

# HeartBeat HandBall

20 Years of the  
European Handball Federation









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# EHF 20 YEAR TIMELINE

*From its inception in Berlin to the 2011 HeartBeat Handball event, follow the 20 year timeline of the European Handball Federation highlighting each year's best moments.*

1991

Congress in Berlin / GER  
Foundation of the European Handball Federation  
Meeting of the EHF Committee in Hamburg / GER



1992

Meetings of the Technical Commission in Madrid / ESP  
Meetings of the EHF Committee in Vienna / AUT  
1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Congress in Vienna / AUT  
1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Congress in Barcelona / ESP  
EHF staff begin activities in Vienna / AUT

Season 1 - EHF European Cups  
EHF Conference for newly organised Member Federations in Vilnius / LTU  
2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Congress in Antwerp / BEL

1993

3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Congress in Athens / GRE  
1<sup>st</sup> EHF Top Coaches' Seminar in Bercy / FRA

1996

1994

2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Congress in Antibes / FRA  
3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Congress in Noordwijk / NED  
Technical Commission reformed and becomes CC and MC  
1<sup>st</sup> Men's European Championship  
European Day of Mini-Handball



1995

Video recordings used for the first time in arbitration cases  
1<sup>st</sup> EHF Periodical for Coaches and Lecturers  
Meeting of the Methods Commission in Prague / CZE



1<sup>st</sup> EHF Media Day  
1<sup>st</sup> EHF Working Group 'Women in Handball'  
4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Congress in Budapest / HUN  
1<sup>st</sup> EHF Congress of Presidents in Vienna / AUT  
EHF House in Hoffingergasse, Vienna opens for business

1998

Rinck Convention signed aiming to unify coach education  
5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Congress in Tel Aviv / ISR  
Meeting with European Team Sport organisations in Zurich / SUI

1999

Young Referees Programme established  
EHF Competitions Commission expanded  
5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Congress in Vienna / AUT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Presidents in Vienna / AUT

2000

1997

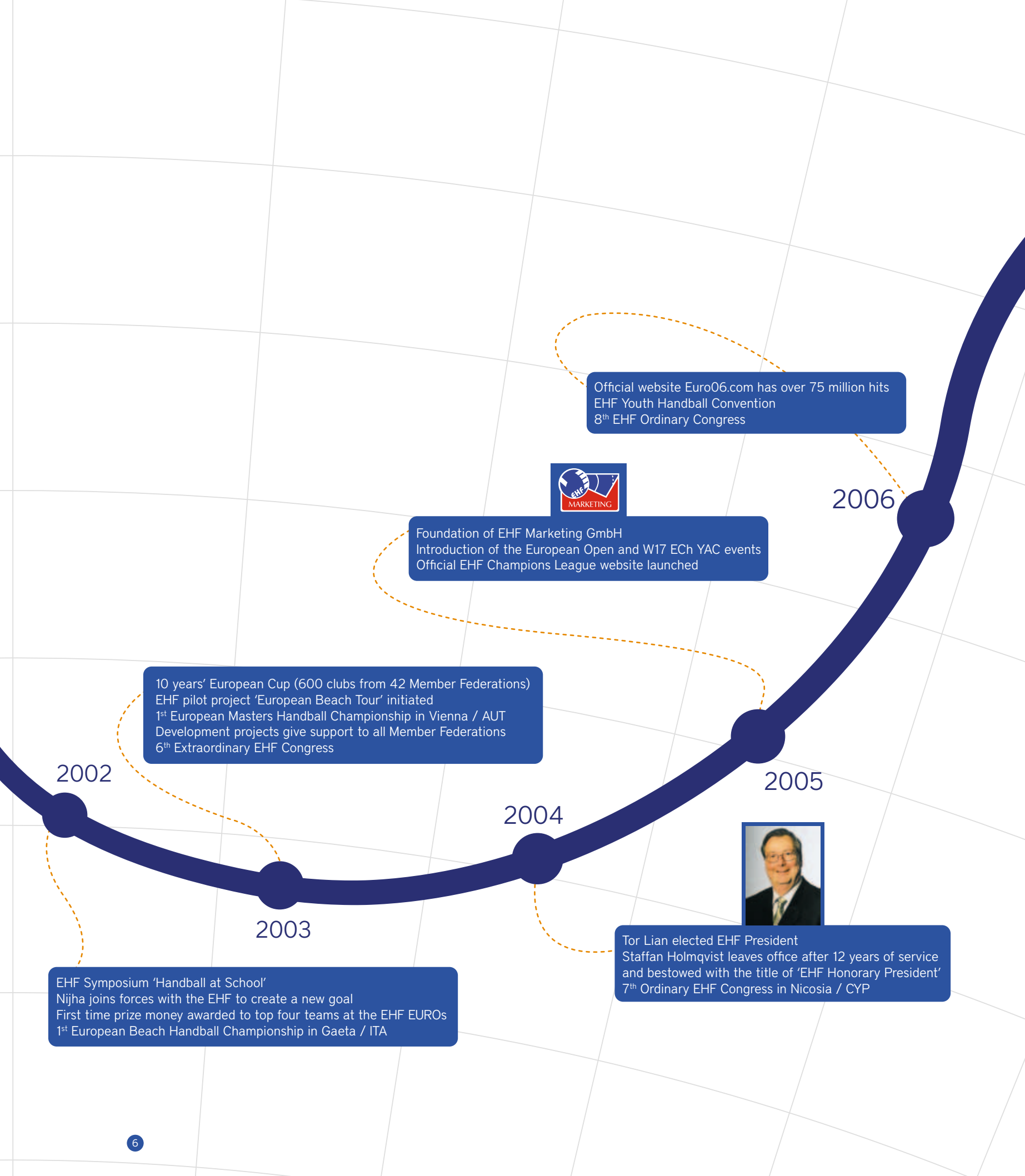


Change of the official EHF logo  
1<sup>st</sup> EHF Seminar for Secretaries General in Vienna / AUT  
EHF office internal departments reorganised

2001

10 year Anniversary of the European Handball Federation  
1<sup>st</sup> EHF Seminar for Chiefs of Referees at the Vision Forum  
SMART Programme introduced  
Introduction of the EHF E-News service





Official website Euro06.com has over 75 million hits  
EHF Youth Handball Convention  
8<sup>th</sup> EHF Ordinary Congress

2006



Foundation of EHF Marketing GmbH  
Introduction of the European Open and W17 ECh YAC events  
Official EHF Champions League website launched

10 years' European Cup (600 clubs from 42 Member Federations)  
EHF pilot project 'European Beach Tour' initiated  
1<sup>st</sup> European Masters Handball Championship in Vienna / AUT  
Development projects give support to all Member Federations  
6<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF Congress

2005



Tor Lian elected EHF President  
Staffan Holmqvist leaves office after 12 years of service  
and bestowed with the title of 'EHF Honorary President'  
7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress in Nicosia / CYP

2004

2003

2002

EHF Symposium 'Handball at School'  
Nijha joins forces with the EHF to create a new goal  
First time prize money awarded to top four teams at the EHF EUROs  
1<sup>st</sup> European Beach Handball Championship in Gaeta / ITA



2007

15 years Men's and Women's EHF Champions League  
8<sup>th</sup> EHF Extraordinary Congress votes to establish Beach Handball Commission in September 2008  
'Agreement of Collaboration' signed by EHF with the EOC  
First Foster agreement signed



2008

1<sup>st</sup> Men's Competitions Conference  
Foundation of EHF CAN - Competence Academy & Network  
The Handball Arena - EHF EURO Set-up Manual joins the EHF Arena Construction Manual



2009

Men's CL Round Table: FINAL4 project unveiled  
Implementation of Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act supported by the Congress  
EHF CAN develops licensing system to associate the EHF with top products

2010

Foundation of Professional Handball Board  
Inaugural meeting of EHF Nations Board in Vienna / AUT  
First ISP agreement signed  
Inaugural VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne

**VELUX**



Extraordinary Congress with election of new CoA  
17 November - HeartBeat HandBall - 20 years EHF

HeartBeat  
HandBall

2011



# THE EHF PRESIDENT

*Norwegian Tor Lian has been the President of the EHF since 2004. In 20 years there have only ever been two Presidents and both have come from northern Europe.*

At the EHF Foundation Congress in Berlin the Swede Staffan Holmqvist, who since 1979 had been the President of the Swedish National Federation, was elected as the first EHF President. In his first period of office, he introduced the EHF European Handball Championship for men and women. His term of office lasted until 2004, when his then Vice President Tor Lian from Norway won the crucial vote and thus the most important position in the EHF at the Ordinary Congress in Cyprus.

Lian, like Holmqvist, belongs to the founding fathers of the EHF, an organisation that rose from the 'Western-European nations' of 'leading handball countries'. At the Foundation Congress in Berlin, all National Federation Presidents attended the forming of this alliance – Tor Lian had been President of the Norwegian Federation since 1985 and from day one, was a member of the EHF Executive Committee. Moreover, 66-year-old Lian remembers fondly the first days of the EHF as well as his predecessor Staffan Holmqvist, who sadly passed away in 2007 shortly before his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"Handball was Staffan Holmqvist's life. He was a real man of action in the sport who came from one of the strongest handball nations at the time and who also enjoyed the utmost respect," said Lian. "His period of office was absolutely decisive for the further development of the EHF because in this time all the foundations for everything that exists today were being laid."

Tor Lian was born in Trondheim on 13 June 1945 and has been married to Froydis since 1968. He has two sons and two grandchildren. Following his active period as a player (1953-1985), he moved into the realm of coaching and then into the Executive Committee of the Norwegian Handball Federation (NHF). In 1983, he was elected to the position of Vice President and from 1985 until 1999 he served as President of the NHF. In addition to the many years as Board Member of the Norwegian Olympic Committee, he was also on the Advisory Board of the Olympic Games in Lillehammer in 1994 as well as serving as Head of the Organising Committee of the IHF Women's World Handball Championship in 1993 and 1999 in Norway. Since 2000, he has served on the IHF Council and has been a member of numerous IHF Working Groups. For over 20 years, Lian has also worked for the top human resource agencies in the world. Currently, he is the head of the Oslo offices of Edward W. Kelley & Partners, a specialist in the search for top executives. It is also through this professional experience that the Norwegian knows how to value teamwork.

Lian's second term in office will run until 2012 along the same lines as his first term. Lian, as well as his Vice President Jean Brihault (France) and Treasurer Ralf Dejaco (Italy), were re-elected and the Chairmen; Jan Tuik for the Competitions Commission, Frantisek Taborsky for the Methods Commission and Laszlo Sinka for the newly formed Beach Handball Commission were elected to serve the three technical commissions.

Lian sees his role as the EHF President above all as a political role. "The main task is to guide the Executive Committee and the Finance Delegation as well as the performance of the Congress and the most important meetings," intones the Norwegian, who made one of the most important decisions in the history of his term in office - the decision to create EHF Marketing GmbH. In the same way, he has decided upon the further development of all competitions – just look at the EHF European Championships and the EHF Champions League:

"The introduction of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne is the reason for such a fantastic weekend of handball."

Under the presidency of Tor Lian, a partnership of many years with the Swiss rights company, Infront Sports and Media AG, flourished and this has secured the advancement of the EHF EURO on a long-term basis. Over the past years, the cooperation with the various interest groups in professional handball has become an increasingly important task for the EHF Executive Committee led by Lian. "We have the Professional Handball Board as an institution initiated by the leagues, clubs, players and national federations." Lian also highlights the progress that has been made since the decisive Congress in Lillehammer in 2008, at which further steps towards creating this special body were initiated.

But for Lian, his ultimate goal has not yet been reached: above all, he holds women's handball very dear, which is why in 2010 women's handball got its own Steering Group. "We want the development of women's handball to increase." President Lian is completely committed to women's handball and stated, "The women's European Championships are very successful, but in club handball there is potential and much room for improvement." At the same time Lian wishes that there were more female officials, "It is a pity that in the EHF Executive Committee, there are only men, but in the future, I am sure that this will change." 🌟

“We want the development of women's handball to increase.”



# THE EHF SECRETARY GENERAL

*The EHF Secretary General position is similar to that of those in the federations. Input and views from all sides have to be collected from technical experts to those in marketing who develop ideas to promote and expand the game on the sporting market. The Secretary General has to put this all together and make it work.*

Following the formation of the EHF a position had to be created and a person needed to be chosen to manage the day-to-day business of the custodians of European handball. The term Secretary General is a traditional name in sport for a position that involves the general management of the sport combining all the different areas involved.

It reflects someone who is involved in everything on different levels but at the same time is responsible for the overall administration and organisation - a combination which is well understood in every language, every country and similar organisations. It is a proven form of running a business and respected traditionally by the sports business as handball shares the same values and same challenges as football, ice hockey and basketball.

It is an inescapable fact that Michael Wiederer has been synonymous with the position since it was created. The only person to have ever been in the role, Michael was instrumental in bringing the EHF to Vienna and has overseen the growth of the organisation prior to the creation of the organisation through to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

"The Secretary General role is like a mosaic," he says when asked about how he sees his tasks. "It is perfect if you collect the right stones, in the right colours, of the right size and put them into the right places to form a beautiful picture. However, it is not enough to have the right stones and colours if you don't arrange them into a good picture".

Looking back over 20 years, Michael reflects on the evolution and change of not just the position and his role, but the game of handball itself, "The business of handball administration has changed - it is much more complex than it was" he explains. "Handball is a sport and business now, but we must always remember that the sport is always the reason why we all do our jobs in handball - everything has to be seen from the side of the players and from the side of the technicians".

The increased political aspect of the position has seen the tasks of the Secretary General continuously evolve and Wiederer now sees the role as more of a coordinator of the EHF rather than being involved constantly at all levels. "In theory the Secretary General is always available to all federations," he says, "but it is important to have the right people around you and introduce the right communication lines as it makes it so much easier when people know where to go and what to expect."

"However, an important aspect of the Secretary General role is to combine all relevant information available so you can mould and provide a clear picture for the decision making process to a very high degree. It is a moral question - you have to provide the correct information to ensure that the decision making process is correct, but the Secretary General helps support this process rather than influencing it," says Austrian-born Wiederer.

This decision-making process is integral for the continuation of the EHF to represent all federations and interests across Europe - no mean feat considering the different federations and numerous clubs involved across many different time zones, miles, cultures, religions and languages.



"There is a lot of handshaking of course with politicians and even royalty such as Kings, depending on the situation" Wiederer explains, "but meetings are meetings and due to the fact that the handball business is a lot more complex now, with elected people and many commissions, there is plenty of information available to digest. The Secretary General is well aware that the federations own the EHF but, due to different approaches and resources, some federations need a lot of support and some don't - you have to find a balance".

Despite these meetings with decision-makers in various locations across Europe, the EHF Secretary General still needs to keep his ear to the ground and be ready to step in when needed. "A certain percentage of the Secretary General role is crisis management so you have to ensure that you are never too far removed from the daily tasks - the very moment it is needed you have to jump into the fire, which is all part of the business."

The EHF has evolved, handball has evolved and the Secretary General role has evolved. All of this progression after just 20 years, with more to come in the future, but the Secretary General can be proud in the knowledge that such an organisation has had time to breathe and advance under the stewardship, paving the way for those who will follow in Wiederer's footsteps...even if it involves a bit of furniture removal along the way!

