 countries. But handball only has really strong roots in approximately 30 or 40 of them. In a currently fast developed and competitive sport milieu and cultural and economic society, handball needs to fortify, affirm and develop its own position continuously. We believe that is necessary to direct our concentration on the popularisation of handball.

Handball needs to be strengthened in mass-populated geographical areas such as China, India and the United States of America and moreover, because of their influence in commonwealth countries, in Great Britain. Additionally, handball has to be included in the school curricula on all educational levels and more importantly, the inclusion of handball in universities, which train and produce physical education teachers, is paramount; teachers with a strong handball culture have better possibilities to positively and perennially influence.

Not only do we have to keep new generations of players and coaches coming, we also have to find a way to uphold the attractiveness of handball on all performance levels, first and foremost at our top events, which are in the focus of the general public, sponsors, entertainment and mass media.

Though the sport of handball has come a long way in terms of development, in many areas, there is still much to do. It is my most sincere wish, that the European Handball Federation and its Methods Commission are able to lead the way.



František Táborsky

Changing of the guard... László Sinka



László Sinka

Having played handball for many years, László Sinka, was the Secretary General of the Hungarian Handball Federation (HHF) before becoming its President. During his period of office at the HHF, Sinka and his team organised many top handball events on both a European and world level; this encapsulated senior and younger age category events, indoor handball as well as beach handball. The highlights of his career in handball administration was the organisation of the 1998 EHF Congress held in the capital of Budapest and the Women's EHF EURO 2004. In 1996, László was elected to the EHF Executive Committee first as a member and then as the chairman of the Beach Handball Commission on which he served until 2012.

In the area of beach handball, 2012 was a year of strategic development. Over the past twelve months, various projects were completed to the benefit of the beach handball protagonists across Europe. On behalf of the Beach Handball Commission, the 49 EHF Member Federations received a questionnaire in an effort to define the needs and requirements of the Federations when focusing on the area of beach handball. Taking into account the concise responses, the Beach Handball Commission has taken the sport forward once again from the field of officiating to promotion and development.

László Sinka, who has served the Beach Handball Commission as Chairman from 2008 to June 2012, said: "I am really grateful to have had the opportunity to work with experts in the area of beach handball, their competence and readiness has contributed greatly to beach handball over the past four years. Beach handball has taken big strides that have benefitted not only the national federations, but also the players. We were able to set precedent in the area of National Team Competition during the time we hosted the senior and younger age category (YAC) championships within days of each other in the venue. Furthermore, the continuing progress of the YAC was seen once again in Batumi, Georgia"

Earlier in the year, the new educational structure as well as the new beach handball curriculum was unveiled. Divided into four segments, the new course is completed with 21 study hours, and is aimed at beach handball referees and delegates. Subsequent to the launch of the new EHF corporate identity on 1 July, those responsible for the promotion and development of beach handball commissioned and later revealed the bespoke EHF Beach Handball and European Beach Tour logos. A beach handball promotional video and folder was also produced in 2012, these marketing tools are aimed to rouse increased interest from sponsors and National Federations with these new efforts being the prelude to an intensive examination of beach handball marketing matters.

Focusing on the area of development, László continued: "The members of the Beach Handball Commission, supported by the EHF Competence Academy & Network (EHF CAN) were able to produce valuable and vital new educational curricula, which was rolled out for the first time in the summer. It has been years since the introduction of the Beach Handball Commission and I feel that this team has exceeded all expectations through the initiation and finalisation of many key projects."

Furthermore, with the assistance of those responsible in the area of events and competitions, the Beach Handball Commission finalised a compendium of duties and a bid-book that will be distributed to interested Member Federations who wish to host national team beach handball events. The Beach Handball Commission is committed to raising the profile of the sport and highlights the benefit of education undertaken in its many forms to take the sport to the next level.

When László was asked about one of his proudest memories in his function as the Beach Handball Commission Chairman, he said "This was the introduction of the men's and women's beach handball championships for younger age categories, and I am especially proud that it took place in Hungary. This first event was what led to the combination of the younger age category and senior beach handball championships being held a year later in Umag, Croatia in 2011. Yes, this I remember with some pride."

Changing of the guard...

Moshe Herman

Having spent most of his professional career in the service of handball and after ending his career as an international referee (where he was partnered with Eli Fux) and delegate, the sole trader from Rishon Le Zion who specialises in electrical and household goods was nominated to the EHF Arbitration Commission in 1996. The first legal instances of the EHF has undergone many changes in the past sixteen years, and until 2012, there was only one constant – Moshe Herman.

As I look back on my time as an EHF official, there are three specific cases that help me in my career. One particular match got out of control and the delegate tried to calm the spectators by addressing them directly through a megaphone (but of course, not in the native language). In another game, the delegate tried to convince the spectators to stop fighting with guest spectators by using exaggerated gesticulations and shouting, unfortunately, this did not help and the game exploded. In the final example, a delegate gave the referees the wrong instructions and based on his mistaken judgments in the last and critical seconds of the game, the match result was influenced. A case was opened, and the decision was made to repeat the game.

Therefore, these incidents are a lesson of how a delegate should not act...a delegate should never be in direct contact with the players or crowd. They should always communicate through the floor/security manager in similar circumstances. In the final phases of any game, the delegate needs to concentrate fully, and consult the referees, if he is unsure of the situation.

Over the years, I have been involved in cases where the reasoning given by the 'defendants' have ranged from humorous to facetious; for example, a French referee was injured by a coach just after the final whistle had sounded, by pushing him and squeezing his shoulder with force (clearly proven by x-Ray images). The 'defendant' reasoned that the incident occurred because the coach tried to shake hands with the referee. In another hearing concerning the refusal of a club to release a player, the club explained the non-compliance by stating that the player was under punishment by the club due to the way he erratically drove his car and that he could not be released until this punishment (one year) was served. In an unforgettable case over which I presided, in a 2009 corruption case, an international referee was accused for trying to influence a referee couple to make decisions in favour of the team for which his wife played. He explained his actions by stating that he only wanted to help the referees just in case they needed some assistance during the course of their travel to and stay in the venue location, on the basis of their good relationship with him...

But back to the present, when we considered non-marketing cases, and thanks to the experience to the Court of Handball (CoH) members, it is my opinion that the cases that are dealt with today are not any more difficult than they were before. What is becoming more difficult is the limited amount of time in which a decision has to be made in case of last-minute disqualification. Concerning marketing cases, there is some difficulty because unfortunately, some regulations are not sufficiently clear e.g. is a municipal 'advertisement' to be treated as an 'ordinary' advertisement, or should it be allowed?

Towards the end of my time on the Court of Handball, a slight shift in the spectrum of cases was noticed and no doubt that marketing cases are and will become more frequent as long as the marketing arm continues to develop. Much money is involved in the marketing aspect and the fines are also increasing. As I already mentioned there is a strong need to clarify the marketing regulations as to avoid the situation that the financial penalty is smaller than the benefit gained by the club, from the sponsor, and by this, making the infringements 'worthwhile'.

In September 2012, on the occasion of the EHF Executive Committee meeting, Moshe Herman was nominated to the position of Initiator of Proceedings.



Moshe Herman

Commissions, Committees, and Boards

In 1994, only a few years after the foundation of the European Handball Federation, five commissions regulated handball on the continent. Leading the way was the EHF Congress, followed by the Executive Committee, the Technical and the Competitions Commissions and lastly the Arbitration Commission. In the past 20 years, as the organisation and handball has grown and developed, the Commissions and Boards of the EHF have grown in number to fourteen.

Over time, it became apparent that the administrative structure could not deal with all issues on the same level due to the specific needs and requirements of the sport if promotion and development was to remain at the forefront of operations. Thus, it was necessary to implement change when precedential challenges arose. The most recent of the boards came in the form of the EHF Anti-Doping Unit (EAU) and the Women's Handball Board (WHB).

In addition to the Technical Commissions – Competitions, Methods, and Beach Handball Commissions – the legal bodies are of critical importance to the integrity of the sport of handball and of the organisation. The veracity of the legal bodies is upheld by their independent state. The EHF Court of Handball (CoH) is responsible for all decisions of adjudication in the first instance. With eight elected members, the Court of Handball handle cases that fall outside the competence of the EHF Office and have the opportunity to settle violations of the regulations of a sporting or administrative nature. In 2012, the EHF Court of Handball met on four occasions.

For cases that are filed in the second instance, the seven members of the EHF Court of Appeal (CoA) are responsible for issuing judgment in accordance with the EHF legal framework. The Court of Appeal routinely deal with international transfer violations in addition to hearing cases that plaintiffs refer to the CoA if they are dissatisfied with the first instance (CoH) ruling. The role and competence of the EHF Court of Arbitration Council (ECC) are defined in the Rules of Arbitration for the EHF Court of Arbitration. Overseen by a panel of three persons and supported by independent arbitrators coming from the member federation states, the ECC hear cases that have not been resolved within a specific time limit. The ECC met on three occasions in 2012.