"My first job as Secretary General was to set up and open the first office; two tables, two chairs and two telephones," reminisces Wiederer, "...but my second job was to be part of the negotiations of the TV, advertising and marketing contracts for the first Men's European Championship in Portugal in 1994!" 🌟



**“ Handball is a sport and business now. ”**



# THE BEGINNINGS

*To fully appreciate the progress of an organisation that started with a solitary full-time employee in 1991, we have to pay homage to the beginnings. Here we look back to the establishment of the European body.*



**“ We had to work out from which new nation each team came. ”**



At the time of the EHF foundation in the late 1980s and early 1990s the body that regulated, administered and organised handball in Europe was the International Handball Federation (IHF). In those days it was fair to say that handball was far behind other sports in terms of development.

“Within Europe an organisation named the ‘Western European Countries’ was founded who were interested in working more on the European continent. These countries formed a collaborative basis. I was involved in the Western European Countries” says Tor Lian, EHF President who was at that time serving as President of the Norwegian Handball Federation. The way to its own federation began in a few separate working groups in both Western and Eastern Europe. In 1988 the European IHF member states met in Prague and in Seoul, with meetings in Frankfurt and Cyprus following later. The decision to create the European Handball Federation was the result of meetings that took place in Madeira (POR) and Manchester (GBR) during 1990 and 1991.

In a period of political change, the Berlin Wall had just come down and it was all systems go for the foundation of the European Handball Federation, so the Western European Countries organised the first congress in Berlin. The goal was clear, to have their own European handball body. At the first congress, the members of the board were elected. The attitude back then was to elect presidents from the various national federations onto the board. The President of the Swedish federation, Staffan Holmqvist was chosen as the first EHF President; Hans-Jürgen Hinrichs, President of the German Federation, was elected as EHF Vice President.

Already in the initial years, Holmqvist stood for trailblazing decisions: the absorption of the European Cup from the International Handball Federation as well as the adjustments made to the European Championships. “The first EHF EURO in Portugal was not so successful,” said Lian looking back, “there were hardly any spectators and only a few journalists in the halls – but this was because we failed to secure an attractive spot in the international calendar, all the other spots were already taken.” Nevertheless, the European Championships soon developed into a successful product because the EHF set their own high standards in all areas.

However, before standards could be set competitions had to be brought to life – and with this came more EHF employees, specifically Markus Glaser. Hailing from Switzerland, Glaser joined the EHF in March 1993 to organise the European Cup and time was of the essence as the closing date for 1993/94 season registrations was set for August. The EHF started with high ambitions as, from the very beginning an additional competition was created and a complete restructuring of other competitions took place. Instead of a regional cup, EHF Cup and Cup Winners’ Cup from then on there was the Champions League, the EHF Cup, the Cup Winners’ Cup and the City Cup (known today as the Challenge Cup).

“Our problem was that we had to work out from which new nation each team came. Eventually, the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) was dissolved and then there were many young countries in Yugoslavia,” said Glaser. “The first decisive test was the ongoing tensions in the Balkan states, “because of a bomb exploding in Zagreb, all Croatian European Cup matches had to be moved outside of Croatia.”



Participation in the European Cup competitions had already become a habit for the clubs during the IHF era and the EHF was entering new territory as an organiser, "We had the organisational aspects under control very quickly," said Glaser, who remains responsible for competitions today. Back then Glaser was not alone, he was part of a three-headed organisation team consisting also of Michael Wiederer and his Danish assistant Pia Pedersen. They had the mammoth task of organising the very first EHF EURO in Portugal in 1994. "Our emphasis lay in that the matches took place in accordance with the regulations, and everything else has been taken care of over the course of time," said Glaser

When the EHF was created as an independent European body, the search was on for a suitable seat for the federation. Vienna was chosen as opposed to the other suggestions which included Berlin and Copenhagen. In the beginning the EHF resided in the Hotel Bosei where it was only Wiederer and Pedersen, working for the organisation at that time. Over the years, additional personnel joined the ranks, such as Alexander Toncourt and Helmut Hörtsch, who are still working today at the EHF on the Management Board of the office staff.

In his time in the service of the European Handball Federation, Tor Lian reflecteson the changes he has seen, especially to the sport itself, "Originally, handball was played outside, over time it became an indoor sport discipline. At the time of the EHF foundation there were a few strong national leagues; but today handball is so much more different – an attractive and engaging sport with high speed and many goals."

Now look where we are today... 🌟

**“ Handball is so much more different – an attractive and engaging sport with high speed and many goals.”**





# THE STRUCTURE

*Good governance over all 50 member federations and one associated federation requires an organisation that covers all interests of the European Handball Federation.*

**■ The EHF Executive Committee is the highest internal body within the EHF only answerable to the Congress. ■**

Over the past 20 years, the internal structure of the EHF has been amended multiple times: all changes to the administrative structure have led to improved management of the sport. Dedicated committees, boards and commissions ensure that handball continues to develop and improve on all levels whilst maintaining the integrity and reputation of the sport.

The EHF Executive Committee is the highest internal body within the EHF only answerable to the Congress. Comprised of 10 members, the President, Vice President, Treasurer, the Chairmen of the Competitions, Methods, Beach Handball Commissions, the Professional Handball Board and three additionally elected members; the body represents all stakeholders. The Executive Committee is the effective leadership of the EHF, overseeing all EHF affairs and empowered to take the most important decisions in European handball as they continue to represent the values of the European Handball Federation in collaboration with the member federations and other organisations.

The Professional Handball Board (PHB) was established at the 10<sup>th</sup> EHF Congress in Copenhagen in 2010 as a common strategic platform for the stakeholders of European men's elite handball. It consists of 12 members: two members from each stakeholder group. Forum Club Handball (FCH) represents the interests of the top European clubs; the Nations Board represents the European member federations; the European Professional Handball Leagues Association consists of the handball leagues from seven European countries and the European Handball Players Union represent the professional players – all of these groups have signed a Memorandum of Understanding – a cooperation agreement with the EHF. The remaining members of the PHB include two members of the EHF Executive Committee with voting rights and the EHF President and Secretary General complete the group.

The EHF Nations Board was created in response to the request of the national federations and is a transformation of the Men's National Team Committee, which was disbanded upon the ratification of the Nations Board at the 2008 Extraordinary Congress in Lillehammer. The six members representing the interests of National Federations and national teams consist of the chairman, their deputy and four members.

Following the creation of the European Handball Federation a commission overseeing technical matters was put in place. In 1994, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Congress in Antibes, France, the Technical Commission was fragmented into the Competitions Commission (CC) and the Methods Commission (MC). The Competitions Commission comprises of seven members and is responsible for the organisation and execution of all EHF competitions on a club and national level. The CC also has three sub-committees. The Technical Refereeing Committee led by Sandor Andorka handles refereeing matters, including courses, technical development in the refereeing area, educational activities and more. The Women's National Team Committee led by Karl-Arne Johannessen represents the EHF's vision to support the development of women's handball with specialisation to national team competitions. Finally, the Women's Club Committee led by Carmen Manchado represents the EHF's vision to support the development of women's handball with specialisation to club competitions.



The Methods Commission (MC) is the technical body for methodical matters. It oversees all technical initiatives, development concepts and educational aspects within and for the sport of handball. Consisting of Chairman Frantisek Taborsky and four elected representatives responsible for the main areas, methods and coaching, education and training, development and youth, school and non-competitive sport, the body meets on a quarterly basis. Recommendations of the Methods Commission, as well as the Competitions and Beach Handball Commissions, are presented to the Executive Committee for ratification.

At the 8<sup>th</sup> EHF Extraordinary Congress in 2007, the Congress ratified the creation of the Beach Handball Commission as of September 2008. Although beach handball in relation to the indoor version of the sport is very young; due to the rapid development of the competition, increased participation interest from the federations and the spike in popularity, it became necessary to introduce the Beach Handball Commission to deal specifically with this branch of the sport. Since the launch of the Commission, the Beach Handball European Championships have been introduced for the younger age categories. Chairman Laszlo Sinka, assisted by four additional elected members, is responsible for events and competitions, officiating, game design and coaching and development and promotion. Furthermore, the Technical Delegation consisting of the three Chairmen (Tuik, Taborsky and Sinka) also work in close cooperation with the EHF Competence Academy and Network (EHF CAN) led by Senior Manager Helmut Höritsch. The EHF CAN is responsible for handball education and development.

Supporting the internal structure of the European Handball Federation is a team of Senior Managers. To undertake the daily business from all areas (Operations, Strategic Business, Additional Activities, etc.), the organisation needed people who not only understood the game on a technical level, but who also knew and understood all areas of the sport. Thus, the EHF not only has specialists, additionally, there are generalists as well such as Senior Managers Doru Simion and Alexander Toncourt; a good example of EHF staff who can be placed in any area of the organisation and are capable of undertaking necessary actions.

Other panels within the EHF internal structures concern themselves with the propriety, rectitude and integrity of the sport. The EHF Comptrollers are a team of three persons elected by Congress to oversee the veracity of all financial transactions conducted by the EHF and EHF Marketing GmbH. The comptrollers perform an internal audit before a yearly external financial conduction takes place. The results of these financial examinations are presented at Congress and at the EHF Marketing General Assembly as required.

The EHF legal system is an intricate solution to protect the integrity of the sport. This is steered by the EHF Court of Handball (CoH), the EHF Court of Appeal (CoA) and the Court of Arbitration (ECA), as an external body. Following the 2010 EHF Congress in Denmark and the 2011 EHF Extraordinary Congress in Cologne, the EHF introduced a new internal legal system with new regulations in order to offer the entire handball family updated and efficient legal processes capable of answering the needs and upholding the values of EHF competitions. It was in Denmark that the name and competence of the existing Arbitration Tribunal was changed. The newly created body, the EHF Court of Handball decides on cases at first instance. It consists of eight people with the President Rui Coelho being assisted by two Vice Presidents and five members. At the same congress, a new second instance, the EHF Court of Appeal was created. The EHF Court of Appeal, chaired by Markus Plazer and administered by seven members, deals with cases from the CoH and the decisions that are appealed by the complainants. Finally, the EHF Court of Arbitration (ECA) is an external legal body, solving legal disputes independently and professionally. This three-headed steering group, the EHF Court of Arbitration Council, consists of President Jörgen Holmqvist and two Vice Presidents – who are supported by a pool of arbitrators all with professional legal backgrounds.

The EHF structure will continue to adapt as necessary to the needs of the primary stakeholders – the EHF member federations. 🌟

“The EHF structure will continue to adapt as necessary to the needs of our primary stakeholders.”





# HIGHEST STANDARDS FOR ALL COMPETITIONS

*The development of handball arenas has rapidly progressed over the past 20 years – in tandem with the EHF Arena Manual. The number of top quality handball arenas has increased across Europe.*

“The floor had to have an recognition factor for the TV viewers and had to offer optimal marketing potential.”

When the EHF started with European Cup competitions during the 1993/94 season and with the European Championships in 1994, there were no regulations or requirements for arenas – concerning the floor, the lines on the floor, the advertising boards or the spectator areas. It was all in the hands of the clubs and the nations. Many countries already had great halls; other playing halls however, were not of the best standard.

Over time, as some arenas began to cause concern, the EHF started to implement specific standards at EHF EURO events. To give the sport of handball a better look, the obvious first thing was to exchange the floors in order to give a better optical perception – a ‘clean’ floor in stronger colours with no lines except for the handball lines.

“The floor had to have an recognition factor for the TV viewers and had to offer optimal marketing potential. This is what we have achieved with the unique floors for the EHF EURO and the EHF Champions League matches,” explained Jan Tuik about the flooring, which has been developed in cooperation between the EHF and the market-leading French sport flooring experts Gerflor, and their special Taraflex flooring.

Tuik, as Chairman of the Competitions Commission, is ultimately responsible for all standards that are implemented at all EHF EUROs and other EHF competitions. In three e-Books, available online, there are over 100 pages with all parameters for hall and arena standards including defined processes, the luminous intensity in the arena, the number of electrical outlets and emergency exits, the size of changing rooms for teams and referees and the number of press working areas – everything is exactly defined. “The measures that the EHF define in the Arena Construction Manual are implemented today across Europe by architects planning multi-function arenas,” said Tuik.

Monika Flixeder and Sasha Martell, based in the EHF office in Vienna, are responsible for the correct execution and implementation of these standards at European Championships. All national federations have to concern themselves with these criteria if they wish to host a European Championships – whether senior or in the younger age category. Graded to the level of the event, all halls and arenas must fulfil the criteria.

A decisive standard for the EHF EURO is the spectator capacity within the halls and arenas: Preliminary Round in which the host nation team plays must be able to hold 5,000 spectators and a minimum of 3,000 spectators at the other venues. In the Main Round, the minimum figure is 5,000 seats with 8,000 at the venue where the host team plays. In the Final Round of the competition, at a women’s event an arena with a 12,000 seating capacity is the minimum requirement and at a men’s event, this figure rises to 15,000.



Europe-wide, more of these enormous multi-function arenas are being developed, which are always sold out during major handball events. A good example is the arena in Herning, Denmark where the final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2010 was played. Other excellent venue examples include the largest European event arenas in Cologne, the LANXESS arena (20,000 seats) where the VELUX EHF FINAL4 has been hosted, and in Belgrade, the Arena Belgrad (22,000 seats) where the final weekend of the Men's EHF EURO 2012 will be played.

However, not only for European Championships but also for European Cup competitions, new and larger halls are being built. In the last few years, new halls have been built in the hometowns of the big clubs, which regularly play in the EHF Champions League. This has, of course, also helped the respective leagues to develop.

A good example is the men's club MKB Veszprém of Hungary, which used to have a hall for 2,200 spectators. Since they opened a new hall for 5,000 fans, every single one of their EHF Champions League games has been sold out. The hall is similar to the arena in Celje, Slovenia, where 5,000 fans are able to attend the spectacular games of their club. Additionally, other highpoints include the new hall in Perols, the hometown of MAHB Montpellier in France, the arena in Chekhov, Russia, where VIP guests can enjoy the match under the finest ambience, and the arena in Kiel, where every match for many years has sold-out with 10,250 spectators.

At the same time society has also changed, and before the spectators just came to see a match, appearing shortly before throw-off and leaving after the final whistle, nowadays people come to the arenas not only for the matches, but also to be part of an event. Therefore, other areas of interest in the arenas are of importance. Many halls are not handball halls but multi-functional arenas, with the possibility to rearrange internal moveable structures into a suitable handball arena. These modern halls offer sport and entertainment more importantly a striking TV picture. In cooperation with the EHF's long-standing media and marketing partner, Infront Sports and Media AG, a TV transmission concept is being further developed. The arenas nowadays also cater to the needs of sponsors in terms of advertisement space as well as VIP lounges. The halls offer high-speed internet connection and state of the art media facilities.

"In the first 10 years since the foundation of the EHF, we were always concerned with whether the match could be somehow transmitted somewhere. After that we began to pay more attention to the standards in the chosen venues," said Jan Tuik on the development of the arenas.

Since the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> handball season, the teams of the EHF Women's Champions League now also play on the unique blue lagoon and black floors. Furthermore, the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne in 2011 was the first club handball event to be produced in HD using the spectacular 'spider-cam' that captured exceptionally clear images.