Another area of administration that requires specific dedication is the area of finance. In order to ensure that the European Handball Federation, as a non-profit organisation, remains in compliance with Austrian and European laws governing such companies, the engagement of Comptrollers become necessary. In 2012, the Comptrollers met in Vienna at the EHF Office to examine the full accounts. It is imperative to the EHF to give account to our member federations that the funds of the EHF are been used accordingly. In addition to the services of the comptrollers, the EHF also submits to regular external auditing.



In 2010, the European Handball Federation welcomed a strong edition to the fold of regulatory bodies. Through necessity, the Professional Handball Board (PHB) was formed. This platform represents the stakeholders of men's handball covering the areas of national teams, players, leagues, and clubs. The Professional Handball Board are duty bound to develop the area of men's handball through examination and analysis of current topics, which in turn lead to recommendations put before the EHF Executive Committee for decision. Over the past two years, the input of the PHB has been instrumental in the adjustments that have been made to the international calendar and the merging of the EHF Cup and Cup Winners' Cup in the men's competitions. The PHB serves terms of two years and the relevant stakeholder groups nominate its members. The Nations Board (NB), which replaced the National Team Committee, deals solely with national team matters. The recommendations submitted to the Executive Committee by the Nations Board have pushed the development of European Championships forward. One area where the influence of the Nations Board has been keenly felt is in the new qualification system for emerging nations.

Within the European Handball Federation, the year 2012 will be noted as the year when women's handball in Europe progressed significantly. Upon recommendation of the women's handball expert group and the motion to the Congress, submitted by the EHF, the Women's Handball Board came into force in June 2012. This strategic forum will play a key role in the future development of female side of the sport. In its initial form, three members were elected in Monte Carlo on the occasion of the Congress and another three members were nominated by the Executive Committee. The constitution of the WHB will remain until a time when the respective stakeholder groups are in a position to make their individual nominations. The strategic objectives of the WHB coincide with that of the PHB. Since its foundation six months ago, the WHB have met on two occasions and in keeping with the recommendations of the working group, a new position has been created within the EHF Office for an officer who has been tasked with women's handball issues. The officer will work in close cooperation with the WHB as of January 2013.

The EHF Anti-Doping Unit (EAU) entered existence on 1 July 2012. All actions of the EAU are undertaken in compliance with the WADA Code and the IHF Anti-Doping Regulations. The EAU has been tasked with handling and organising all anti-doping activities in Europe, this includes controls regularly carried out on both the European club and national team stage. The EAU will also educate young players on anti-doping protocols. The EHF has already dedicated an office staff member to oversee the administration of this unique unit.



For the betterment of European handball



Development that emanates from within the European Handball Federation continues to take various forms. Each method of assistance is a fulfilment of the organisation's mission to promote and develop handball across the continent. In 2012, the EHF continued in its endeavours to provide education and equipment to its member federations. Tailor-made programmes allow federations to focus on specific areas of internal growth.

With 49 full members and three associate federations, the EHF remains committed to giving support where it is needed. To ensure that the European Handball Federation is able to assist the Member Federations, the coordination of development and education programmes needs the input of the Methods Commission, EHF Corporate Academy & Network (EHF CAN) and the support of the EHF Office staff.

In April 2012, at the 7th Conference for Secretaries General, the Union Belge De Handball and the Irish Olympic Handball Association signed new SMART agreements. The year also saw the handball federations of Armenia, Moldova, Kosovo, England, Serbia, Malta, and Georgia continued their individual cooperation. The Foster Project, which couples established federations with emerging nations with the objective of transferring knowledge and experience, is still on-going. Denmark signed an agreement with Ireland and the cooperation between Spain and Italy as well as the partnership with Croatia and Israel continues to flourish. New agreements will signed in 2013. Within the framework of the EHF Congress in Monte Carlo, the federation representatives from Belgium signed an EHF Infrastructure Support Programme. Cooperation with four additional nations continued.

The European Handball Federation also manages to support numerous federations with the supply of equipment. In 2012, ten federations were the recipients of material support. This included the distribution of 16 handball goals, 8 line systems, and 170 balls specifically for beach use. A further 1,320 balls for indoor use were supplied in addition to eight igoals, four shooting walls, ninety cones and 150 bibs.

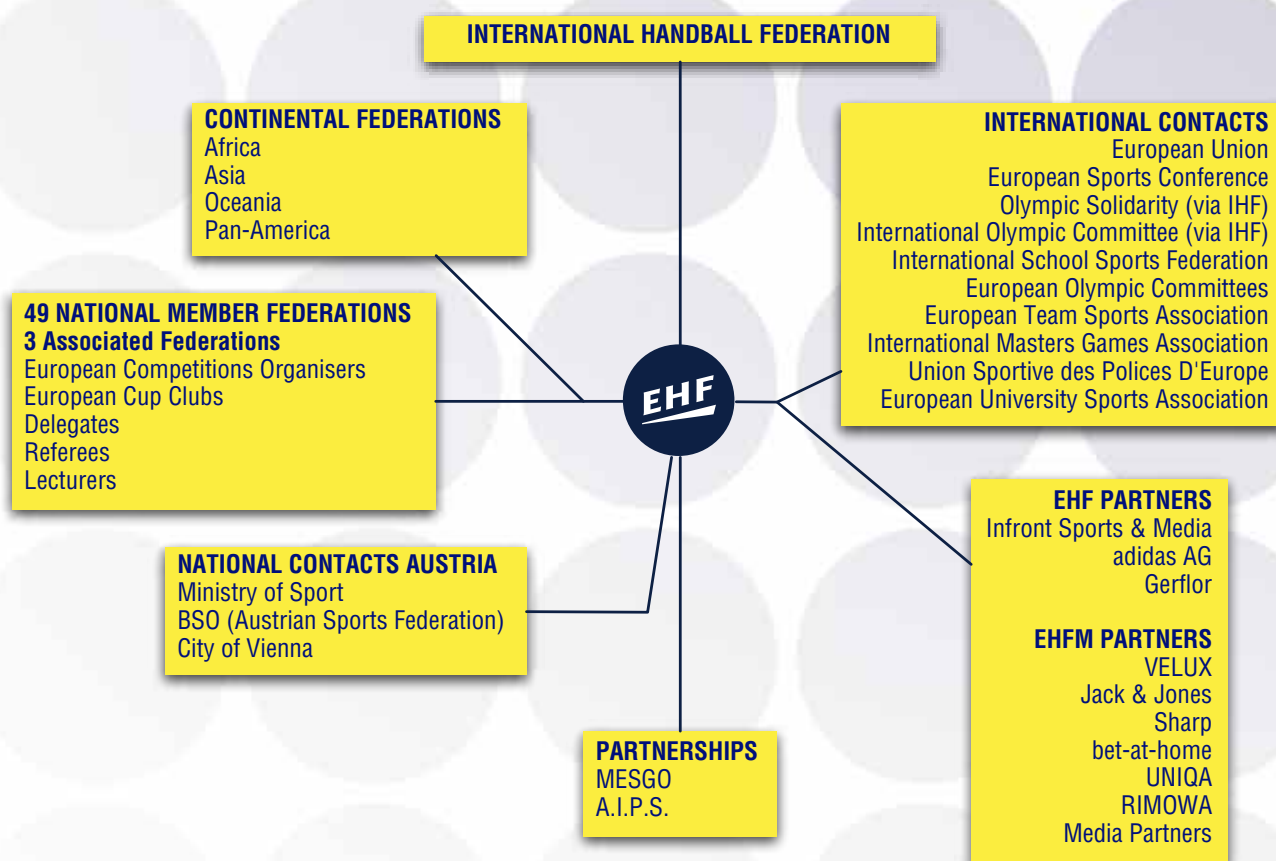
Educational support came in the form of seminars, workshops, and technical consulting. Three youth coaches' seminars were held in Armenia, Moldova and England. Moreover, Ireland, Luxembourg, and England hosted referee seminars and a total of twelve lecturers were deployed to support the nations.





EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

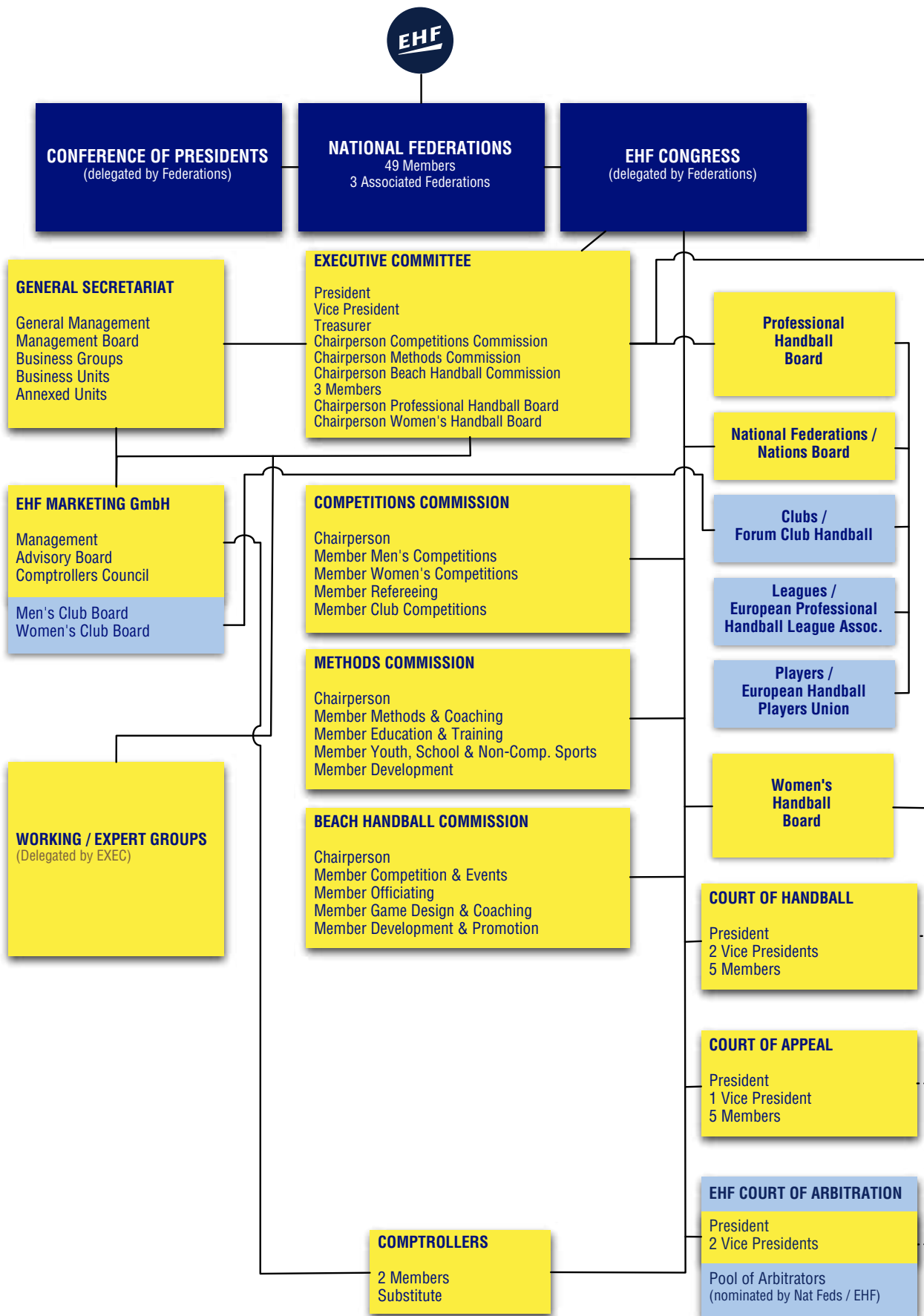
Activity Report 2012 - Organisation -



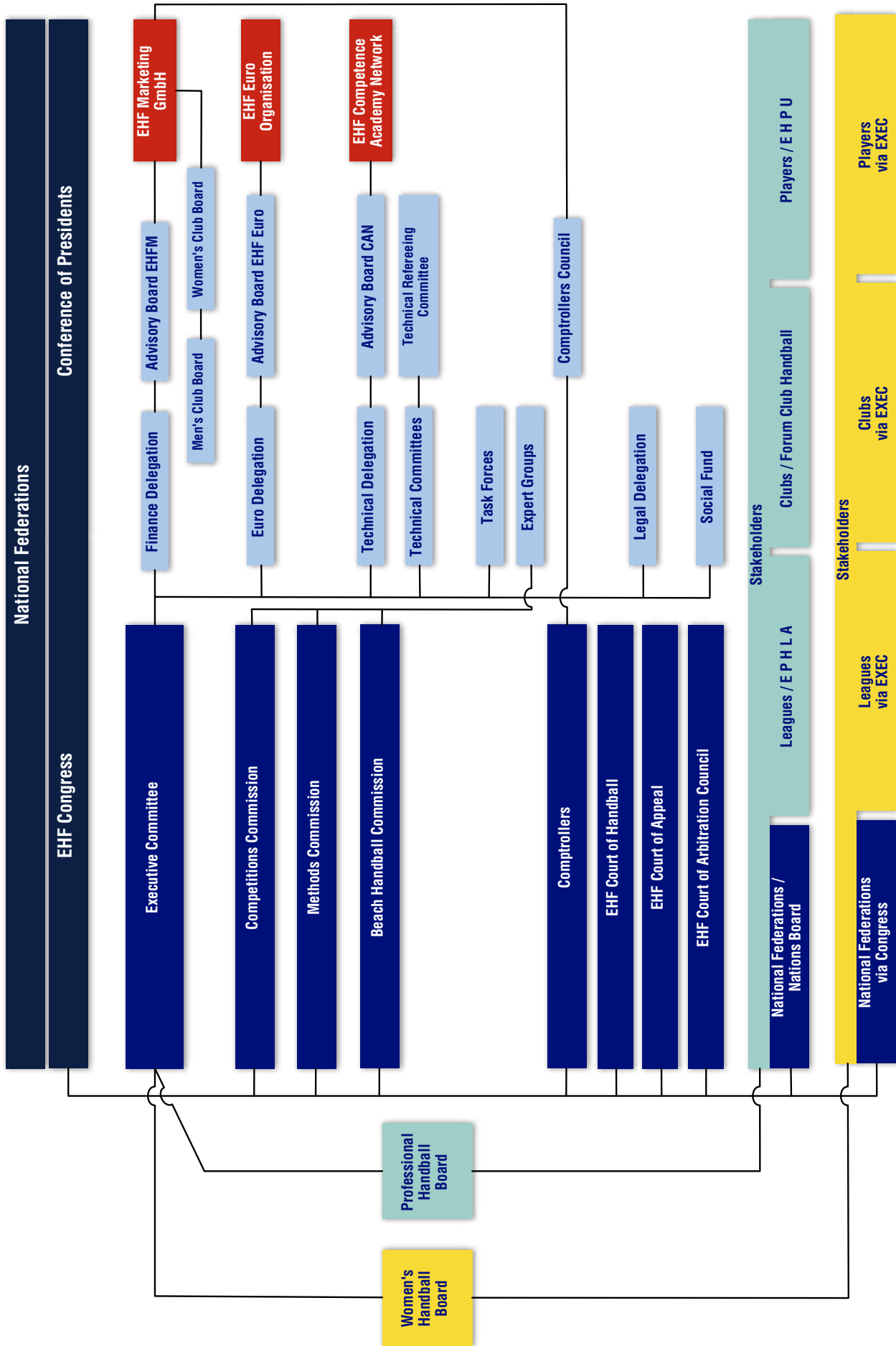
The administration of handball flows not only from the EHF Office in Vienna, Austria, but also internationally. Foremost, the continental federation of Europe is bound by the bylaws of the International Handball Federation (IHF), which regulates the sport on a global level; the non-profit organisation is also held accountable to the corporate laws of Austria.

The work of the European Handball Federation (EHF) goes beyond the borders of Europe as international cooperation, with the continental federations of Asia, Africa and Pan-American, is continuously sought after and mutually reciprocated. Furthermore, our relationship with internal and external stakeholders, ranging from players to officials, to our Member Federations, partners, and the members our boards and commissions, is vital to the success of the organisation. Thus, the European Handball Federation bears a great responsibility to carry out business in a highly professional and efficient manner. Centrally, 50 staff members distributed across two organisations – the European Handball Federation and EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM), minister handball in Europe. Over the past twenty years, the EHF has experienced voluminous growth reflected in part by the 2005 foundation of its 100% owned subsidiary, EHF Marketing.

EHF Corporate Network



EHF Corporate Structure



EHF Office Structure

The European Handball Federation and its subsidiary organisation, EHF Marketing GmbH occupy the headquarters in Vienna. To house both organisations underneath one roof is central to our success as we are linked not only by the common business, which includes the VELUX EHF Champions League and the Women's EHF Champions League, the EHF Cup and the European Cup with their finals, but also via the services provided in the of finances (accounting), media and communication, IT, competition and administrative matters. The EHF structure can be found on page 65.

Within the EHF, the hierarchy begins with the General Management. Consisting of the Secretary General (SG), Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and, in 2013, they will be joined by the Chief Sports Officer (CSO) upon appointment.

General Management

Michael Wiederer	Secretary General (SG)
Andrea Moser	Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
To be appointed in 2013	Chief Sport Officer (CSO)

To incorporate all the business groups on a level where proficiency and cohesion can be monitored, the leaders of the various business groups are part of the Management Board.