And as we look to the next 20 years, the development is bound to continue. 🌟

***“In the first 10 years since the foundation of the EHF, we were always concerned with whether the match could be somehow transmitted somewhere.”***







# FOR THE FUTURE OF HANDBALL

*The creation of the Professional Handball Board was an important development. The needs of the stakeholders demanded a solution that was suitable for all. In 2010, the PHB was created to the satisfaction of all stakeholders.*

**■ The turning point was the Extraordinary Congress during the final weekend of the Men's EHF EURO in Lillehammer. ■**

Lillehammer, Vienna, Limassol, Cologne and Copenhagen – sounds like a trip around Europe, but was, in fact, a successful journey lasting two years to install a body in which all stakeholders of European professional handball could sit at one table with equal rights and decision-making capabilities: this is the Professional Handball Board (PHB). The turning point was the Extraordinary Congress during the final weekend of the Men's EHF EURO in Lillehammer, Norway.

In Lillehammer, the decision-making bodies were created – men and women's Club Boards, men and women's Club Committees and the Nations Board. One of the first decisions resulting from this was to hold a 'Competitions Conference' in Vienna, to which all stakeholders were invited – players, coaches, clubs, leagues, National Federations as well as external experts such as physicians and marketing experts. At this time, Group Club Handball – an association of top clubs – had been active for two years and had launched legal proceedings against the IHF and EHF before the European Commission. At the heart of this was the sporting calendar and the releasing fees at major tournaments. With the decisions taken in Lillehammer, which gave the clubs greater involvement in the EHF bodies, as well as the fruitful discussions arising at the 'Competitions Commission', the first steps towards a successful convergence were taken. In each case, five representatives from men and women's clubs as well as the national federations formed the first committees; this was also valid for the two marketing boards.

The next step towards the Professional Handball Board was the EHF Congress in the autumn of 2008 in Vienna. Issues included compensation for players from the European Championships and the international competitions calendar. To bring resolution to the issue, a team of experts were called upon and they concerned themselves with the problems of complete competitive calendar in the sense of joining to find a common solution.

This working group as well as the bodies decided in Lillehammer were lastly the preliminary stage of the Professional Handball Board. The EHF Executive Committee had also worked intensively to prepare for this body and presented it to the participants at the EHF Congress at the end of October in Limassol, Cyprus – however, in the end, only a simple and not the two-thirds majority necessary for the creation of the a new EHF instance was registered.

Nevertheless, those responsible for the new board within the EHF did not give up. This led to many meetings taking place, mainly with Group Club Handball, which in the meanwhile had created Forum Club Handball (FCH) as a significantly enhanced agency in European handball founded with approximately 64 clubs. The EHF accepted the FCH as the official representative of the clubs and in February 2010 a 'Memorandum of Understanding' was prepared. This document regulated the future cooperation between the two organisations and presented the cornerstones of the Professional Handball Board. The MoU was signed on the final day of the inaugural VELUX EHF FINAL4 on 30 May 2010. The signatories included EHF President Tor Lian, Secretary General Michael Wiederer, FCH President Tomaz Jersic and FCH Vice President/GCH President Joan Marin. For the first time, the composition of the future Professional Handball Board was publicised: two representatives from each group – leagues, clubs, national federations, players and the EHF Executive composed the body, the yet to be elected President of the PHB would eventually sit on the EHF Executive Committee as a member.



Shortly after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the complaints against the EHF lodged at the European Commission were retracted by Group Club Handball and ASOBAL. Many demands of the parties were met, such as the releasing fees, insurance for national team players and especially the initiative for the common platform for the stakeholders.

On 24 September 2010 everything was set: with an overwhelming majority, the national federation delegates voted for the introduction of the Professional Handball Board at the EHF Congress in Copenhagen.

“This decision is a step towards more democracy,” said EHF Vice President Jean Brihault, who played an instrumental role in this process, “all parties were part of the decision-making process. The idea of the Professional Handball Board is to preserve the unity and the coherence of European Handball and to serve the interest of the various stakeholders to be involved in the opinion exchange and decision making process in order to optimise the future development of handball in Europe.”

On 24 November 2010, the PHB met for the first time and submitted their first proposal for the future. In February 2011, the next steps of the PHB were taken: foremost, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the European Professional Handball League Association (EHPLA). Following this, in May 2010, the clubs named Joan Marin (Spain) and Gerd Butzeck (Germany) as their representatives in the PHB; the EHPLA elected Rainer Witte (Germany) and Arne Josefsen (Denmark) to the body. In May 2011, the European Handball Players' Union (EHPU) followed suit and signed a Memorandum of Understanding. In the PHB, Marcus Rominger (Germany) and Marc-Olivier Albertini (France) represent the EHPU. Morten Stig Christensen (Denmark) and Philippe Bana (France) from the EHF Nations Board join Jean Brihault (France) and Jan Tuik (Netherlands) from the EHF Executive Committee representing the remaining groups. Furthermore, EHF President Tor Lian and EHF Secretary General Michael Wiederer, by position, are also members of the PHB.

On 9 March 2011, Joan Marin was elected to the seat of Chairman and thus became the 10<sup>th</sup> member of the EHF Executive Committee; Rainer Witte was elected Deputy Chairman. At this inaugural meeting of the PHB, the course for the future was set; numerous proposals of the PHB went to the Executive Committee for consideration and were later accepted, for instance, the introduction of additional rest days at the EHF EURO events, the merging of two European Cup competitions, a general insurance for national team players and much more besides. The remaining committees for women on club and national team levels continue to exist – however, it remains the desire of EHF Vice President Jean Brihault to introduce a Handball Board for Women ever since the Women's Competitions Conference took place in June 2010. Both the 2011 Conference of Presidents and the 2012 EHF Congress will deal with this matter. 🌟

**“ This decision is a step towards more democracy. The idea of the Professional Handball Board is to preserve the unity and the coherence of European Handball. ”**







# INTERNATIONAL AFFINITY

*Close cooperation with the world federation as IHF President praises the EHF for their support on all sport-political levels.*

**“Europe is the driving force behind handball, and the EHF engages itself in the further development of handball worldwide.”**

Describing the relationship between the world federation and the EHF, Dr. Hassan Moustafa, President of the International Handball Federation (IHF) said, “The EHF is healthy; therefore, the IHF is also doing well.” The Egyptian, who has been in office since 2000, describes the rapport between the two most important handball federations. “For the International Handball Federation, the EHF is an absolutely reliable partner in every way. Europe is the driving force behind handball, and the EHF engages itself in the further development of handball worldwide, in other continents as well.”

EHF President Tor Lian also stresses time and again the cooperation with the world federation, as well as the good contact that the EHF maintains in relation to the rest of the continental federations. “We gladly come to the help of other continents; together with the IHF we support a number of national federations. One example of a joint project with the IHF is the shared support of the Great Britain team in view of their preparations for the 2012 Olympics. In general, the EHF is ready and willing when it comes to supporting measures in other continental federations,” says Lian.

There is an exchange of information at least once a week among the Presidents. “The management personnel of the IHF and the EHF sit in many committees together, and we are always in line with what the assessments of the topics are. For example, recently, the new Calendar Schedule Commission of the IHF met, and of course the prominent representatives of the EHF were sitting at the table, and we came to many positive results, which will be presented in the future. The EHF and the IHF have the same opinion concerning the insurance of the national players, and that is also valid for the compensation payments for the federations from major events. If there were differing views, we sat together and discussed. We meet very frequently for consultations, this last time in August,” the IHF President said.

From the IHF’s point of view, the worldwide advancement of handball cannot function without the assistance of the Europeans. “There are not only the best handball teams in Europe, but the best handball experts at every level. We as the IHF are glad that we can fall back on this know-how,” Moustafa underlines.

In addition, amongst the most important committees of the world federation there are a number of Europeans in key positions. The EHF President Tor Lian and the EHF Vice President Jean Brihault are both members of the IHF Council in addition to the following IHF Executive Members: Miguel Roca Mas from Spain (1st IHF Vice President), IHF Treasurer Sandi Sola (Croatia) and IHF General Secretary Joel Delplanque (France). Other European IHF council members are Manfred Prause from Germany (Arbitrator and Court Commission), as well as Slovenian Leon Kalin (Event and Competition Commission) serving as respective commission Presidents.

Moustafa not only congratulates Tor Lian but all of the Executive as well as the National Federations on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EHF. Looking forward to a continuation of the past relations, the IHF President said, “I wish the EHF positive development just as in the past 20 years and look forward to an ever more intensive continuation of partnership at every level.” 🌟



31 January 2010: After a victory over Croatia, attack genius Nikola Karabatic and his central defence blocker Didier Dinart celebrate the French national team's second European Championship title at the EHF EURO 2010 in Vienna.







# HOME IS WHERE HANDBALL IS

*Although the City of Vienna will be forever synonymous with European handball, the European Handball Federation, belongs to Europe and its member federations.*

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**┌ The EHF office opened up on 1 September 1992 in a rented office next to the hotel with just two people in an office each. ┐**



**I**t was decided that the European Handball Federation was to be created, but where should it be located? This was the decision facing the Executive Committee on 17 November 1991 at the EHF Congress. Berlin, Zurich, Lisbon, Bratislava and Vienna, among other cities, were all in the race to be the headquarters of the new EHF. All locations offered something different and it was already decided that when the location was chosen, a manager would be placed in situ from the very first day.

Michael Wiederer, then General Secretary for the Austrian Handball Federation, applied for the new role of Secretary General at the European Handball Federation, but the decision on who would head the new organisation was delayed eventually to be decided in tandem with its location at the EHF Congress in June 1992.

The EHF Executive Committee under the presidency of Staffan Holmqvist and supported by Karl Güntzel, former Treasurer, in an administrative capacity decided in March 1992 to propose Vienna to the June 1992 Congress because of favourable conditions and positive signals from other institutions of the benefits that Vienna brought to the business and its employees.

Both the Austrian Government and the local Viennese Government provided financial contributions for three years through their sporting streams and this, alongside the application from Wiederer, ensured that the EHF Executive Committee was confident that the new organisation would have a person managing it who knew the business and could be a driving force.

Further to this, geographically, Austria was in the middle of Europe with good opportunities for many nations to visit at a low cost and with easy travel for many countries such as those from the Balkan region, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary and Germany. These journeys could be completed by car allowing representatives from both clubs and federations the opportunity to attend draws, events and lectures and to be an active part of the European Handball Family.

So where to start in Vienna? A site was chosen due to proximity to a hotel, roads and city centre and airport links – the Austria Trend Hotel Bosei at Gutheil Schoder Gasse in the 10th district in southern Vienna complete with golf course and sports hall.

The EHF office opened up on 1 September 1992 in a rented office next to the hotel with just two people in an office each. A rather big space initially, within a short period it became apparent that this was not big enough so a third and then fourth room were rented but it was clear the EHF had outgrown its surroundings.

A year and a half later the EHF moved within the area to a traditional Japanese Tea House owned by the hotel (Bosei is a term for 'Motherhood' in Japanese), a traditional symbol to have in the grounds of Japanese buildings.

With two floors, the traditional teahouse had many entrances and many doors where the EHF worked with five, six and eventually seven people. Having so many access points caused much fun and games for the staff due to people having so many possibilities of entering the house so many would arrive through the wrong entrance including on one occasion a delivery driver hoping to deposit 5-6 tonnes of red sand for the nearby tennis courts. The EHF office was like a telephone exchange and, again, it had outgrown its environs and it became time to move on again.

In 1996 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress in Greece, it was confirmed by the Executive Committee that the EHF should buy a piece of land and build their own headquarters with the precondition of not moving too far away from their current location due to the hotel proximity and transport links.

After many sites in Vienna and locations had been rejected due to logistical inconsistencies, a piece of land was identified. With a good cooperation with the Gartenhotel Altmannsdorf already in place, the plot with the address Hoffnnergasse 18 in the 12<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna was chosen and acquired. The new location also matched prerequisites set by the EHF Executive as it was only 2km away from the original office at the Hotel Bosei. Construction began in 1997.

The building of the new EHF headquarters was under the total control of the staff members who would be working there. Plans presented to the Executive Committee included good working conditions, with lots of light and an open feel with mezzanines rather than full traditional floors to make communication and contact easy. The Secretary General office would even have a handball shaped window over the meeting area after the architect proposed a symbol of the sport should be incorporated into the design.

Meetings took place with authorities and local residents during the construction and the new building eventually opened in May 1998 to house nine staff with a celebratory housewarming party including invited member federations attending soon after.

However, the office needed to expand twice over the following years, with large-scale enlargement that was initially protested at by local residents objecting to potential sunlight infringement, but this was quickly smoothed over as the Secretary General, a local resident himself, ensured that all queries and concerns were engaged and rectified in his role as the EHF representative on the project.

The staff increases and subsequent office expansion over the past 20 years are clear signs of the progress that European handball has made as the EHF Congress and EHF Executive Committee give the EHF more tasks such as new competitions, development projects, methods and everything else in between.

These new tasks naturally resulted in new people being needed as the EHF required even more human resources to complete its mandates.

From not even owning a sheet of paper in 1991, there are now almost 50 permanent office staff including former national team players and Olympians with employees coming from a host of different countries to be part of the European handball movement. The staff who deal with the issues of transfers, competitions, development, events and marketing as well as the EHF's other business, hail from England, Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Turkey, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Slovakia, Hungary, Cyprus, Serbia, Italy and Lithuania.

The EHF headquarters is an exciting melting pot of languages, mentalities and cultures. This was a set goal of the organisation from the very beginning. It was clear, that due to the nature of the business that the EHF would not be able to exist with only a home-grown team. It is integral to bring in people from different countries in order to understand what is happening there and to use their language and cultural skills for the betterment of handball across Europe.

Alongside the permanent staff across the EHF and the daughter company EHF Marketing, the federation has approximately 600 service providers in terms of officials including delegates and referees, lecturers, regional journalists, etc. – all of whom will have visited the headquarters at some point. To balance and successfully manage a broad network of internal contacts has been one of the major driving forces for the rapid development that has been experienced over the past 20 years.

The heart of European handball is at the heart of Europe, but in truth, the EHF has a home within the borders of each Member Federation and we take this opportunity to thank each and every national federation who has hosted an EHF event be it competitive or administrative; from workshops to seminars, draws to meetings to working groups and congresses, or even club and national team competitions; we know we are home, because that is where handball is! 🌟







# EHF GRASSROOTS

*From Albania to the Ukraine, the National Federations are vital to the promotion of handball in Europe. The success of the European Handball Federation can be attributed to the hard work of the National Federations.*

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**“ Every time our federation has an issue or needs advice the EHF is always there and immediately helps to solve it. ”**



**I**t is always fascinating to go back through the development of an international organisation, especially when memories of the pioneering phases begin to fade along with all the initial enthusiasm and the excitement that accompany the creation of a new body. The EHF serves as a handball family for 50 member federations plus one associated federation. Here are a few of the voices.

Morten Stig Christensen is the Secretary General of the Danish Handball Federation and was a key player for the Danish national team led by the legendary Lief Mikkelsen. Under the leadership of Mikkelsen, Christensen was part of three Olympic Games finals. By the end of his professional playing career, he had made 190 national team appearances. When asked about his relationship to the European Handball Federation he said, “The EHF is acting as an umbrella organisation for all the national federations in Europe. The events they organise are all at a very high level, and at the same time the EHF supports the development of handball in the smaller nations. We can be proud of the EHF.” He continued, “Every time our federation has an issue or needs advice the EHF is always there and immediately helps to solve it. Their good governance is very important for big and small nations.”

Gerhard Hofbauer has held the reins of the Austrian Handball Federation since 1996. In his role as the President of the federation, he masterminded the successful bid to bring the men’s EHF EURO to Austria in 2010. This gargantuan event yielded 1.3 billion TV viewers and over 1,200 accredited media representatives, the largest number at any handball event to date. He said, “The EHF is a fine organisation, based in the heart of Europe, which is very handy for us as our way to the EHF is a relatively short one. Our relation is very close as we were involved from the very beginning when the EHF was founded and with the establishment of the seat in Vienna. This does not mean we are treated any differently than any other federations.”

Elected in 1998 as the President of the German Handball Federation, Ulrich Strombach has played a key role in the development of handball in Germany since the 1970’s. Moreover, Strombach is a champion for sporting integrity as attested by his position as a member in the International Council of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne. Looking back on the events of the past years he said, “Modern EHF events impress with their dimension. Their great presentation of handball to the outside world is a major success. This relates to both club and national team level. Our federation – as all other European National Federations - has benefited from the highly professional handling of handball since the foundation of the EHF.”

The President of the Spanish Handball Federation, Juan de Dios Roman Seco, who has been involved in handball for over five decades on a club and national team level said, “For Spain as a very strong handball nation, the cooperation has been enormous. On a club level we have been involved in the EHF Champions League almost every season. We are also part of the Foster Project working together with Italy. Furthermore Spain is part of the Rinck Convention. The development of the EHF in these 20 years has been tremendous. How the tournaments and events have become bigger and bigger is fantastic, Spain has got to learn from huge events such as the FINAL4.”

Bozidar Djurkovic, the Secretary General of the Serbian Handball Federation, has one of the best seats in the house for the upcoming EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia. For years, he has tirelessly campaigned to bring top handball competitions to Serbia and after hosting two younger age category competitions, at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Congress in Vienna, Austria - it was third time lucky! He said, "Handball is very traditional in our country and the whole surrounding region. Already in schools, kids start playing it. The EHF recognises the tradition and supports it. We are now also part of the SMART programme for mini-handball. We are pleased that the EHF has a lot of understanding for the Serbian Handball Federation and for our issues. Now we have been asked three times to organise European Handball Championships, with the biggest one – the Men's EHF EURO 2012 – coming up in January."

The European Handball Federation understands that there remains a gap between the larger and smaller national federations and is aware of the needs of the federations. This is reflected in the internal structure and tasks given to the various boards. Arsene Welter, Secretary General of the Luxembourg Handball Federation and leaders from other smaller nations are recipients of EHF development support projects. Welter said, "Every nation chips in, even though the Luxembourg Handball Federation cannot be compared to our neighbouring federations in Germany and France. We have a very amicable relation to the EHF. Despite being a smaller federation we have also organised handball events like the 2001 Younger Age Category European Championship and the 2008 Challenge Trophy. The rapid development of the EHF in terms of professionalism and size is impressive – it stands for the whole sport of handball. We know that for us as one of the smaller nations it is not realistic to demand participation at major events. Still we want a piece of the cake – for instance matches against top nations."

Continuous development and support are essential. Anrijs Brencans, Vice President of the Latvian Handball Federation works in very close cooperation with the EHF in this area. Looking towards his own federation he summarises, "We received EHF support from the very beginning and have had a great cooperation level ever since. As a member of the Nations Board, I can give the EHF input on the handball scene in smaller countries. For us the main focus is to develop local handball where it already takes place. With the help of the EHF, we provide infrastructure, support lectures for coaches and supply equipment. We also want to develop our website to make it very modern. By that we want to reach young people to play handball – as the look of a website is an important factor to them."

Philippe Bana is the Technical Director of the French Handball Federation. His relationship with the EHF dates back to the early years of the EHF. Looking back on the past 20 years he said, "We see the EHF as a French tradition. Claude Rinck was instrumental in making handball, as a business, an important issue for us. We have always had French representatives at the EHF who have been bringing back great European values to our national federation, which has helped to make steps forward in the last 20 years. We have always felt 'heard', as the EHF is very open to talking to the federations. Despite our successful teams in European competitions, from a French perspective, the Rinck Convention is the highlight of our cooperation."

The national handball federations, along with their players and their clubs are at the heart of European handball. It is clear that the EHF could not have enjoyed 20 years of success without the diversity of the cultures and the proffered experience emanating from these handball schools. The member federations are integral pieces of the EHF mosaic. 🌟

**“ The rapid development of the EHF in terms of professionalism and size is impressive – it stands for the whole sport of handball. ”**





# FROM FIVE TO 149

*Manfred Prause and Sándor Andorka share their memories of the development of refereeing in the European Handball Federation.*

**“Our goal is to select the best referees for the EHF team as early as possible.”**



As the European Handball Federation was founded in 1991 and later as the first competitions were held, naturally there was a need for referees. The current IHF Chief of Referees, Manfred Prause from Germany, was in 1991 the first person responsible for the EHF referees. He remembers, “The first official event of the EHF was the 1992 Youth European Championships in Switzerland. We did not have our own referees there, we had to access and utilise the referee pool of the International Handball Federation. We selected the five best young couples available and we drew the lucky straw: four of the referee couples chosen were later refereeing the matches of the men’s and women’s EHF EUROs. Two pairs – Garcia/Moreno from France and Hansson/Olsson from Sweden are now part of the elite IHF referee group and have officiated at World Championships and finals of the Olympic Games.”

Today, the EHF has a referee pool of 149 couples from 40 countries among them 40 female pairs and 71 from the Young Referees Programme (YRP). This big number is also necessary, because from the side of the EHF, there are around 1400 matches per year from the European Cup to the Champions League, European Championships and the qualifications, the Younger Age Categories and much more.

Since 2002, the Hungarian Sándor Andorka as member of the EHF Competitions Commission, has been responsible for the referees and their nominations and training. In 2008, the Technical Refereeing Committee was formed and is led by Andorka. The Committees’ priority was to deal with strategic questions as well as education and training, the Young Referees Programme in addition to the rules. Above all, the programme for the new generation, led by Dane Henrik La Cour Laursen EHF delegate and former referee, is a resounding success. At the end of the 1990s, the programme began based on the French model, and today there are five to six events a year attended by up to 50 referees from across Europe.

“We cooperate very closely with the National Federations in order to enable an optimal developments,” said Andorka, “our goal is to select the best referees for the EHF team as early as possible. At this point, we concern ourselves more with the development of the personality of the referees on the court, than with the theory. These young referees then receive their first international trials at the Partille Cup or the European Open in Gothenburg for example. Many referees that began in this programme are today top referees with the EHF and IHF respectively such as the French referee couple Lazaar/Reverret who led the final of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2011 or the Danes Gjeding/Hansen who officiated the 2009 World Championship and the Women’s EHF EURO 2010 Final.”

The next step is then the integration of the new generation of referees in the worldwide ‘Global Referee Training Programme’ of the IHF, both programmes work in close cooperation and it gives central uniform criteria to the development of young referees. For Prause it is important that the Technical Referee Committee makes officiating more attractive to young people. “Compared to former times, the way from player to referee to delegate has become more seldom. Altogether, there must be more specialised educational competence of the educators.”



The EHF is now implementing the expertise of coaches, psychologists, sport medicine professionals and results from technical analyses at many of the referee seminars and courses, for example, at the EHF EURO 2012 referee preparation course. These steps were taken earlier by the European basketball federation – FIBA Europe. Andorka says, “It is like a puzzle with many small individual pieces. The referees are well educated by their national federation, but we have noticed that there are some limitations in terms of personal development. Therefore, we have placed particular focus on self-confidence and communication with the coaches and players. It was a very professional workshop, which was also scientifically well founded.”

In addition to the Young Referees Programme, the EHF has dedicated itself to a women’s programme for many years with the objective being to have as many female referees and delegates as possible at EHF competitive events. The latest course for female referees was during the 2011 YAC Women’s 19 European Championship in the Netherlands. During the Women’s EHF EURO 2012 also in the Netherlands, many female officiators are to be utilised. The education and training for delegates covers a broad spectrum, especially where cooperation with the referees are concerned, but also the evaluation of referee performance. For example in 2009 in the knock-out rounds of the VELUX EHF Champions League, a second delegate was nominated who was solely responsible for referee support.

Looking back at their time as referees, delegates and referee responsible, Prause and Andorka have experienced much – especially Prause, who has a trove of experiences. Both worked not only with the nominations of referees, the coordination of the nomination of European referees for IHF events, but also as technical match delegates in many ‘hot’ matches on the level of national and club teams. In particular, the big championships with their tense atmosphere such as those at the EHF EUROs or European Cup matches.

Prause and Andorka have also many stories to tell. Prause remembers the finals he has officiated at in particular. “I was a delegate at six Champions League finals,” he says “a particular memory was a women’s semi-final in Skopje, FYR Macedonia. I ordered a smoking ban in the hall, which at that time caused a huge outcry. Before the match the police confiscated all cigarettes and lighters from the fans. Nobody smoked in the hall during the match and the smoking ban is still in place in that hall.”

On a daily basis, for approximately four hours, hotelier Andorka looks after his EHF responsibilities as EHF Chief of Referees, “To be able to do this job is a great honour for me, I gladly bear this responsibility and would be happy to continue this job right up to the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of the EHF!” 🌟





# CLUB COMPETITIONS RESULTS

All the winners from the European Handball Federation's club competitions from the first season in 1994 to the 18<sup>th</sup> season in 2011.

The first European Cup season was played over nine months from September 1993 to May 1994. Since then, the competitions for men and women have grown from strength to strength. The development of the teams and their tenacity and determination to win and prove supremacy can be seen in the competitions, especially the Champions League. In the men's competitions, the strongest club teams have come from Spain and Germany. In the women's competitions, the teams are more balanced with the majority of winners coming from Denmark, Austria, Norway and Romania. Here we present the winners of the past 18 seasons.

Men's Cup Winners' Cup		
2011	VfL Gummersbach	GER
2010	VfL Gummersbach	GER
2009	Pevafersa Valladolid	ESP
2008	MKB Veszprém KC	HUN
2007	HSV Hamburg	GER
2006	Chehovski Medvedi, Chekhov	RUS
2005	C. BM. Ademar Leon	ESP
2004	Portland San Antonio	ESP
2003	A.D.C. Ciudad Real	ESP
2002	A.D.C. Ciudad Real	ESP
2001	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	GER
2000	Portland San Antonio	ESP
1999	Prosesa Ademar Leon	ESP
1998	Caja Cantabria Santander	ESP
1997	Elgorriaga Bidasoa	ESP
1996	TBV Lemgo	GER
1995	FC Barcelona	ESP
1994	FC Barcelona	ESP

Women's Cup Winners' Cup		
2011	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria	HUN
2010	Buducnost T-Mobile	MNE
2009	FCK Handbold A/S	DEN
2008	Larvik HK	NOR
2007	C.S. Oltchim RM Valcea	ROM
2006	ZRK Buducnost MONET	SCG
2005	Larvik HK	NOR
2004	Ikast Bording EH	DEN
2003	E.S.B.F Besancon	FRA
2002	HC 'Lada Toljatti'	RUS
2001	Motor Zaporoshje	UKR
2000	L'Eliana Valencia	ESP
1999	Baekkelagets Oslo	NOR
1998	Baekkelagets Oslo	NOR
1997	Istochchnik Rostov	GER
1996	Giessen Lützellinden	GER
1995	Dunaferr SE	HUN
1994	Tus Walle Bremen	GER

Men's Challenge Cup (former City Cup – Season 1 – 7)		
2011	RK Cimos Koper	SLO
2010	Sporting Clube de Portugal	POR
2009	UCM Sport Resita	ROM
2008	UCM Sport Resita	ROM
2007	C.S. UCM Resita	ROM
2006	Steaua Bucuresti	ROM
2005	Wacker Thun	SUI
2004	IFK Skövde HK	SWE
2003	Skjern Handball	DEN
2002	Skjern Handball	DEN
2001	RK Jugovic Kav	YUG
2000	TW Grosswallstadt	GER
1999	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	GER
1998	TuS Nettelstedt	GER
1997	TuS Nettelstedt	GER
1996	Drammen HK	NOR
1995	TV Niederwürzbach	GER
1994	TUSEM Essen	GER

Women's Challenge Cup (former City Cup – Season 1 – 7)		
2011	Mios Biganos	FRA
2010	Buxtehuder Sportverein	GER
2009	Handball Cercle Nimes	FRA
2008	VfL Oldenburg	GER
2007	HC 'Naisa' Nis	SRB
2006	C.S. Rulmentul Brasov	ROM
2005	TSV bayer 04 Leverkusen	GER
2004	1. FC Nürnberg	GER
2003	Borussia Dortmund	GER
2002	Non Profit S.A. Uni.	ROM
2001	Handball Cercle Nimes	FRA
2000	Rapid Bucuresti	ROM
1999	Napredak Krusevac	YUG
1998	Ikast F.S.	DEN
1997	Frankfurter Handball Club	GER
1996	AS Silcotub Zalau	ROM
1995	Rotor Volgograd	RUS
1994	Buxtehuder SV	GER



## Men's EHF Cup

2011	Frisch Auf Göppingen	GER
2010	TBV Lemgo	GER
2009	VfL Gummersbach	GER
2008	HSG Nordhorn	GER
2007	SC Magdeburg	GER
2006	TBV Lemgo	GER
2005	Tusem Essen	GER
2004	THW Kiel	GER
2003	FC Barcelona	ESP
2002	THW Kiel	GER
2001	Sportclub Magdeburg	GER
2000	Metkovic Jambo	CRO
1999	Sportclub Magdeburg	GER
1998	THW Kiel	GER
1997	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	GER
1996	BM Granollers	ESP
1995	BM Granollers	ESP
1994	Aliza Avidesa	ESP

## Women's EHF Cup

2011	FC Midtjylland Handball	DEN
2010	Rander HK A/S	DEN
2009	Handball Cercle Nimes	FRA
2008	HC Dinamo Volgograd	RUS
2007	SC Zvezda Zvenigorod	RUS
2006	FTC Budapest	HUN
2005	Cornexi Alcoa	HUN
2004	Viborg HK A/S	DEN
2003	Slagelse FH	DEN
2002	Ikast Bording EH	DEN
2001	Montex Lublin	POL
2000	Metkovic Jambo	CRO
1999	Sportclub Magdeburg	GER
1998	THW Kiel	GER
1997	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	GER
1996	BM Granollers	ESP
1995	BM Granollers	ESP
1994	Aliza Avidesa	ESP



## EHF Men's Champions League

2009	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2008	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2007	THW Kiel	GER
2006	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2005	FC Barcelona-Cifec	ESP
2004	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	SLO
2003	Montpellier HB	FRA
2002	SC Magdeburg	GER
2001	Portland San Antonio	ESP
2000	FC Barcelona	ESP
1999	FC Barcelona	ESP
1998	FC Barcelona	ESP
1997	FC Barcelona	ESP
1996	FC Barcelona	ESP
1995	Elgorriaga Bidasoa	ESP
1994	TEKA Santander	ESP