Management Board

Michael Wiederer	Strategic Business
CSO (in 2013)	Sport Direction
Andrea Moser	Finance / Operations
Monika Flixeder	EURO Events / Legal Management
Helmut Hörtsch	Education & Development
	EHF Corporate Academy & Network (EHF CAN)
Markus Glaser	Club Competitions / Refereeing & Delegates
Doru Simion	Additional Activities
Peter Sichelschmidt	National Teams
Peter Fröschl	Beach Handball



The following fields of competence are covered by the EHF Office Staff, in the different Business Units under the supervision of the Business Group leaders.

Competence		Professionals
Strategic Business	Congress/EXEC Coordination Corporate Liaison	Vesna Lazic Marsha Brown
Media & Communications		J.J. Rowland Richard Turner Vladislav Brindzak Thomas Schöneich Christopher Ó'Reilly A. McSteen (until May 2012) B. Campion (until Sept. 2012)
EURO Events / Challenge Trophies		Johannes Müller Yannick Maresch (S. Martell until Aug. 2012)
Legal Management		Loïc Alves (M. Grimaud until Aug. 2012)
Education & Development	Methods Teaching & Education Beach Handball Development	Anna Psintrou Peter Fröschl Nicole Rabenseifner (m.l.)
Club Competitions	Club Teams Referees/Delegates Organisation Additional Activities	Ines Capek Mario Kovacic Nadja Lacina (m.l.) Marcos Bestilleiro Vladimir Rancik Adrienn Öri Nicole Krutz-Gundolf
National Teams		Peter Sichelschmidt Nadine Biehl Rima Sypkus
Additional Activities	Transfers Methodical Support Athletes	Claudia Brantl
Operations	Facility Support	Sevgi Herdem
Information Technology		Christoph Gamper Andreas Krywult Marlies Seidl Charly Music Thomas Seidl
Finance	Bookkeeping Employee Administration	Barbara Stieger

In general, the work of the EHF employees interconnects across the board when dealing with the daily business of competitions, projects, partner relations, etc. The coordination of these activities as well as the setup of the respective schedule is completed on the level of the Management Board resp. at their weekly meetings.

Major projects such as the EURO Events, the FINAL4 or congresses and conferences as well as the courses and seminars under the authority of EHF CAN are seen as 'within the overall responsibility' of the EHF Office staff and therefore, with the involvement of all relevant parties and special coordination with the areas of Information Technology and Media and Communication are integral to the EHF undertakings.

In 2013, an internal structural process will follow in order to optimise the activities on a professional level. Also, we will welcome two additional staff members; in the area of Brand Management, Marianne Überlacher and as Women's Handball Coordinator, Alenka Cuderman.

11th Ordinary EHF Congress



11th EHF CONGRESS
22 - 23 June 2012
Monte Carlo, Monaco

The 11th EHF Ordinary Congress opened in Monte Carlo, Monaco on Friday 22 June and concluded on 23 June 2012. Over the weekend, the European Handball Federation welcomed 222 participants, which included delegates from 51 federations, guests of honour, the members of the EHF committees and Boards, electoral candidates. The Congress began with words of welcome from high-ranking political figures from the principality and a personal message of welcome from the Monegasque Royal Household delivered by Joel Bouzou, Counsellor and representative of His Royal Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

The Presidential Report

Taking the floor, EHF President Tor Lian opened his address stating that over the past two decades, the Congress had much to reflect upon. Going beyond the 20th anniversary celebrations in 2012, but also the promise he made upon his election in 2004; a promise stating that he would take the organisation forward through democracy and transparency; a promise that has been fulfilled due to the willingness of the federations to enter democratic debate. Lian also used the opportunity to thank all the elected officials and the EHF and EHF Marketing staff in their various positions for their commitment, support, and contributions.

Looking back on the electoral period 2008 – 2012, Lian underlined the major development in dialogue and the structural evolution that transpired through stakeholder integration and the remarkable progress seen in top competitions naming the 2010 and 2012 EHF EUROS held in Austria, Denmark and Norway, and Serbia as well as the FINAL4 as confirmation of this success. Going back to the origins of the European Handball Federation, Lian stressed that the EHF has been characterised by open communication. Closing his report, Lian stated that it was with pride and confidence that he prepares to hand over the organisation to the next team and he thanked the Congress for the past 20 years of cooperation.

2012 - 2016: The EHF Elections

Following the reports of the Technical Commissions and further Congress protocol, the next order of business was selecting the men and women serve the organisation over the next four years.

To the EHF Executive Committee, Jean Brihault was elected as the only candidate to serve as the new President European Handball Federation; the Swedish candidate, Arne Elovsson was chosen by the Congress to serve as Vice President. As the only candidate, Ralf Dejaco was re-elected to the position of Treasurer. Leopold Kalin replaced the outgoing Chairman of the Competitions Commission, and Jerzy Elias succeeded the outgoing Chairman of the Methods Commission. Ole R. Jørstad was elected as the new Chairman of the young Beach Handball Commission. The constitution of the EHF Executive Committee was complete upon the election of the three members Per Bertelsen, Predrag Bosković and Helga Magnúsdóttir, who is the first woman to serve on the Executive Committee.

The seven members of the EHF Court of Appeal (CoA) and the three members of the EHF Court of Arbitration Council (ECC) were re-elected to their positions for a further term. The CoA and ECC were the only bodies to remain the same. Prior to the election to name the first members, the Congress first had to pass Motion 1, which resulted in the creation of the Women's Handball Board (WHB). An overview of all the committees and boards and their respective members for the period 2012 – 2016 is listed below.

Executive Committee (EXEC)

Jean Brihault	President
Arne Elovsson	Vice President
Ralf Dejaco	Treasurer
Leopold Kalin	Chairman CC
Jerzy Elias	Chairman MC
Ole R. Jørstad	Chairman BC
Per Bertelsen	Member
Predrag Bosković	Member
Helga H. Magnúsdóttir	Member
Joan Marin	Chairman PHB
Lidija Bojić-Ćaćić	Chairwoman WHB

Competitions Commission (CC)

Leopold Kalin	Chairman
Martin Hausleitner	Men's competitions
Carmen Manchado Lopez	Women's competitions
Dragan Nachevski	Refereeing
Sandor Andorka	Club Competitions

Methods Commission (MC)

Jerzy Elias	Chairman
Sjors Röttger	Methods and coaching
Peter Kovacs	Education and training
Juan L. Anton Garcia	Youth, school and non-competitive sport
Pedro Sequeira	Development
Nina Britt Husebö	Gender Representative

Beach Handball Commission (BC)

Ole R. Jørstad	Chairman
Marco Trespidi	Events and competitions
Gabriella Horvath	Officiating
Sinisa Ostoic	Game design and coaching
George Bebetos	Development and promotion

Professional Handball Board (PHB)

Joan Marin	Chairman FCH
Gerd Butzeck	Representative FCH
Morten Stig Christensen	Chairman NB
Philippe Bana	Representative NB
Reiner Witte	Chairman EPHLA
Arne Josefsen	Representative EPHLA
Marcus Rominger	Representative EHPU
Emeric Paillason	Chairman EHPU
Arne Elovsson	Representative EXEC
Ralf Dejaco	Representative EXEC
Jean Brihault	EHF President
Michael Wiederer	EHF General Secretary

Women's Handball Board (WHB)

Lidija Bojić-Čačić	Chairwoman
Tina Fensdal	Deputy Chairwoman
Pirje Orasson	Member
G. Narcisca Lecusanu	Member
Marta Bon	Member
Saskia Mulder	Member
Arne Elovsson	Representative EXEC
Helga H. Magnusdottir	Representative EXEC
Jean Brihault	EHF President
Michael Wiederer	EHF General Secretary

Nations Board (NB)

Morten Stig Christensen	Chairman
Philippe Bana	Deputy Chairman
Heiner Brand	Member
Marek Goralczyk	Member
Martin Simonides	Member
Lúcás Ó'Ceallacháin	Member

EHF Court of Handball (CoH)

Rui Coelho	President
Tapio Arponen	Vice President
Panos Antoniou	Vice President
Viktor Konopliastyi	Member
Jolanta Jankeviciene	Member
Willy Tobler	Member
Ioannis Karanassos	Member
Henk Lenaerts	Member

Comptrollers (COMPT)

Wolfgang Gremmel	Member
Bozidar Djurkovic	Member
Robert Pretenthaler	Substitute

EHF Court of Appeal (CoA)

Markus Plazer	President
Jens Bertel Rasmussen	Vice President
Nicolae Vizitiu	Member
Lúcio Correia	Member
Roland Schneider	Member
Marek Szajna	Member
Milan Petronijevic	Member


EHF Court of Arbitration Council (ECC)

Jörgen Holmqvist	President
Janka Stasova	Vice President
Jacques Bettenfeld	Vice President

Motions to Congress

The motions to the Congress were presented in three parts. The first motion to be dealt with was that of the Women's Handball Board. This motion took precedence, as it was essential for the continuation of further proceedings. Motions to the statutes were presented followed by relating to the regulations.