## VELUX EHF Champions League

2011	FC Barcelona Borges	ESP
2010	THW Kiel	GER

## EHF Women's Champions League

2011	Larvik	NOR
2010	Viborg HK A/C	DEN
2009	Viborg HK A/C	DEN
2008	Zvezda Zvenigorod	RUS
2007	Slagelse DT	DEN
2006	Viborg HK A/S	DEN
2005	Slagelse FH	DEN
2004	Slagelse FH	DEN
2003	Krim ETA Kotex Ljubljana	SLO
2002	Kometal D.P. Skopje	MKD
2001	RK Krim Neutro Roberts	SLO
2000	Hypo Niederösterreich	AUT
1999	Dunafer SE	HUN
1998	Hypo Niederösterreich	AUT
1997	Mar El Osito L'Eliana Valencia	ESP
1996	Podravka Koprivnica	CRO
1995	Hypo Niederösterreich	AUT
1994	Hypo Niederösterreich	AUT





# NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITION RESULTS

*The players have given the handball world not only blood, sweat and tears, but above all, these athletes have allowed us to share their passion for handball, which can be seen in each generation.*



The first national team competitions to be played in 1992 were the men’s and women’s Youth European Championships. This was swiftly followed by the first European Championships for men and women in 1994. Over the past 20 years, national team events have been hosted by 37 member federations. The national teams of Sweden, Denmark and Norway have had the most notable success. Here we present an overview of national team winners:

Men’s European Handball Championship		
	Venue	Winner
2010	Austria	France
2008	Norway	Denmark
2006	Switzerland	France
2004	Slovenia	Germany
2002	Sweden	Sweden
2000	Croatia	Sweden
1998	Italy	Sweden
1996	Spain	Russia
1994	Portugal	Sweden

Women’s European Handball Championship		
	Venue	Winner
2010	Denmark/Norway	Norway
2008	FYR Macedonia	Norway
2006	Sweden	Norway
2004	Hungary	Norway
2002	Denmark	Denmark
2000	Romania	Hungary
1998	Netherlands	Norway
1996	Denmark	Denmark
1994	Germany	Denmark

Men’s 20 European Handball Championship		
*Men’s Junior European Championship 1996 - 2002		
	Venue	Winner
2010	Slovakia	Denmark
2008	Romania	Denmark
2006	Austria	Germany
2004	Latvia	Germany
2002	Poland	Poland
2000	Greece	Yugoslavia
1998	Austria	Denmark
1996	Romania	Denmark

Women’s 19 European Handball Championship		
*Women’s Junior European Championship 1996 - 2002		
	Venue	Winner
2011	Netherlands	Denmark
2009	Hungary	Norway
2007	Turkey	Denmark
2004	Czech Republic	Russia
2002	Finland	Russia
2000	France	Romania
1998	Slovakia	Romania
1996	Poland	Denmark



### Men's 18 European Handball Championship

\*Men's Youth European  
Championship 1992 - 2003

	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Winner</i>
2010	Austria	Croatia
2008	Czech Republic	Germany
2006	Estonia	Croatia
2004	Serbia & Monten.	Serbia & Monten.
2003	Slovakia	Iceland
2001	Luxembourg	Russia
1999	Portugal	Hungary
1997	Estonia	Sweden
1994	Israel	Spain
1992	Switzerland	Portugal

### Women's 17 European Championship

\*Women's Youth European  
Championship 1992 - 2003

	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Winner</i>
2011	Czech Republic	Russia
2009	Serbia	Denmark
2007	Slovakia	France
2005	Austria	Denmark
2003	Russia	Russia
2001	Turkey	Russia
1999	Germany	Romania
1997	Austria	Spain
1994	Lithuania	Ukraine
1992	Hungary	Norway

### Men's 19 European Open Championship

	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Winner</i>
2011	Sweden	Sweden
2009	Sweden	Slovenia
2007	Sweden	Sweden
2005	Sweden	Germany

### Women's 19 European Open Championship

	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Winner</i>
2010	Sweden	Denmark
2008	Sweden	Norway
2006	Sweden	Denmark

### IHF/EHF Men's Challenge Trophy

\* Men's Challenge Trophy 1999 - 2007

	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Winner</i>
2009	Malta / Moldova	Finland
2007	Luxem./Georgia	Georgia
2005	Ireland	Moldova
2003	Malta	Moldova
2001	Latvia	Latvia
1999	Cyprus	Cyprus

### IHF/EHF Women's Challenge Trophy

\* Women's Challenge Trophy 2000 - 2007

	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Winner</i>
2010	Israel / Estonia	Finland
2008	Cyprus	Finland
2006	Bosnia Herzeg.	Bosnia Herzeg.
2004	Italy	Italy
2002	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
2000	Belgium	Bosnia Herzeg.



# FROM WINDOWS 3.1 TO WINDOWS 7

*Over the past twenty years, there have been many changes made to handball on all levels. Nevertheless, behind the scenes, technological advancements continue to play a large role in the development of the sport.*

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**“ The EHF invited member federations to the office situated at the Hotel Bosei Vienna for a seminar where they were taught how to use the computers and modems. ”**



To set the scene, the European Handball Federation was still very young and in some areas, the organisation was still finding its feet. At this time, the second European Cup season was about to begin and the organisation of national team competitions was increasing. However, behind the scenes, something else was happening; the EHF was throwing itself into technological developments. It was a chance meeting in 1993 at a technology trade fair in Vienna that Pia Pedersen, then PA to EHF Secretary General Wiederer, met Wolfgang Dittrich and Manfred Kirisits, founders and directors of EOS Data Systems GmbH – a local systems development company in the city; this was the start of a business relationship that continues today.

On an EHF internal level, it was at one of the early Congresses that, due to the need to communicate and share information on a broader basis, it was decided to implement the ‘EHF Info System’. This project was to connect the National Federations to the EHF by means of a modem, so that the data flowing between the organisations was appropriately maintained and utilised. When the ‘EHF Info Systems’ project rolled out in Autumn 1994, the EHF invited member federations to the office situated at the Hotel Bosei Vienna for a seminar where they were taught how to use the computers and modems, and also instructed how to input and maintain the data resulting from matches, for instance. The Member Federations in attendance were presented with their first computers courtesy of the EHF.

On this occasion, although all EHF Member Federations of the time were invited to participate, due to transit visa issues, not all were able to attend. Thus, less than a year later in 1995, the second EHF Info System seminar was held in Sofia, Bulgaria. The EHF team of staff entered Bulgaria with thirty-two pieces of extra baggage. As the team was collected at the airport by Mr. Spasov, former Secretary General of the Bulgarian Handball Federation, they realised they were missing a motherboard. Luckily, this was delivered to the event location the next day!

The ‘EHF Info System’ project was the foundation upon which decades of technological development has been built. In close cooperation and many brainstorming sessions between EOS and Assistant Secretary General Alexander Toncourt in the formative years and IT Manager Christoph Gamper from 2001, the cornerstones of the EHF IT system were created. The original cornerstones included MAILING – for individual and specialist distribution actions and the PLAYER Database – for handling all player and transfer information. This was quickly joined by the EHF HQ, which assisted basic data handling, match administration, reporting and data exchange and most recently the EHF FAMILY PORTAL directly linked to HQ.

Getting the EHF technological platforms to where they are today included some smaller hits and misses. Alexander Toncourt reminisces, “It was all about learning by doing; we were intensively exchanging knowledge. EOS had, and did, learn about the sport of handball and its organisation, just as I had to learn about technology – and I learned fast! When it came time to implement the tools we had developed together, I remember weeks and weeks of testing systems.”

For the EHF employees today, it is inconceivable to work without these tools; in every area of the business, they have become indispensable.



However, not everything was possible at a click of a button. Right up until 2001, whilst plans were being developed and projects were being implemented, the EHF was still sending the news and nominations by fax machine and Telex ('teleprinters' used like a phone network to send text-like messages). This was not always an easy task; if the fax did not transmit correctly, EHF staff members had to stay in the office until the fax finally went through. In addition, failed transmissions did not only keep the staff awake, just ask the former handball journalist Alice Kaufmanns. Alexander Toncourt fills us in, "I remember Alice contacting me and begging me to find another solution to the fax distribution. This was because her fax machine was linked to her telephone line and if we were sending the news or nominations, she would wake in the middle of the night to her phone ringing off the hook...unfortunately this happened more than once! Nevertheless, based on the swift development of technical solutions; all of this information is now distributed by email or online."

From information delivery by fax to the e-News, draws carried out with the aid of a pin board to immediate results via the live-ticker; internal EHF processes continue to progress. Under the expert tutelage of Markus Glaser, Christoph spent half his time in the competitions department and the other half was spent developing systems with Toncourt. It was his very first project, creating the new seeding and ranking system for the EHF European Cup, a dual project between both departments, which secured his permanent move to the IT department. Today, Gamper is the Senior IT Manager with a team of three staff. Currently located in the renovated basement of the office in Hoffingergasse, Gamper and his team work around the clock (if necessary). When asked why, Gamper explained: "Securing the optimal functionality of the internal working processes of the EHF is the ultimate goal of the IT department. In order to do this, we have nurtured our relationship with EOS Data Systems GmbH, because it is of the utmost importance to have reliable and trustworthy partners that cooperate with us on a long-term basis. Working with technological processes is not the same as working on an event; at some point the event ends and in IT we have to maintain the systems long after the implementation."

Toncourt continued, "Despite the growth of the EHF in the past 20 years and the developments that have come over time, the EHF has managed to keep up with the times due to a data structure that was implemented in 1993. We have built and expanded on this original structure and it still holds today. This structure is exceptionally secure; we have never experienced a loss of data regardless of the operating system running at the time. We have evolved. We started out with Windows OS 3.1 now we are about to rollout Windows 7. We have been very lucky, every time prior to changing operating systems, we have had to carefully investigate the effects on other internal systems, we've had to check and secure existing data – and our initial structure has proven time and again resilient allowing us to keep up with modern technologies quite easily."

"Everything that we have done was with a view to efficiency. For instance, in cooperation with our partners, we have developed the electronic match report. The data transmitted generates live statistics to feed into online systems for media, fans and also for analytical tools used in feedback sessions. This leads to a faster flow of information and will reduce the work force needed on a competition intense weekend where up to a 100 matches are played. We are now in the final phases of integration and heading towards the distribution process. Clubs, National Federations and delegates will be trained via an online platform, which means they do not even have to leave their offices to learn how to use this new tool! Nevertheless, in the first phase of implementation, we will also have to ensure that the users have continual support via telephone or online help desks," said Gamper.

Summarising the role of the IT department, Gamper said, "It is a never-ending cycle of analysing processes, optimisation, implementation of tools and saving resources. The number of EHF employees has grown from two in 1992 to approximately 50 in 2011 (including EHF Marketing) – this means the number of ideas flowing into my department has increased. It is our job to analyse and validate these ideas. We then have to implement the ideas with the view to optimising and expanding existing systems thus increasing efficiency and performance...and I love it!" 🌟

***“ We have built and expanded on this original structure and it still holds today. ”***





# EHF MARKETING GMBH

*To professionally market European club competitions, by securing and developing the product's identity while keeping the passion and spirit of the game intact.*

**“ As we grow, we are able to push the VELUX EHF Champions League to new heights. ”**

The year 2005 marked a significant change in the marketing of the various European handball products. A series of happenings led to the decision being made by the European Handball Federation to create a subsidiary. Since its foundation, the performance of EHF Marketing has been a resounding success. The VELUX EHF Champions League and the EHF Women's Champions League now reach more markets than ever before. However, to understand the triumphs, we take you back to the humble beginnings.

The origins of EHF Marketing can be traced back to the first EHF Men's European Championship in Portugal in 1994. A television deal had been signed with the then CWL Telesport and Marketing AG, now Infront Sports & Media for this international team tournament and this new development highlighted the need to successfully exploit the rights for club handball across Europe, and the world.

Less than a few years old, the EHF found that club competitions were being run like normal sporting competitions without any strategic marketing or without any promotion at all, just the finals were in control of the EHF. Not knowing which clubs would be in the final meant strategic approach was not possible.

It was then agreed to bring in Sponsor Service ASA from Norway and in the first marketing contract signed, the Champions League was included alongside the Super Cup and the Nations Cup. This followed a restructure of the European Cup competitions for clubs, which was a result of a working process involving internal and external experts from the field of competitions and marketing, receiving the full backing of federations and clubs. The new structure paid special attention to the Men's and Women's Champions League with the aim of providing an even better chance for the competitions to reach their full marketing potential.

The contract granted Sponsor Service all exclusive rights to the following media and marketing rights in relation to the Champions League including the right to sell sleeve advertising of the handball shirts belonging to the clubs competing in the Champions League, the right to sell advertising boards and naming rights of the competition i.e. all the marketing rights as well as the media rights.

With this rapid development, including the additional income for the clubs, also for the EHF, came improved television figures and infrastructure. However, due to the collapse of Sponsor Service ASA because of their other businesses failing in 2003, the EHF had to decide within a short time whether or not to take over the marketing of its club competitions and safeguard their future.

At the 2002 EHF Ordinary Congress in Salzburg, Austria the EHF Executive Committee made the decision that the EHF should take over the marketing of the Champions League. This meant the formation of a more centralised marketing department for the Men's and Women's Champions Leagues which were now firmly established in the handball world. It quickly became apparent that the rapid development of the EHF Champions League needed further investment in structure and personnel.





Following a motion at the 2004 EHF Extraordinary Congress in Budapest, EHF Marketing GmbH was formed on 1 July 2005. The motion presented to the Extraordinary Congress, which was unanimously accepted, included the following statements, “The proposed changes had been made necessary by changes in the law governing non-profit associations as well as by changes in the EHF’s economic circumstances. In view of fiscal aspects it appears advisable to create a basis for the establishment of a for-profit company in order to be able to preserve the status of non-profit organisation for the core tasks.”

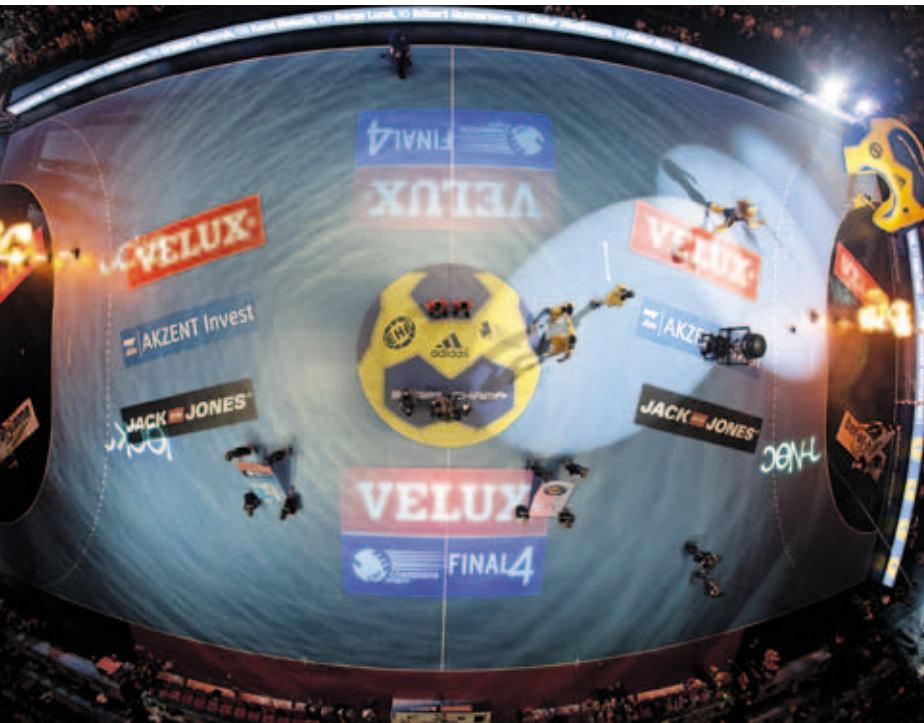
The EHF Secretary General assumed responsibility for the initial set-up and running of the new marketing arm, and for legal purposes, a Managing Director was appointed for the day-to-day running. In 2008, the Secretary General removed himself from EHF Marketing and the Managing Director, Peter Vargo, assumed full responsibility.

At its foundation, EHF Marketing aimed “to professionally market European club competitions, by securing and developing the product’s identity while keeping the passion and spirit of the game intact.” EHF Marketing is situated in the middle of the EHF office in Vienna and strategically linked to all parts of the business, most notably the Competitions Department and the Media and Communications Department. A lot of coordination is necessary, but the structure of the department allows for very quick action to take place as well as reaction to events.

The handling of the TV rights internally by the EHF, rather than externally provides the chance for better exploitation allowing the EHF to reach markets which have never been covered or touched by handball before. This progression is a continuous process, as there are always new clubs in new territories with different sponsorship, marketing and ticketing incomes and needs. This huge difference across Europe is always a challenge for the EHF and EHF Marketing, but one they relish and embrace. The signing of the naming rights to VELUX for the EHF Men’s Champions League in 2010 highlights the continuing development. One of the major challenges for EHF Marketing was to find the balance between the pure marketing efforts, alongside knowing the market and limitations and knowing the clubs. Close cooperation and coordination with the EHF Competitions Department was necessary in order to agree and balance the strategic approaches.

The success of EHF Marketing can be seen in TV figures relating to the VELUX EHF Champions League and EHF Women’s Champions League. The VELUX EHF Champions League 2010/11 was broadcast live in 76 countries worldwide, with more than 25 million people watching the final round of the competition, the VELUX EHF FINAL4, played in Cologne, Germany at the end of May 2011. Over 2,800 hours of coverage were shown, an increase of 550% over the amount of hours shown in 2005/06 and an overall 5% increase on the previous season. The EHF Women’s Champions League, also marketed by EHF Marketing, has enjoyed sustained growth over the 2010/11 season with a total of 1,580 hours of the very best women’s handball action shown on television: an increase of 33.9% from the previous season watched by more than 110 million people in 17 countries.

“In six years, EHF Marketing has grown from two employees to a team of 14. As we continue to grow in numbers, we are able to push the VELUX EHF Champions League and the EHF Women’s Champions League to new heights and to the recognition that these elite competitions deserve,” said Peter Vargo, EHF Managing Director. 🌟





# THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

*Europe's premier club competition, the EHF Champions League is at the pinnacle of European club handball and the competition that every player wants to be part of and strives to win.*



**“ Nobody at the very first draw in Vienna could have ever dreamed how successful the EHF Champions League would become. ”**



It all began in a golf club in Vienna, the year was 1993. Two years after the foundation of the European Handball Federation, the first draw of the EHF Champions League was carried out and the first milestone was set after the new continental federation took over the organisation of the European Cup from the International Handball Federation. With a new system and the new name ‘EHF Champions League’ a brand was created, which in the meantime ranks among the top competitions across all sport disciplines. Nobody at the very first draw in Vienna could have ever dreamed how successful the EHF Champions League would become and how 17 years later 20,000 fans would storm across Europe to attend the VELUX EHF FINAL4 weekend in Cologne. Neither would they have anticipated that 310 million viewers from 76 countries worldwide would be watching 2,800 hours of TV transmissions from the VELUX EHF Champions League 2010/11 season or 110 million viewers would be watching the matches of the EHF Women's Champions League.

Naturally, with the creation of ‘their Champions League’, the EHF did model some elements from big brother football, but in one specific point, the handballers were way ahead of the footballers: from the very beginning, there was an equal Women's Champions League. The first playing system, which has until today been constantly updated and necessarily modified, saw 32 national champions play in two KO rounds, before eight teams would move on to the Group Phase playing a round-robin system against each other in both men's and women's competitions. Previously, there were only knockout rounds. The winners of the group phase then made it to the final. In the men's competition, the first finalists were Teka Santander (Spain) and ABC Braga (Portugal). In the women's competition, it was a repeat of the National Championship finals with HYPO Niederösterreich playing against Vasas Budapest.

Looking at the pictures from these times comparing them to the Champions League matches of today, one thing is very clear: the tendency has turned into matches into an event in their own right. The matches that, back then, took place in the school gymnasium are today taking place in large arenas. The spectator figures, thanks to the greater capacity, have risen hundredfold and the Champions League has become a brand; a brand at the pinnacle of European club handball. The Champions League, through the efforts of EHF Marketing, has a unified look. Since 2006, TV spectators across Europe know they are watching a men's Champions League match when they see the distinct blue lagoon and black supplied by the flooring specialists Gerflor in addition to the season's individual yellow and blue handball supplied by adidas. In the 2011/12 season, the matches of the EHF Women's Champions League are now furnished with the uniform floor and with this the recognition value has dramatically increased.



On the court, the heroes of this top sporting competition are making history and creating European records: we have FC Barcelona; seven times winners of the Champions League and HYPO Niederösterreich, who won the title five times. Austra Fridrikas (HYPO and Slagelse) and Andrey Xepkin (Barcelona and Kiel), each of whom won the Champions League title seven times making them the most successful players in club team history. We have Valero Rivera, who as the former coach of FC Barcelona won six of the titles (five consecutive) and Anja Andersen, who led the Danish team of Slagelse to three CL titles. Not to forget the goalkeepers! We have Luminita Dinu who won three Champions League titles with Krim and Skopje, as did Cecile Leganger with Slagelse and Larvik. We have goalkeeper Xavier Hombrados who, up until 2011, was the only player with five CL titles with three clubs (Santander, Portland, Ciudad Real); he was joined by Siarhei Rutenka (Celje, Ciudad Real, Barcelona) in this elite club of award winners.

Then there is the other side of the coin...

We have the story of RK Zagreb and Mirza Dzomba: the Croatian champions made it to the Champions League finals on four occasions, and lost each time against a Spanish team; three consecutive times against Barcelona. The story becomes even more exciting for Croatian World Champion and Olympic medallist Mirza Dzomba. Dzomba failed to win the Champions League on five occasions with Zagreb, Veszprem and Ciudad Real. Only after years of disappointment, the title was finally his in 2006 – this victory was shared with Ciudad Real.

If you look at the winners of the men's and women's Champions League more closely, it is clear to see that with the women, despite a dominance firstly from HYPO Niederösterreich, then later from Denmark, there is much more alternation. In the past 18 seasons, for which HYPO Niederösterreich always qualified, there have been 10 different winners from Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, FYR Macedonia, Croatia, Spain, Russia, Denmark and Norway. In the men's competition, RK Zagreb holds the record for 18 participations in 19 years. The first run of Spanish dominance lasted from 1994 to 2002, before SC Magdeburg – the first non-Spanish team – took the title. Only twice, in 2003 (Montpellier) and 2004 (Celje), did the Champions League winner not come from Spain or Germany. In contrast to five Spanish-Spanish and one German-German final duels, in the women's competition never have two teams from the same nation faced each other in the final. In 2003, the qualification for the men's competition was amended allowing three (sometimes even four) teams from the top leagues to participate in the Champions League.

However, this elite league would not have earned its name, if it had failed to develop – even if the playing system in the men and women's competition has not changed in years. In the men's competition, where the league has been called the VELUX EHF Champions League since 2010, the Last 16 and the Quarterfinals follow the Group Phase of 24 teams divided into four groups. For the past two years, the competition has concluded with the great showdown at the LANXESS arena in Cologne. The VELUX EHF FINAL4 combines the Semi-Finals and the Final played over one weekend at the end of the season and, at each event so far, presented in front 40,000 spectators. In 2012, the event will return to Cologne.

In the women's competition, it remains that only the 12 national champions from most successful nations on the EHF ranking list qualify directly for the Group Phase; the remaining four Group Phase participants are decided in two qualification stages. Following the Group Phase, the competition moves into the Main Round. Subsequently, as the season ends, the women's club teams pass into the Semi-Finals and eventually the final match. 🌟

**¶ In the women's competition, it remains that only the 12 national champions from most successful nations on the EHF ranking list qualify directly for the Group Phase. ¶**





# THE EHF EURO

*This success story began in Portugal. Since 1994, 18 European Championships for men and women have taken place, with Sweden and Norway holding the record for most titles.*



**■ In September of 1994, the first women's EHF EURO took place in Germany. ■**



When on 3 June 1994 the Spaniard Ramon Gallego and the German Hans Thomas almost simultaneously blew into their whistles, it was a small step for the referees, but a decisive step for European handball. With the matches Belarus against Germany in Porto and Sweden against Slovenia in Almada, the first men's European Championship in the history of the EHF was officially opened. Twelve national teams were divided between the two preliminary round groups at the start; in the semi-finals, Russia (29:20 against Denmark) and Sweden (24:21 against Croatia) made it through to the very first EURO finals, and following an event that lasted 10 days, Sweden won after defeating Russia in the final 34:21.

This first success led to a further 17 European Championships on a two-year cycle – because from the very start, the women's event was on an equal footing. In September 1994, the first women's EHF EURO took place in Germany and the hosts achieved their best ranking to date by winning the silver medal. The first women's European Champion were Denmark. These first European Championships, in terms of title winners, seemed to have prophetic meaning, because the Swedish men's team won the title four times between 1994 and 2002 and thus are the record title holders. The Danish women's national team won two further titles in 1996 and 2002, however, were destined to be eternally ranked behind Norway, who secured the Championship title five times between 2004 and 2010, four times consecutively.

In the women's competition the emphasis of the titles is clearly in northern Europe, because the only team to win the title and not to come from Norway or Denmark was Hungary who used the reconstruction of many teams after the 2000 Olympic Games to their advantage in order to take the gold medal in Romania. In the semi-final, there were no teams from the high north and only teams from Eastern Europe. Hungary made it to the final after a dramatic period of extra-time against the Ukraine. Russia took the bronze medal against Romania.

In the men's competition the range is broader, despite many years of Swedish dominance four additional nations; Russia, Germany, Denmark and France (2) have all won the coveted gold medal with Croatia being a constant in the medal matches. Throughout the duration of the tournament, there has been no country – including the final tournaments in 2012 Serbia and 2014 Denmark – that has held the competition more than once. Denmark has hosted the women's competition three times, even in 2010 in cooperation with Norway. In 2012, the Netherlands host the European Championships for the second time since 1998, and there the handball stars of today will run across the unique yellow and blue floor.

Looking at the statistics of the previous championships, in the men's competition it is noticeable that the larger handball nations such as Croatia and Spain have been World Champions, but never European Champions. For example, Spain lost all three finals for which they had qualified for. Since 1994, 27 medals have been divided between 10 countries and in the women's competitions among 11, whereby record World Champion Russia has also never been European Champion, just like the 2003 World Champions France.



Only once – 2002 – did the host nation in the men’s competition take the gold medal, in this case Sweden. In 1996 (Spain) and 2004 (Slovenia) the host nation did win a medal, albeit silver. In the women’s competition, Denmark won gold on home soil twice in 1996 and 2002, and as co-hosts in 2010, the team ranked fourth. These European Championships initiated the development for the future, with the competition being hosted in two countries simultaneously and with great success: with 220,000 visitors to the 47 matches in Denmark and Norway, at the same time setting a new record for the women’s events in the history of the EHF EUROs if you include the men’s event; this was the third-highest spectator figure. Moreover, in the host countries, the EHF EURO broke new TV records. In Norway and Denmark approximately 36 percent of all inhabitants were watching the matches of their respective national teams. The EHF EURO in 2014 will also be co-hosted, by Croatia and Hungary.

When it comes to the EHF EURO and not only in terms of the host, the EHF set itself on a new path years ago. Since 2002, at the men’s and women’s Championships there have been 16 participating teams instead of 12 and a Main Round has been added. Since the 2010 EHF EUROs, the qualification phase has also been adapted; previously the play-offs determined EHF EURO participation and since 2008, there are the group matches which have been modified for the 2012 EUROs.

In 1998, the EHF changed their working structure and with Helmut Hörtsch, followed by Monika Flixeder in 2004, introduced a special coordinator for the EUROs. Today, under the umbrella of the Business Unit EURO Events, several departments of the EHF office together with the Competitions Commission contribute to the processes of awarding, preparing and organising the EHF top events on a national team level.

If we look at the stars of the EHF EUROs, it reads like a who’s who of world handball. In the delegation of the first European Champion Sweden among others, there was Magnus Wieslander (World Handball Player of the Century), Olsson and Lövgren. In the Spanish team in the 1996 final there was a certain Talant Džshebajev on the roster – who, if he had retained his old citizenship – would have been European Champion with Russia. In the end he took the silver medal and the accolade of Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

Continuing this honour roll are players like Ivano Balic, Stefan Kretschmar and Andrey Lavrov right through to players of today such as French superstars Thierry Omeyer and Nikola Karabatic. The same honours are also valid for the stars from the female delegations, where for instance the Norwegian Gro Hammerseng, Tonje Larssen or Katrine Lunde Haraldsen spring to mind. Each won European Gold four times. At the EHF EURO 2010, the star of the tournament was Romanian Cristina Neagu, who shortly thereafter was honoured with the title World Handball Player of the Year. This particular story has a long way to go before it reaches its end.