Motion 1: Women's Handball Board (WHB)

As the topic was introduced, the Congress was reminded of the decision taken at the 10th Conference of Presidents in 2011 to create the Women's Handball Board with the intention of closing the gap between men's and women's handball. The strategic platform, which would report directly to the Executive Committee, would replace the Women's Club Committee and Women's National Team Committee. The member of the WHB would be elected upon the adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted after attaining the necessary 2/3 majority.

Motion 2: Promoting gender equality in handball - representation of both genders in EHF bodies

The motion was withdrawn by Norway.

Motion 3: Promoting gender equality in handball – additional vote for EHF Member Federations with an EHF Congress delegation composed of members of both genders.

The motion was withdrawn by Norway.

Motion 4: Women's Handball Promotion – Election Procedure

Submitted by the EHF, motion 4 was initiated to bridge the gender gap in European handball. The Congress was informed that this motion was to serve as an alternative to motions 2 and 3. In addition to other features, the adoption of this proposal ensures that both genders are represented in the EHF Executive and Technical Commissions and a gender neutral recasting of the EHF Statutes and Regulations is undertaken. The motion was adopted after attaining the necessary 2/3 majority.

Motion 5: EHF Anti-Doping Unit (EAU)

The EHF proposed to implement an EHF Anti-Doping Unit to be integrated into the EHF regulations. The objective of the unit is to be responsible for the organisation and coordination of anti-doping controls, anti-doping procedures, preventative measures, and other tasks relating to anti-doping. The EAU will undertake its tasks in close cooperation with the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) and the International Handball Federation (IHF). The motion was adopted after attaining the necessary 2/3 majority.

Motion 6: Officiating Committee (OFC)

The motion was withdrawn by Denmark.

Motion 7: Modification of transfer fees for amateurs/professionals in Europe

Motion 7 was submitted and presented by Germany. The motion proposed that transfer fees be reduced to a nominal level. Due to the complexity of the motions and the potential ramifications on an international level, it was decided that the EHF would create a motion to be submitted before the next IHF Congress in Doha, Qatar in October 2013.

(In 2012, the EHF Transfers department carried out 2211 international transfers, which is the cumulative sum of 1459 transfers of male players and 752 female players covering the range of professional, amateur, and the movement of students.)

Motion 8: EHF advertising on players' kits

The motion, which would give the federations more rights to sell advertising on shirt sleeves during EHF EURO events was submitted and presented by Sweden. The motion was adopted after attaining the necessary simple majority.

Motion 9: Submitted by Ukraine

A motion concerning TV production was submitted to the EHF after the stated deadline. Therefore, in accordance with the EHF statutes the motion needed a 2/3 majority to be tabled, which was not reached.

Awarding of Events

Men's EHF EURO 2016	Poland	17 to 31 January 2016
Women's EHF EURO 2016	Sweden	4 to 18 December 2016
2014 Men's 18 European Championship	Poland	14 to 24 August 2014
2014 Men's 20 European Championship	Austria	24 July to 3 August 2014
2015 Women's 17 European Championship	FYR Macedonia	13 to 23 August 2015
2015 Women's 19 European Championship	not awarded	12 to 23 August 2015

Admission of New Members

The full membership of Great Britain (GBR) was reinstated and England (ENG), Scotland (SCO) were given the status of associated members. The British Handball Association (BHA) will now administrate all matters on a national team level and the England Handball Association (EHA) and the Scottish Handball Association (SHA) will continue to develop the sport in their home countries.

EHF Awards

The following members of the European handball family were awarded for their service and dedication to the sport.

Honorary President	Honorary Members	Special Awards
Tor Lian Norway	Jan Tuik Netherlands František Táborský Czech Rep. László Sinka Hungary	Jesus Guerrero Spain Allan Lund Denmark Moshe Herrman Israel Helmut Szebeczek Austria

Best Ranked Nation Award

Based on national team performance over the past two years, the Norwegian Handball Federation (NHF) won the title Best Nation 2010 and the Danish Federation (DHF) received the award for the year 2011.



7th Conference for Secretaries General

The 7th Conference for Secretaries General, held in Copenhagen from 19 – 20 April 2012, introduced several topics that were discussed. Representatives from 34 member federations attended.



7th EHF CONFERENCE FOR SECRETARIES GENERAL

Calendar Conference

The draft calendar for the 2013/14 handball season was introduced. The attendees were informed on procedure and after short discussion, it was agreed that the Men's 20 Qualification Tournaments would be scheduled within the men's national team week, the Men's 18 Qualification Tournament would be rescheduled and the men's European Cup rounds 4, 5 and 6 were postponed by one week. Other suggestions that could not be incorporated into the calendar at this time would be taken under consideration in the future.

Additionally, on behalf of the Beach Handball Commission, the results of the EHF Beach Handball Survey were introduced. All participants received a copy of the presentation to view in detail. Furthermore, the Secretary General of the Danish Handball Federation, Morten Stig Christensen expanded on the progress of the upcoming Beach Handball European Championships taking place in Randers, Denmark from the 5 to 14 July 2013.

European Championships: 'the handball window to the world'

The topic of EHF EURO Finances was reiterated and reference was made to the Congress decision of 2008. This was followed by a summary of the EHF EURO Qualifications and information was given to current agreements and future benefits advantageous to all involved parties dependant on the quality of the product. Moreover, it was highlighted that input from the federations was treated on the level of the Professional Handball Board (PHB), Nations Board (NB), and the Competitions Commission (CC). Further input resulting from the 'break-out' session included sharing the cost of TV signal production and the improved marketing of TV and internet rights.

Younger Age Category (YAC) events in the future

The topics raised in this forum included the status of both the European Open and the European Youth Olympic Festival. A short history was given and it was underlined the players have successfully transcended from the youth teams to the A-team in their respective national and club teams. An overview to YAC ranking and seeding was also given. The participants unanimously agreed that this topic needed further and extensive discussion. Other input included that the introduction of a league system for the YAC should be considered and that ranking and seeding in the Women's 17 & 19 and Men's 18 needs to be overhauled, whereas the system for Men's 20 was deemed appropriate. It was agreed that all inputs raised would be treated at the appropriate technical level and the participants would be kept abreast of the developments.

Exchange of information in the handball world

The conference participants were re-introduced to the EHF Media and Communications department and given an overview of the responsibilities including web strategies and media management. The group was informed on upcoming changes in the area before being given in-depth presentation of the 'EHFfamily', the internet portal offering services to the members. Supported by a visual presentation, they were informed that the exclusive portal was refined to support the needs and requirements of national federations and other stakeholders. Later, the EHF IT Development Project was introduced and the cooperation with hard- and software suppliers and the potential benefits to the national federations and their registered clubs was elaborated. The feedback from the participants included the desire to expand the sharing of promotional materials. Overall, the need for transparency in the distributed information and simplicity in the methods of communication was requested.

Education and further education

Subject matter including licensing and the EHF supported MESGO Programme now in its second period, were formally introduced and supported by additional information. Furthermore, information to education of EHF Delegates was given including the competency tests to be delivered in a new format from May 2012. It was agreed by the participants that the improvement in the education of delegates must be prioritised and a professional coaching license become mandatory in the future.

Conclusion

The conference concluded with the statement that, where necessary, discussions to the topics on this level would have to be continued.

Communicating with the world

From fans looking for the latest news and results from Europe's top club and national team competitions to journalists wanting 'up to the minute' statistics, information and statements, as well as partners, sponsors and the 'EHF Family', the EHF Media and Communications Department is tasked with communicating the federation's key messages and providing a constant stream of information to a varied and ever-growing worldwide audience.

EHF online

The EHF uses a range of tools and communications channels to get its key messages across, and the most important of these are to be found online, whether these be the federation's official websites or social media. 2012 proved to be a record year, with more people than ever before following the federation's many activities and competitions online. Over one million people tuned into the official website of the Men's EHF EURO 2012 in January - www.ehf-euro.com - and the number of page views more than doubled (to 10 million) compared to that of the previous championship in Austria in 2010.

Live tweeting

Social media also plays an increasingly important role in engaging fans and transporting the passion and excitement of the game to its global fan-base. 35,000 people 'liked' the official page of the Men's EHF EURO during the two-week duration of the event and the EHF Champions League page has a growing following. Twitter also plays its part, with the launch of the official '@EHFMedia' Twitter Channel in April 2012, bringing the latest from European handball, as well as tweeting live from competition draws and EHF events to thousands of followers.

A first at the VELUX EHF FINAL4

The 2012 edition of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne saw the successful introduction of the first event newspaper to be produced at a major EHF event alongside an event magazine. Printed overnight, the 32-page publication was produced by a team of professional journalists, photographers and media volunteers and distributed to the 20,000 fans in the LANXESS arena, bringing them all the news and photographs from the first day of competition.