In the early stages of the EHF European Handball Championships, no one – not even Ramon Gallego and Hans Thomas as they blew their whistles again – could have known what the future held for the European Championships. By the way, Belarus turned the very first EURO match into a sensation by defeating Germany 24:23 and finished the tournament ranked eighth; for Sweden the 22:17 victory against Slovenia was the beginning of a long series of wins. The rest, as they say, is history. ☀

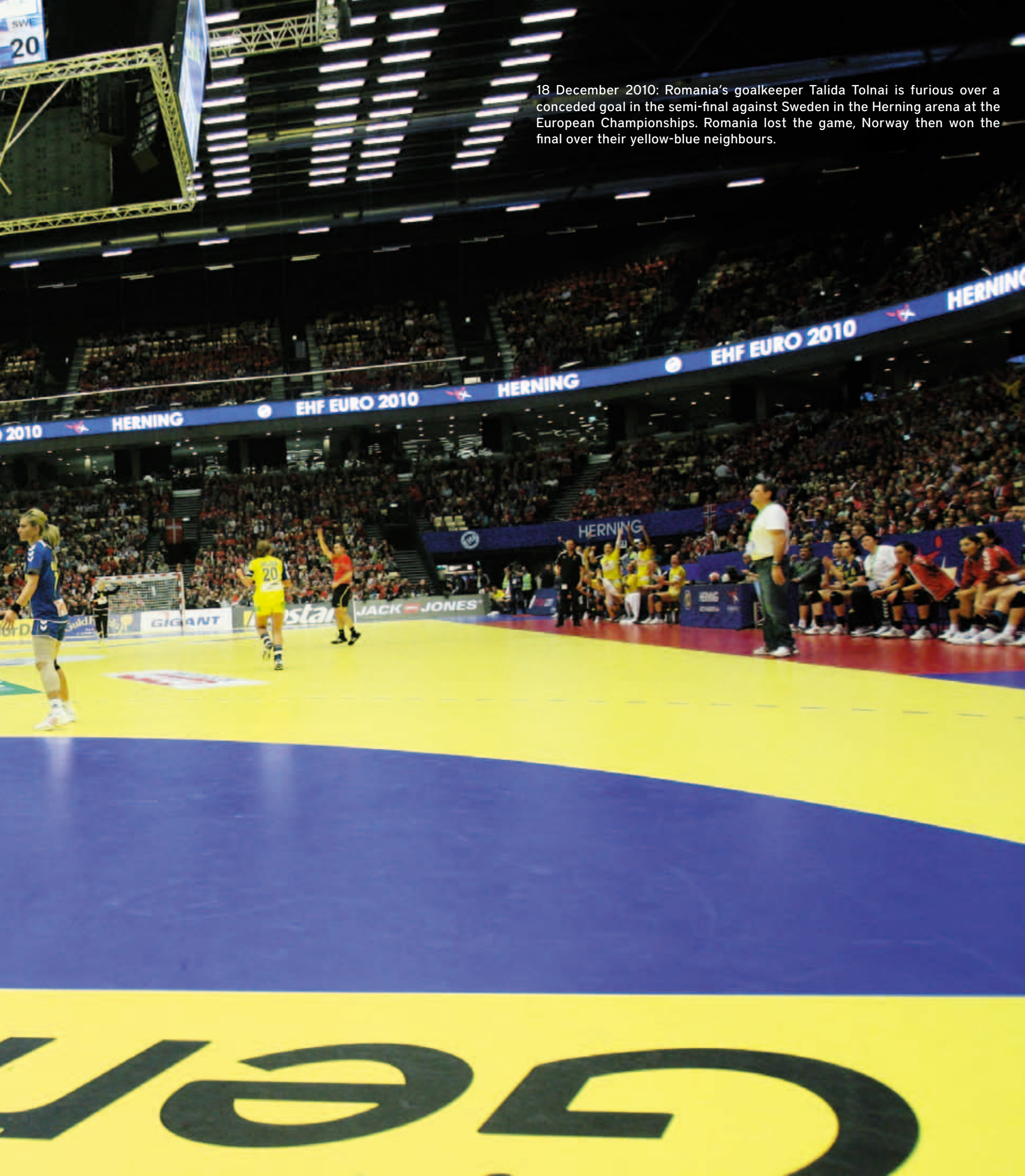
**“ And if we look at the stars of the EHF EUROs, it reads like a who’s who of world handball. ”**











18 December 2010: Romania's goalkeeper Talida Tolnai is furious over a conceded goal in the semi-final against Sweden in the Herning arena at the European Championships. Romania lost the game, Norway then won the final over their yellow-blue neighbours.





# BRINGING HANDBALL TO THE BEACH

*The winter sport of handball had a secret wish: taking handball to the beach; lively and exciting to watch, this new sport would attract summer holiday-makers, and promote the traditional sport of handball.*



**“ Our vision is that beach handball will become an Olympic sport. ”**



It was as early as 1990 when discussions for adapting handball to the beach environment were held and a first set of rules of the new sport was developed in cooperation between the Italian Olympic Committee and the Italian Handball Federation at that time presided by Ralf Dejaco, current EHF Treasurer. In the following summers the sport was developed further in Italy, with exhibition games and enthusiasts playing the game; the rules were reviewed with the focus on making the game more spectacular and emphasising the acrobatic plays.

Many people were enthused by this handball variation and the Comitato Organizzatore Handball Beach federation (COHB) was set up in Italy. During the same year, more tournaments followed and the sport was presented to the International Handball Federation (IHF).

Beach handball had already gained international acceptance at this early stage. Press and television took particular interest and helped to create a very positive atmosphere for the sport. In 1994 more and more tournaments were organised, for both women and men, spread over several European countries – also countries without natural beaches. A first EHF Lecturers Course on the topic was held, with a remarkable interest in beach handball shown by the participants. Many federations asked to receive further information to get this sport off the ground in their respective countries.

The first tournament in the world for national teams was set up in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, in January 1995. At the same time, the EHF set up a special study group to review the game within the tasks of the Methods Commission which led to the game as it is known today. Structures were built as the EHF established a working group and the IHF set up a commission for beach handball activities. After presentation to the EHF Congress in 1996, the Competitions Commission were of the opinion that a tournament should be played under auspices of the EHF.

With the new EHF Beach Handball Experts’ Seminar 1997 in Marsala (ITA), the sport was included in the EHF statutes. That summer, several beach handball tournaments were played in European countries. Common meetings between the IHF & EHF were held in this period for an internal review of the rules, and a preliminary booklet on the rules was issued by IHF. In the summer of 1998 tournaments acted as test pilots.

The first European Beach Handball Championships were held in 2000 in Gaeta (Italy) with eight men’s and eight women’s national teams participating. The first Beach Handball European Champions were Belarus and Ukraine respectively. Shortly after that the International World Games Association (IWGA) recognised beach handball as a competitive sport and it became a discipline of the World Games 2001 held in Akita, Japan.

In April 2001, the EHF’s Working Group was established and as a result of this, the European Beach Tour (EBT) was created as a summer competition for club teams. Moreover, the second EHF Course for Beach Handball Referees and Delegates was held. By the time the Beach Handball Commission was formed, after ratification from the 2007 EHF Extraordinary Congress, four more European Beach Handball Championships and two for Younger Age Categories were carried out.



The last two events, 2009 in Larvik (NOR) and 2011 in Umag (CRO), took the sport to an all-time high, with thousands of spectators courtside, live televised matches - a huge success for both organisers. Looking back on the swift progression of the sport Laszlo Sinka, Chairman of the Beach Handball Commission and Peter Fröschl, responsible in the EHF office said, "We have reached great success with this fantastic sport, and more is to come. Our vision is that beach handball will become an Olympic sport".

The beach handball competitions, since the first official national team event in 2000 and the first club event in 2004, have an impressive honour roll. Here we recap the winners: 🌟

Men's European Beach Handball Championships		
	Venue	Winner
2011	Croatia	Croatia
2009	Norway	Croatia
2007	Italy	Russia
2006	Germany	Spain
2004	Turkey	Russia
2002	Spain	Spain
2000	Italy	Belarus

Men's 18 Beach Handball European Championships		
	Venue	Winner
2011	Croatia	Croatia
2008	Hungary	Hungary

Women's European Beach Handball Championships		
	Venue	Winner
2011	Croatia	Croatia
2009	Norway	Italy
2007	Italy	Croatia
2006	Germany	Germany
2004	Turkey	Russia
2002	Spain	Russia
2000	Italy	Ukraine

Women's 18 Beach Handball European Championships		
	Venue	Winner
2011	Croatia	Hungary
2008	Hungary	Hungary



Men's European Beach Tour Finals			
	Venue	Winning Team	Nation
2011	Spain	Detono Zagreb	Croatia
2010	Portugal	Detono Zagreb	Croatia
2009	Greece	Detono Zagreb	Croatia
2008	Spain	AXA Beach Stars Budapest BHC	Hungary
2007	Hungary	Balonmano Playa Humel Barbate	Spain
2006	Greece	Winterthur Budapest	Hungary
2005	Spain	LETO2002.COM	Serbia
2004	Italy	LETO2002.COM	Serbia

Women's European Beach Tour Finals			
	Venue	Winning Team	Nation
2011	Spain	Detono Zagreb	Croatia
2010	Portugal	Playadettes	Switzerland
2009	Greece	Avant Garde	Greece
2008	Spain	Euronics Nagyatad	Hungary
2007	Hungary	Flying Kangaroos	Germany
2006	Greece	WBHCKontesa	Croatia
2005	Spain	WBHCKontesa	Croatia
2004	Italy	Policastelliri	Italy





# FROM YAC TO EURO

*From youth tournaments to the European Championships to international stardom: the concept of promoting young handball players in the Younger Age Category (YAC) competitions is a complete success.*

**“ You have to take it one step at a time; on the way to the top. ”**

In 2006 in Estonia, a star was rising. A certain Domagoj Duvnjak enthralled the spectators at the 2006 EHF Men’s 18 European Championship. The playmaker was voted Most Valuable Player of the tournament and led Croatia to its first of two European Championship titles in the men’s 18 category.

Back then, experts raved that Duvnjak could become the successor to the ingenious Ivano Balic. Two years later, at the age of 20 years, Duvnjak was already playing side-by-side next to his idol Balic at the Men’s EHF EURO in Norway. Duvnjak and the team won silver – his first medal in the senior category.

“To be voted the Most Valuable Player at the Men’s 18 European Championship was for me a sign that I had a certain talent. From out of the youth national team; many of the players have transitioned well into the senior men’s team,” said Duvnjak.

Meanwhile Duvnjak is contracted to HSV Hamburg and he is on his way to international stardom. Nevertheless, he has not forgotten where he came from, “You have to take it one step at a time; on the way to the top, the youth and junior championships were crucial to my development even if it was not always easy, eventually I was playing junior team parallel to being in the senior team.”

Duvnjak is one of many examples of how the system of the Younger Age Category (YAC) competitions, introduced in 2004 with the Men’s 18 European Championship in Serbia, has formed players.

The idea behind the YACs is for the athletes to gain experience on an international level, in a timely manner, with the best of their contemporaries on the continent. In a four-year cycle from the Women’s 17 to the Men’s U-21 (IHF), the up-and-coming handball talents can compete in two European Championships and two World Championships in addition to the European Open held in Gothenburg.

Many national talents have used these competitions as a springboard to the top of their adult careers, such as Cristina Neagu. The Romanian was named Most Valuable Player of the YAC European Championship in 2005, where her team won the silver medal. A year later, she was at the youth World Championship where she earned herself another MVP accolade and a bronze medal. In 2007 at the Women’s 19 European Championship, she was the top scorer of the tournament, got herself a spot in the All-Star Team and picked up yet another bronze medal.





At the age of 20, she began her career in the senior national team. Three years later, another bronze medal is hers along with another top scorer accolade at the EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark/Norway. As Neagu's star continued to rise and after winning the prize of '2009 World Rookie of the Year', at the age of 22, she was voted World Handball Player of the Year.

"In Romania there is a tradition of good coaching for the younger generation of players, but it is only through the international tournaments such as the YAC European Championships that you see where you stand in comparison and where you need to improve. Moreover, these competitions are the way to the adult competitions and that is a great motivation," said Neagu.

This is a view that Uwe Gensheimer (25) also shares. Not only is Gensheimer a top performer in the German national team, he is also an icon. In 2006, he won the gold medal at the sixth edition of the Men's 20 European Championship and at the Junior World Championship in 2007, he was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) and with the German team also won the silver medal. In season 2010/2011, Gensheimer was the top scorer of the VELUX EHF Champions League.

Now we are all curious to see whose star is going to rise in the future! ☀

***“It is only through the international tournaments such as the YAC European Championships that you see where you stand in comparison and where you need to improve.”***





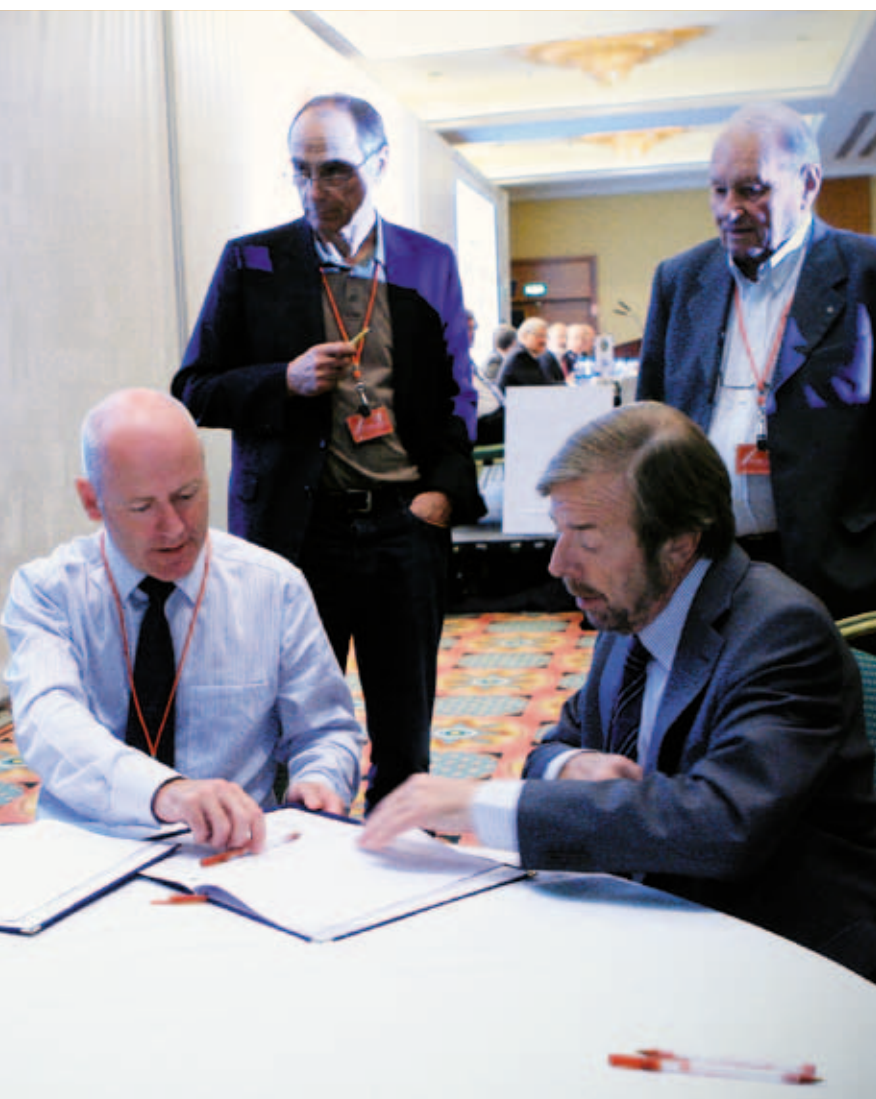


# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HANDBALL

*The development programmes of the European Handball Federation continue to have a great impact on all areas of the business. Be it in terms equipment, education, time or finances; the support given to the member federations over the years has been substantial and essential.*



**“ The EHF wanted to develop the sport for schoolchildren across Europe. ”**



**T**he game of handball has progressed throughout the past 20 years through the development programmes implemented by the EHF. When the EHF was formed it was a challenge to combine ‘Western’ and ‘Eastern-bloc’ cultures and their relative political systems. Some member federations were not used to asking for help as it was fundamentally against their system and common understanding – it was simply not needed because everything was managed centrally to a certain limit.

Nevertheless, the needs were recognised and the EHF set about asking federations what they required for development and at the same time stating that it was not going to be like a ‘watering can’ model where funding would be poured out everywhere. Criteria were swiftly drafted to determine what aid should go where and initially it was a struggle to make federations understand what the EHF could provide them with. One common request was for equipment for mini-handball. With no adequate infrastructure in place for pan-European ball supply, the EHF negotiated with adidas and other suppliers to provide an equipment supply chain.

One objective of the EHF was to eliminate handball ‘blind spots’ on the European handball map and strive to promote a grassroots philosophy across Europe despite the school system, club structures or other barriers to development. The EHF wanted to develop the sport for schoolchildren across Europe and to make handball attractive in all countries and regions. “The EHF wants to help Member Federations that need and want to have help,” said Hans-Jürgen Hinrichs former EHF Vice President from 1992 to 2000.

As the EHF began to implement development programmes, a long-term objective remained to make all member nations take more responsibility for development work within their federation by using EHF concepts, tools, knowledge and connecting to these materials as to improve their facilities at home and set up structures for developing the sport at a national level.