Working with the media

The EHF also continues its close and positive cooperation with the international media. In January, 1300 media representatives were in Serbia to report on the Men's EHF European Championship. The event saw the introduction of the first EHF Media Day, a new initiative bringing the mixed zone onto the hallowed playing court, and offering a chance for the world's media to meet and interview the players and coaches from the four final teams. And there was recognition from the media too, with the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) nominating the Men's EHF EURO under the category 'Best Press Facilities 2012' alongside the London 2012 Olympic Games and other major international sports events.



The value of cooperation

Twenty years of continuous growth and the determination to transcend all barriers continues to substantiate the quest of the European Handball Federation to become the number one indoor team sport on the continent. To build a product that holds significant value, the assistance of field experts is instrumental. Having joined forces with leading authorities in sport throughout the years, the EHF obtained access to outlets through which handball has been proficiently promoted and supported. To achieve a strong market position, the EHF placed much emphasis on presenting a consistent and unified look and associating with strong partners, who share the values of the European Handball Federation.

adidas AG: official EHF partner for sporting equipment and clothing – EHF Partner since 1992

As the official outfitter and supplier of the official match ball for club competitions and national team events, adidas AG continues to be a staunch supporter of European handball. As a globally recognised sports equipment supplier of the highest calibre, adidas has been the official EHF partner for sporting equipment and clothing since 1992. The cooperation between the organisations has matured over the years and mutually beneficial changes can be seen in the top competitions. In 2004, the agreement with adidas was extended to incorporate the men's and women's EHF Champions League. Moreover, the past eight EHF EURO events, the outward design of the official match ball is now aligned to the national colours of the hosting country and the inner design of the ball continues to be upgraded with the advent of new technologies innovated by adidas.



Infront Sports & Media AG: official commercial partner – EHF Partner since 1993

As the commercial partner of the European Handball Federation, Infront Sports and Media AG continues to work tirelessly to raise the profile of EHF EURO events. The Swiss-based company holds the exclusive rights to market the television and media rights of the men's and women's championships. This enormous undertaking has led to record viewing figures and global heightened interest and their contribution to handball reaches beyond the area of marketing as services rendered include online scouting services and match statistics. Throughout the duration of this partnership, handball has become more appealing and accessible to fans of the sport around the world. The added benefits of such a long-standing working relationship ensure stability and allows for forward-thinking strategic planning.



Gerflor: official EHF partner and flooring supplier for EURO events – EHF Partner since 2004

It was in 2004 that the 'blue and yellow' no line flooring system was introduced at the Women's EHF EURO in Hungary. Following the implementation of the Taraflex flooring system, the European Championship and Younger Age Category events were instantly recognisable as a modern top class event and the colour scheme became synonymous with handball. The specialised vinyl flooring system permeated with a interwoven shock absorption system was created with the objective to also prevent injury to the players. Now entering into their ninth year of cooperation with the European Handball Federation, Gerflor continues to extend the borders of the agreement. In 2006, the exclusive blue lagoon and black flooring system was introduced and in 2011 the EHF – Gerflor partnership was extended until 2016.



International Handball Federation

Not all EHF partners are found on a commercial level; one of the most important relationships the organisation has is with the International Handball Federation (IHF) based in Switzerland. The open and representative discourse shared between the two federations has continued throughout 2012, with the most recently with the leadership of the IHF being hosted in Vienna, where topics on the agenda all centred around taking the sport forward on the global stage.



The new EHF logo



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

In November 2011, the European Handball Federation (EHF) celebrated a milestone in the history of the organisation as it marked its 20th anniversary. The stellar event was affecting reminder of the development of handball in Europe over the past two decades. Nonetheless, over time it has become apparent that the image of European Handball Federation was in need of a transformation. It was during the 10th Conference of Presidents that the EHF member federations were informed of the intention of the organisation to introduce the new logo.

A strong logo is critical to the identity of any organisation as its recognition lends weight to all profile-raising strategies. It was necessary for the European Handball Federation present a clear and powerful key message all the while upholding the values of the organisation.

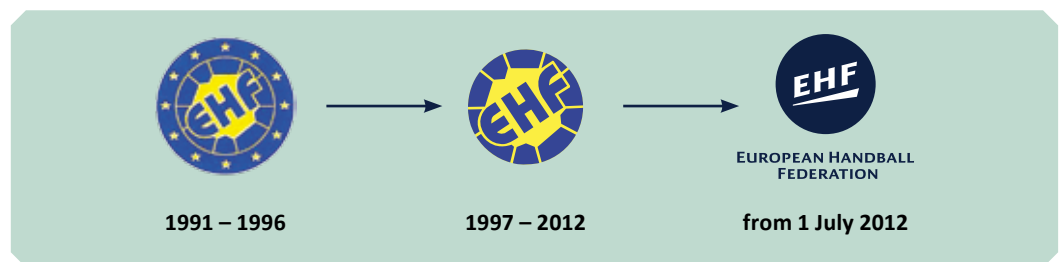
In a joint effort that spanned twelve months, the European Handball Federation took measured steps towards rejuvenation. Considering numerous factors, the most significant being the difficulties in merging the yellow/blue logo into event logos designed by local organising committees due to the dominating form and features, the EHF began to move towards a cool and contemporary look.

EHF Executive member, Jozef Ambrus, designed the original yellow and blue logo encircled by twelve stars in 1991 following the foundation of the EHF. In 1997, it was redesigned with the intention of presenting a more contemporary outward-facing semblance. In keeping with the core component of the organisation, the new identity continues to take the spherical shape of the handball with the EHF logo positioned centrally. The new EHF logo and the accompanying corporate identity system now paves the way in which the organisation can better communicate its brand.

Working in close cooperation with the Danish brand agency e-Types to produce a new modern logo that was easy to integrate into the logos of the competitions of different countries, the European Handball Federation was ready to unveil a new logo that combines elegance with sport. Another element of renewal was the custom made and exclusive EHF typography.

In order to effect a smooth transition, the EHF produced a comprehensive design protocol available online for the benefit of key stakeholders especially the EHF member federations. The online platform includes a download option and more importantly user guidelines.

Within the framework of the EHF Ordinary Congress in Monte Carlo, Monaco on 23 June 2012, signified by the unique branding, the formal introduction of the new logo took place in front of 200 European handball representatives and on 1 July 2012, the long-awaited and highly anticipated project finally went live.



Message from the Secretary General

With the year drawing to a close and as we take a moment to reflect, the European Handball Federation and its contributors can commend yet another year of success and above all, progress.

Naturally 2012, as an 'even' year, was exciting. On a sporting level, in addition to the men's and women's EHF EURO that set new precedent with both events being hosted in one country, we also enjoyed the exhilarating 2012 summer Olympic Games in Europe. The event was a tremendous success for handball and the participating European teams. The positive exposure and media furore surrounding handball brought the game to new elevations, the likes of which never seen before in Great Britain.

The 11th EHF Ordinary Congress, another highlight of 2012, was a first rate event on the administrative stage and the outcome continues to prove the stability of the European handball structure. With new people taking the lead being responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation, we look forward to efficient continuance of internal process. Moreover, there has been a tremendous change in the number of female representatives in the EHF bodies taking the ratio to 23% and the inauguration of two female members in the EHF Executive Committee; thus the intention of the Congress was implemented successfully and will influence the activities of the organisation in 2013.

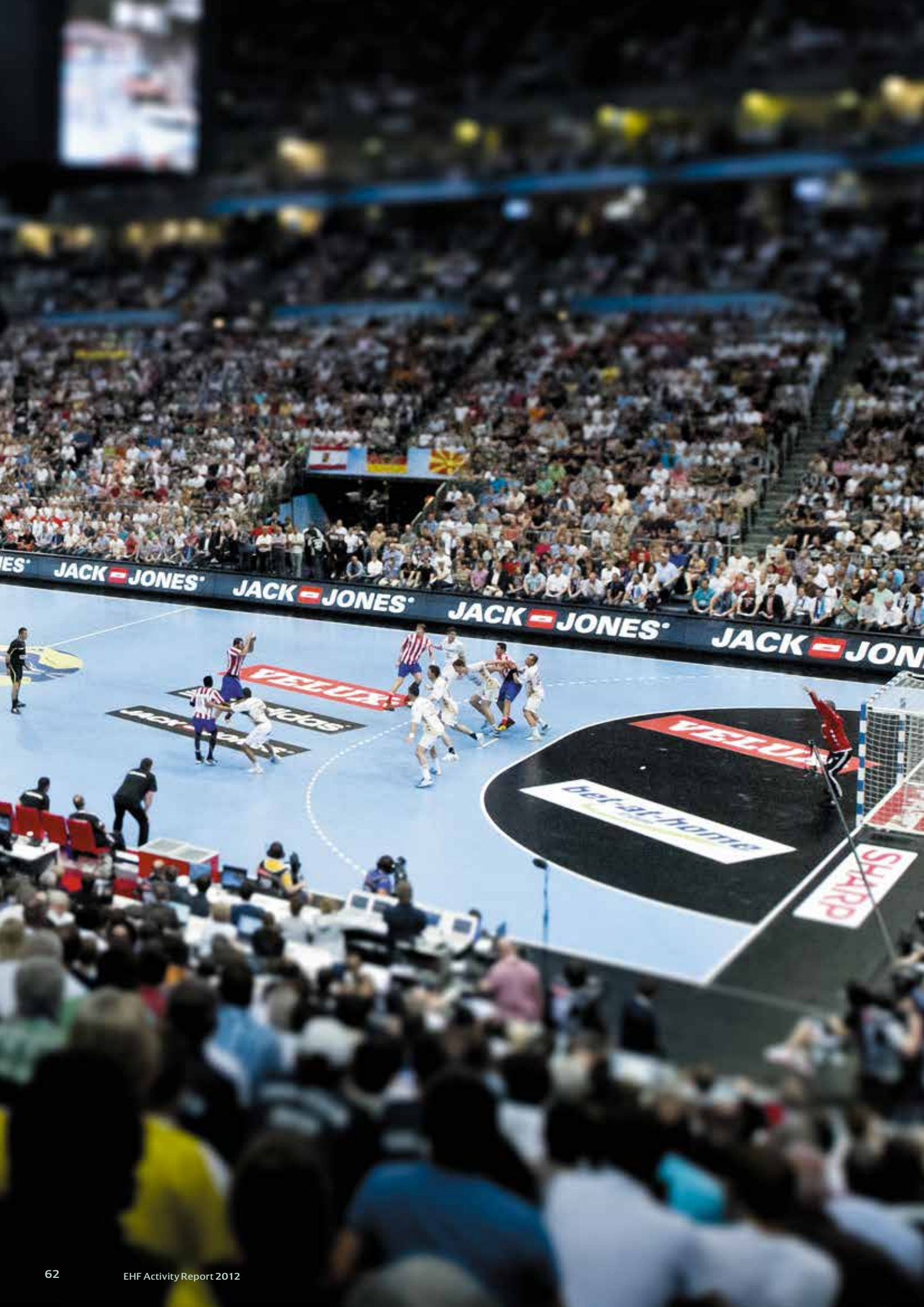
Over the next few months, the European Handball Federation plans to start a campaign across several areas to reinforce the sport on all levels and that will involve all our stakeholders with the objective of broadening our basis. In 2013, we want to organise our business successfully, but not only that: we also want to improve our sport proactively to better present handball to the business and media world in order to find new interested parties on all levels. We will therefore offer our hand for initiatives that we will support and at the same time ask for your support for the common task of strengthening handball.

And as we look forward to 2013, I take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders who continue to play a central role in the development of handball. On behalf of the European Handball Federation, we look forward to continuing this positive cooperation.




Michael Wiederer
EHF Secretary General







Activity Report 2012

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EHFM Structure

Following the sentiment of “All in one”, EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM) is a platform for the further development of handball. The sale of media and advertising rights, media development, sponsorship relations, product development and implementation are the core activities of subsidiary 100% owned by the European Handball Federation (EHF). Compared to other right holders who are bound to external agencies and advisors to realise their business, over the past seven years, EHF Marketing has accumulated a wealth of inside know-how and aptitude to independently conduct its operations.

Taking our products forward, we continue to craft a strong market position through a robust partnership network that encapsulates the EHF, EHFM, the top handball clubs of Europe and many other stakeholders; communication remains central to our growing success. The extension of the contract between EHFM and VELUX A/S, title sponsor of the VELUX EHF Champions League, and also with adidas AG, our long term partner, EHF Marketing has strengthened the foundation of club handball for many seasons to come.

EHF Marketing GmbH team takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to our sponsors and partners for their unremitting support of handball and we wish you all the best for the upcoming year.



THE EHF MARKETING STRUCTURE

AREA	CORE ACTIVITIES	PERSONNEL
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General management 	Peter Vargo
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selling media rights • Managing the relationship with existing media partners • Establishing new partners and markets for EHF competitions broadcasts • Market research • Development • Identifying TV production standards • Broadcast tools • Production quality control of broadcasting partners 	Ulrich Gutweniger Akos Moczan
Sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and lead-sourcing • Establishing contacts with key prospects • Creating attractive sponsorship offers and developing new concepts • Raising interest, negotiating and finalising the agreement 	Cyril Dujacquier
Customer Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key account management of sponsors • Key account management of partners • Developing new sponsor concepts • Creating activation concepts together with sponsors & partners • Official flooring project • Photo project 	Julia Nalepka Ivana Jelic Lisa Wiederer
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of production and logistics of advertising and branding materials • Venue inspections • Marketing Supervisor Project • LCD Project • Development of the LCD animations • Preparing sponsors documentations and sales folders 	Stefan Golger Oliver Laaber Christian Hein
Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management Women's EHF Champions League • Concept development “Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15” • Bidding process “EHF Cup Final Tournament” and follow up • Project management “EHF Cup Final Tournament Nantes 2013” 	Alexander Gehrer
VELUX EHF FINAL4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and organisation • Concept • Marketing and promotion • VIP services • Ticketing 	David Szlezak Uwe Hack
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back office • Invoicing 	Christine Schauer

EHF M Partners

VELUX

Two seasons ago, the VELUX Group signed a title sponsor agreement with EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM) for the EHF Champions League. The objective of both organisations was to always realise the full potential of the sponsorship. As a result of this, in February 2012, the VELUX Group signed a new deal with EHF Marketing GmbH, to extend its association with the VELUX EHF Champions League for an additional three years.

The website handballenergy.com was launched by the VELUX Group in connection with the final round event, the VELUX EHF FINAL4, in 2012. handballenergy.com offers fans and other handball enthusiasts exclusive pictures and videos, and the expert analyses of international handball star Lars Christiansen, who has his own blog on the website.

Jack & Jones

Since 2010, premium sponsor Jack & Jones together with EHF Marketing GmbH has enhanced brand awareness and developed challenging promotional tools. The best examples of this sponsorship activation are the facebook activities during the season where local Jack & Jones stores play an integral part, as well as the promotions during the VELUX EHF FINAL4. With the t-shirt gun competition during the half time breaks at the arena and the autograph session in the flagship store in Cologne, Jack & Jones demonstrates the efficiency and strength of their sponsorship.

bet-at-home.com

bet-at-home.com, the online betting service, has been premium sponsor of the VELUX EHF Champions League and Women's EHF Champions League since 2009. With innovative ideas, bet-at-home.com received impressive media feedback this year: bet-at-home.com was offering handball fans the unique chance to win \$100,000 with just one shot at the 2012 VELUX EHF FINAL4. For the first time ever at any handball event, six lucky fans had the chance to take the '\$100,000 SHOT' and each of them could have walked away with a cool \$100,000 in cash.

SHARP

SHARP (Europe) GmbH, the Japanese electronics producer, will continue as a premium sponsor of the VELUX EHF Champions League until 2015. The partnership between EHF Marketing and SHARP, which launched at the 2011 VELUX EHF FINAL4, has seen the joint development of the SHARP LCD Perimeter Advertising System. This unique technology offers advertisers, sponsors and partners the opportunity to communicate their message through animated advertising in moiré free, crystal clear television quality, which continues to provide many advantages over the static and LED advertising systems currently available on the market.

UNIQA

In the season 2011/12, the UNIQA Group extended its partnership with the VELUX EHF Champions League and Women's EHF Champions League. The Austria-based insurance company continues as a regional premium partner of Europe's two leading club handball competitions. EHF Marketing GmbH has been working closely with the UNIQA Group for the past nine years and the prolongation and extension of the cooperation signals a continuation of this close working relationship. The UNIQA Group continued to focus its brand exposure on its key Eastern European markets.

Zillertal

Following one successful season being a regional premium partner of the VELUX EHF Champions League 2011/12, Zillertal prolonged their partnership for the season 2012/13. The promotion opportunities for the Scandinavian market should be strengthened towards this sponsorship. Based in Tyrolia, Austria, Zillertal is the marketing agency responsible for the promotion and endorsement of the valley region.

adidas

Demonstrating the potential of the long term partnership between adidas and EHF Marketing, adidas launched two new products for the handball market during the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2012 in Cologne; the new official match ball of the VELUX EHF Champions League as well as most successful handball shoe, the Stabil. Another success which was developed together in a very close cooperation was the new VELUX EHF FINAL4 merchandising collection. adidas has been an integral part of the brand's professional development, especially being the official ball supplier of the VELUX EHF Champions League and Women's EHF Champions League.

Gerflor

Already six seasons in, the blue lagoon flooring system is a core element of the product VELUX EHF Champions League. Also, the extension of this cooperation 2 years ago, which saw the same flooring system introduced in the Women's EHF Champions League, shows the importance and strength of this partnership. It symbolizes the sporting excellence in the arenas throughout Europe underlining the professionalism as well as the high quality. Gerflor is the market leader in flooring systems.

Rimowa

After two years of partnership, one of Europe's leading luggage manufacturers, Rimowa together with EHF M decided to strengthen their cooperation for one more season. Collaboration with such a leading brand underlines the high standards of the VELUX EHF Champions League and especially the VELUX EHF FINAL4.



EHFM Media The re-launch of ehfTV.com

Ahead of the start of the VELUX EHF Champions League season 2012/13, the EHF internet TV platform - ehfTV.com, was re-launched. Developed in partnership with LAOLA1.tv, the new platform provides handball fans worldwide with the opportunity to watch the very best handball has to offer both live and on demand. ehfTV.com powered by LAOLA1.tv transmits each and every match from both the VELUX EHF Champions League and the Women's EHF Champions League. Additionally, match videos, highlights and the weekly handball magazine programme: 'Rewind – The Handball Show' are also available for fans to watch and enjoy on demand.



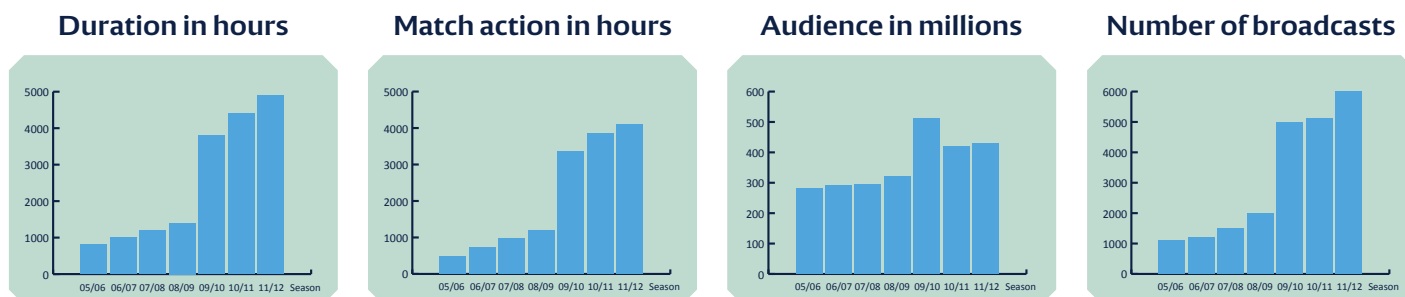
On the television market, Europe's premier club competition has reached new heights; new TV contracts have been signed and others were extended. In addition, the magazine 'Rewind – The Handball Show' set a new record in the number of channels transmitting the trademark product from ehfTV. Besides the official EHF streaming platform available worldwide, the magazine is broadcast by 26 stations on four continents – Europe, America, Africa and Asia. 'Rewind – the Handball Show' provides handball fans all over the world with a special selection of the top action from the previous round of the VELUX EHF Champions League, as well as in-depth features and stories from players in the competition. The summary of each round is enriched by the top five goals, the top five saves, and the best players of each position or a tactic corner as well as the 'One by Tom' interview with ehfTV expert commentator and the voice of handball in all English speaking countries, Tom Ó Brannagáin from the Match of the Week.

In 2012, the VELUX EHF Champions League launched an exclusive DVD with highlights from the 2011/12 season to give the fans the possibility to relive the best moments of the season. The DVD holds match footage from an exciting year, covering the Group Phase to the VELUX EHF FINAL4, with special reports from Tom Ó Brannagáin and VELUX EHF FINAL4 ambassador, Stefan Lövgren - exclusive 3D material from the VELUX EHF FINAL4 is also included. The 2012 event in Cologne was the first to be produced in 3D and this content was added to the DVD as a special gift to handball fans.



LAST YEAR'S TV DEVELOPMENT

Global MMK, the German media company and reporting partner, once again reported an increase in broadcast hours last season. The continuous growth is shown in the charts below that give an overview of the last 7 seasons.



EHF Development New LCD Technology

SHARP

The brand new LCD technology, developed in a unique partnership between EHF Marketing GmbH and SHARP, Premium Sponsor of the VELUX EHF Champions League, was successfully implemented during the season 2011/12.

The LCD Perimeter Advertising System extensively tested and launched at 2011 VELUX EHF FINAL4 was used in over 130 matches during the season 2011/12. Twelve complete LCD Perimeter Advertising Systems (each of them consisting of 30 individual 60 inch LCD screens packed into 19 flight cases) have been transported all over Europe to a maximum of twelve playing venues on the same weekend. The total transport distance of the twelve LCD Perimeter Advertising Systems in the season 2011/12 was 150,000 km, which is more than 3 times around the world. This vast logistical project was executed by the new logistics partner of the VELUX EHF Champions League Kühne+Nagel.

The setup of the LCD Perimeter Advertising Systems at the venues (from unloading the trucks, to cabling, to the playlists rundown to loading the trucks again) has been supervised by technicians from WWTS (Worldwide Technician Services) and was only possible with the support from each club participating in the VELUX EHF Champions League. In total the twelve LCD Perimeter Advertising Systems have over 7,500 m of cables. The advertising animations for partners and sponsors as well as the playlists for the games were created by Sportfive and the total data volume in the season 2011/12 exceeded 200 gigabytes.

Using moiré free television quality pictures, the new LCD advertising system transported the messages and campaigns of the VELUX EHF Champions League partners and sponsors through eye catching animations. Organisers took full advantage of the possibilities the new system offers, integrating the LCD system fully into the event's entertainment concept in the arena. Advances in technology from SHARP have made the use of LCD technology possible for the first time in indoor sports arenas. The system is comprised of individual 60 inch (diagonal) screens with a strong 1366 x 768 pixel display. A distance of only 6.5 mm between displays allows for an almost continuous picture when placed side by side.

The VELUX EHF Champions League was the first to implement this brand new LCD technology and requests from other sport organisations, federations and clubs reflect the big interest in this new equipment. Many handball clubs and national federations have already used the LCD system for their national and league matches. Furthermore, SHARP became a premium partner of the VELUX EHF Champions League until 2015 and therefore subsidizes the rental purchase of the twelve LCD Perimeter Advertising Systems.



The new EHF Champions League look

The European Handball Federation and its marketing company, EHF Marketing GmbH launched a new brand identity for its flagship club competitions, the VELUX EHF Champions League and the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League. The new logo and corporate identity were first revealed on the opening day of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2012 in Cologne to a large audience of invited guests, partners and sponsors.

Inspiration for the three-coloured star design came from fast-moving dynamic of the game and the movement of both players and the ball. The three colours in the new logo reflect the blue of the Champions League, which has been retained but updated in new and vibrant gradients, winning gold and the red of title sponsor, for the men's logo and the golden yellow for the women's future title sponsor.

Creative agency, e-Types, based in Copenhagen, developed the new brand identity. Their remit was to create new and fresh image, which could reflect the competition's status as the premium club handball competition in Europe, whilst capturing the elements of prestige, sporting dynamic and passion that encapsulates the competition.

Peter Vargo, Managing Director of EHF Marketing GmbH, said: "The new logo is an evolution of the existing Champions League logo and branding. We have kept key elements but wanted to create a new and exciting brand identity that would help us to be much more creative with our image in the future. I am confident that this new look is another positive step forward for the product "Champions League".



Alexander 'Ali' Toncourt

20.06.1959 - 01.05.2012



It is not only those that had a personal relationship to Ali, even Ali would admit that he devoted 35 years to handball – as a player, in his job, implicit and explicit in every subject matter. Therefore, I direct these words to him.

Ali, you were always the one who wanted to be there and who always contributed joyfully and with plenty of stamina, even though you did not like being in the limelight. You played with us: handball, football, cards: basically, any activity that needed a team. You worked with us, for me and you were able to combine your interest with your skills consistently and correctly. Actually, you got everything done in the same way that you played handball – hard in the defence, swift in the attack and following victories, you came to the party!

You were very good at determining between what was possible and what would work; I knew as I often stepped lightly into your office to hear your consequential feedback in order to assist me draw my own conclusions. Through your attitude and your dedication, you contributed to its success whether it be a club, a federation and especially to the development of the EHF.

Perhaps, we failed to tell you often enough how much we appreciated this. Though it is too late, we still see today just how much you meant to everybody.

Next to your work, it also needs to be said that in our opinion, in life, you made it possible to only do the things that you enjoyed doing...and the things you did not want to do, more consistently than others, you managed to ignore.

Your way of dealing with your illness - to fight it but also to ignore it, was exemplary. This meant a long, hard fight; but also, as in 'every match', there were beautiful moments.

Dear Ali, it is so easy to say 'unforgettable', on behalf of all those with whom played and with whom you worked, and lived with, I can guarantee that we will not forget you.

You will be present at our matches.

Eulogy from the EHF Secretary General at the Funeral of Alexander Toncourt



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