The European Handball Federation are the initiators; they give incentives to federations, helping and guiding them in the beginning, but only for a certain period of time as they have to take over and manage the programme independently. As a service oriented organisation, the EHF continues to provide support and assistance through materials and/or know-how. This was cemented in 1995 when the European lecturing circuit started in the areas of methods, coaching and training.

When the EHF was founded, the language barrier between different countries and federations limited handball development because many did not have English-speaking staff. Even at a basic level, due to the sport having its roots in German and Scandinavian language-based countries, the rules of the games had not even been translated into correct English, but with time the EHF progressed this and subsequently provided a raft of teaching and methodological materials.

From 1994 until 2010 the EHF implemented the ‘EHF Technical Handball Development Areas’ coordinated by the EHF Methods Commission, EHF Competitions Commission, EHF Beach Handball Commission and the EHF Office in cooperation with the EHF Executive Committee. Through this programme priority needs for federation development aid were identified. Issues included a lack of a strategy and vision from the federation, internal structure problems, lack of professionalism, lack of finances, lack of know-how and experience, to name but a few.



In May 2010 a new 'EHF Infrastructure Support Programme' was proposed ahead of the 10<sup>th</sup> EHF Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark in September 2010, where it was voted into effect from October 2010. This was to include informal, material or financial support in these selected areas and an extension of the current and well-accepted EHF development programmes with particular reference to infrastructural development based on concrete proposals by the applying EHF member federations. The first federations to sign up to the EHF Infrastructure Support Programme (ISP) were Ireland and Scotland with England swiftly signed up soon after.

With ISP, the EHF is also supporting the further training and development of coaches, referees and delegates, elected members, officials, secretaries general, finance officers and has established a group of experts to provide 'Federation Consultancy' where needed. In addition to this the EHF offers part-funding for professional staff in national federations such as development officials and office managers with selection criteria based on concrete development plans and job descriptions submitted by the applying federations.

Further development for the EHF comes through the EHF Competency Academy Network (CAN) facilities which provide a full-time service bringing experts together; sharing opinions and expertise, and setting up frameworks and concept which can be used regardless of religion, culture or language. The work of the EHF development programmes are fascinating as, especially in all of the EHF coaching courses, there is a big interest from other continents, with participants attending from Asia, Africa and Central and South America alongside an international flavour at EHF conventions and technical workshops.

The EHF can be compared favourably to any other sporting organisation in Europe as they continue their quest for developing the sport. Developments such as the past 15 years of documentation being available online for public use to development of the game through to technical manuals, minimum event standards, event management, media regulations, procedures, guidelines, fair play continue to highlight the development of the game. These standards and guidelines have given handball a face and image that has completely transformed the sport.

The EHF has moved handball away from the image of a team sport on a floor with many different sports markings, which could not be televised as a sport fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. Three distinct programmes were created to help improve and push forward the boundaries of handball within Europe:

**Short Term Programmes:** A national federation sends the EHF short-term requests with the topic, aim and kind of support needed and clearly defined. The EHF would then organise short-term support either via equipment (balls, goals) with a maximum cost of €5,000, materials or an EHF lecturer for a national course or seminar. Around 30 federations have taken advantage of the Short Term Programmes development strand which can be handled easily and fast.

**S.M.A.R.T Programmes** (Specific, Milestones, Accepted, Realistic, and Time-Limited): Initiated in 2001, the EHF offered long-term support to developing nations via a three-year agreement. The aim was to foster the development of basic handball (10 – 18 years old) and beach handball based on three supporting activities of the nomination of EHF lecturers, equipment supply and limited financial project-based support. The EHF can stop the support, if the implementation does not go smoothly or the programme does not follow the schedule agreed upon.

Mainly during conventions and conferences, federation officials contact the EHF on a political level. This request is followed up by Allan Lund, the Member for Development with the Methods Commission who finds out exactly what they need and what they want. A three-year master plan related to a budget is then submitted and the Methods Commission and EHF Office then evaluates the request and approves or rejects it accordingly.

Finally, the EHF Foster Programme establishes cooperation between EHF developing and developed handball federations. A developed federation will 'foster' a developing federation based on a mutual agreement for a certain period. The idea is to establish a well functioning system adapted to the needs and preconditions of the respective federations through nomination of lecturers to courses, inviting teams to competitions, inviting participants to national courses, exchange information, allowing a look behind the science of successful handball management (coaches & referees education, national development programmes, etc.) and is supported via the EHF by material support, nomination of EHF lecturers and financial support. Romania and Moldova are one of the best examples of a foster programme working well with Moldovan youngsters training in Romania ahead of a younger age category qualification tournament, grassroots work and the exchange of referees.

The EHF will always be about not just the top level elite professional players, but also the grassroots. 🌟





# MORE GOALS & MORE SPEED

*The Norwegian Marit Breivik feels that women's handball in Europe is on the right path, but wishes to see more engagement.*

“ The speed is much higher than before and many more goals are scored. ”

No trainer, male or female, in the history of the EHF European Championships is more successful than Marit Breivik. The 56-year-old led the Norwegian women's team to four European Championship titles (1998, 2004, 2006, 2008), in addition to World Championship gold in 1999 and Olympic gold in 2008. Under Breivik, the national team of Norway became one of the best teams in the world from 1994 (coinciding with the first ever women's European Championship) until 2009. Her team won 18 medals at European and World Championship as well as at Olympic Games.

Furthermore, Breivik is very engaged in social activities and supports the cause 'the right to play'. Since ending her career as a coach, Breivik worked at the Norwegian Olympic Committee coordinating the education of coaches and since 2010 is the Chairwoman of the new steering group - the EHF Women's Handball Development Programme.

She believes that women's handball in Europe is making good progress, but nevertheless wishes that national federations would become more committed to and invest more financial resources to support women, so that this positive trend can continue. Breivik said that in the past few years, the number of national federations who are competing for medals on the highest level at major events has increased – which has also contributed to greater attractiveness and coverage across Europe.

Through a better education of the players, coaches now have more opportunities, “Early on, only 10 players at the most were deployed, today it is 16 who can play on the same level.” A turning point to the dynamic that is reached today, is clearly the higher speeds which was a key element in the Norwegian team winning the 2004 EHF EURO that took place in Hungary. “The speed of the game is much higher than before and many more goals are scored,” says Breivik.

Moreover, the quality of the goalkeepers has increased; many specialist coaches today concern themselves with the individual techniques, but also the coordination with the defence. In the future, Breivik hopes that more countries can reach the status of top nations and thinks that these could include Serbia, Croatia, Poland, Czech Republic or the Ukraine.

Breivik has an important request - particularly in the Steering Group - that more women are drawn into the committees and boards of the National Federations and that more women become coaches. She said, “If you look at the TV analyses of the women's European Championships, you see just how successful our sport has become in the meantime.” 🌟





# 20 YEARS OF PROGRESS

*France's coaching legend, Daniel Constantini sees positive developments, but wants to see more tactical innovations.*

Since 2010, France is the first and only nation in handball to hold the Olympic, World and European titles in the men's category. However, the roots of these titles can be traced back many years and the 'father of success' is the 68-year-old Daniel Constantini who took over the French national team in 1985 after the team ended the World Championship that year ranking 19<sup>th</sup>.

It took approximately 10 years until the 'Barjots' managed to rank among the world's best teams: after taking bronze at the 1992 Olympics and silver at the 1993 World Championships, stars such as Jackson Richardson and Frederic Volle won the World Championship title; a feat which they repeated on home soil six years later. With the second gold, Constantini resigned his post and handed the 'baton' to his successor Claude Onesta. Constantini remains connected to handball as a TV commentator and in the area of coaches' education.

In his review of the development of handball over the past 20 years, he sees the trend with men and women alike, in the clearly faster game. This is attributable to the 'fast centre'. However, the pressure on the players has also increased, particularly during major events. "Despite the high speeds and the increased dynamic, the referee protects the players more," said Constantini.

It is clearly recognisable that the players are now better educated both physically and technically - however, this is in view of the individual training and Constantini believes that for the collective this is too rare leading to minimal tactical innovations in the past years.

In the face of an increased attractiveness, Constantini also praises the development of handball as an event. "Today, we play in beautiful large arenas and around the matches the fans are offered much more; the number of TV transmissions have evidently increased. Additionally, also the fair play of the spectators has positively changed in many places," he said.

In the future, Constantini would like to see a decrease in the number of major tournaments, increased commitment from the international and continental federations, harder punishments from the referees and an improvement on the level of 'hardware' where the construction of the shoes and colour of the balls are concerned. 🌟

**“ Today, we play in beautiful large arenas and around the matches the fans are offered much more... ”**





# THE RELUCTANT HANDBALL STAR

*The two-time Hungarian Handball Champion Bojana Radulovics reflects upon 20 years of women's European Handball.*

“I never wanted to be a star; I was only a girl that was doing what she loved.”



Having played handball for 20 years, Radulovics is the perfect person to look back on the development of women's handball since the foundation of the EHF. After a back injury ended her playing career for good, Radulovics now leads the next generation of players at the Handball Academy in Dunaújváros.

“If you look at the speed at which the game is played today, everything is totally different than it was before – much faster and more dynamic, but also more aggressive and rawer. Maybe it is because the players have entirely different physical conditions. It is definitely interesting that the new generation of players are much taller and stronger than the women of my time,” she said.

As a result of the apparent higher tempo, the tactical adjustments in women's handball have also completely changed. Radulovics states, “Back when I played we played out our attacks on the court much slower. Today the players look for a really fast finish, but that is exactly what is expected from coaches in modern handball these days. That is why, of course, the number of goals scored has enormously increased, due to more than anything because of the counter attack speed and second waves.”

On the other hand, Radulovics wishes there would be a change in the attitude and mentality of the younger players. “They should love handball more instead of focusing on money and contracts abroad. I hope that the handball mentality will one day return to how it was in the past. I never wanted to be a star; I was only a girl that was doing what she loved. Today every talented player automatically wants to become a star.”

Generally, the naturalised Hungarian sees the development of handball in the land she calls home, and everywhere else in Europe for that matter, very positively. “Handball is much more popular than it used to be. In Hungary we're almost becoming as popular as football, and this is the case in other countries as well, such as Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and even Brazil – women's handball has developed enormously there.”

Radulovics, awarded Best Female Handball Player through the years 2000-2010 in her home country, reflects fondly upon her long career, “It was sheer luck to transfer to Hungary as a young player back then and then become a citizen. It was a wonderful experience to participate in the 2000 Olympics, absolutely amazing! My entire career fills me with much pride. I had so many wonderful experiences throughout the years.” For Radulovics, her greatest honour was receiving the 2004 ‘Sport Stars Award’, which is only granted to one single player of each individual sport, placing her among the high ranks along with Roger Federer and Yelena Isinbajewa.

Nevertheless, her career came to an end this summer. “I can't play any longer because of my back, and I honestly do not wish to be in a wheelchair one day.” The 38-year old remains faithful to handball as a coach. She is the head of the women's section of the Dunaújváros Handball Academy and is mainly responsible for the junior players ranging from 16 to 19 years, “We do not only want to train talent from Hungary, but from other countries as well. It is a dream job for me because I not only teach the young players the rules of the game but also have the opportunity to relay and instil in them my outlook.” 🌟



# PROFESSIONAL, FAST & DYNAMIC

*If anybody understands the development of the men's handball over the past 20 years, it is Stefan Lövgren. With a hugely successful playing career behind him, he keeps his fingers on the pulse of the game. Here he analyses the development of men's handball.*

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**W**ith the exception of an Olympic victory, Stefan Lövgren has won all major titles that one can win as a player: the Swede (40) was European Champion on four occasions, a World Champion and reached the handball Olympic Final twice. On a club level, he won the Champions League and the EHF Cup with THW Kiel.

For 19 years, Stefan Lövgren was at the top of his game on an international level. Following the end of his playing career, he has remained very close to handball as the Ambassador of the VELUX EHF FINAL4, General Manager of the Swedish men's and women's national teams as well as being a TV commentator.

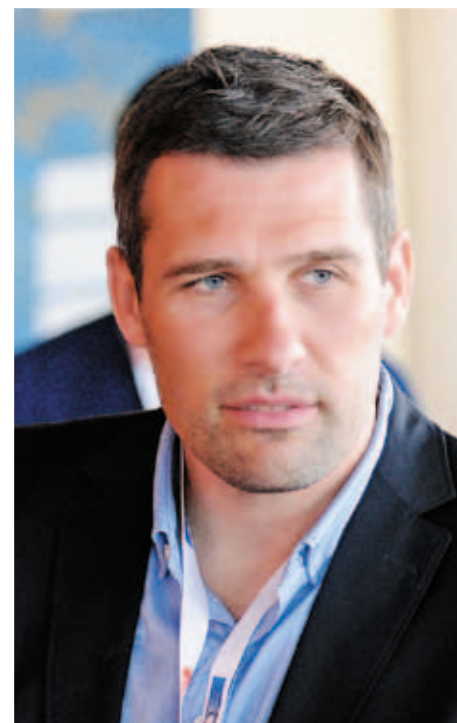
Lövgren has seen and experienced the development of the European Handball Federation and handball over the past 20 years first hand and today he says, "Handball is completely different than in former times." His first European Cup match was playing for Redbergslids Göteborg – and when he watches recordings of this match, the former playmaker can only shake his head, "I did not recognise myself, handball, tactics or the speed!"

Lövgren, however, does recognise the fast break, introduced in the late 1990s, as the most important tactical development in handball in the past 20 years. "Since then, handball has been played with a totally different tempo and a different kind of athleticism," said Lövgren who also admits, "when I was still a player, I did not react to the developments consciously. One sees this only when looking from the outside in. But it is amazing how fast and energised handball is today. This spectacle has also led to increased interest from the spectators and the media."

Moreover, Lövgren has also noticed other progressions: "Before, there were specialists that do not exist in this particular form anymore; or they have taken on other and more varied tasks. Back then, it was enough when you were very good at one particular thing out of five; today you need to be good at four out of five things at the very least."

The increase in professionalism has had a tremendous effect on the external perceptions of handball. "In the past, we played the European Cup in school gymnasiums, today handball is at home in major cities in huge arenas and has turned into a big event – you only have to look at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne. This is the best example for the development of handball". 🌟

**“ I did not recognise myself, handball, tactics or the speed! ”**





# THE CHANGING FACE OF HANDBALL MEDIA

*From typewriters and telex machines to moving information across the globe at a click of a button, development in the area of media and communications has been instrumental in the promotion of handball in Europe.*

**“ In the very early years of the EHF’s existence, there were no multiple TV transmissions direct to the LOC Media Centre. ”**

As we look back and adjust to the realisation that 18 competitive seasons have passed for the EHF, we also need to look at just how much the media coverage at major handball events has changed. Coverage has progressed, it is much better, more precise and more informative; but in addition, it has also become more hectic and unfortunately, the friendly and comradely spirit in the pressrooms with media representatives from many nations has changed. Back then, for weeks at a time, you were often working together for 10 – 14 hours a day; however, today everything has become digitalised. The pressure has increased and there remains little time for socialising and networking.

Just a few months after the official EHF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations have taken place, the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Men’s European Handball Championship will begin in Serbia and in the EHF EURO, not to mention the EHF Champions League, the changes in the area of media have been tremendous. Nevertheless, the progressions have to be categorised into the individual media groups: TV, radio, print journalism, photographic journalism, in addition to the ever-increasing section, internet and new media.

If you compare the very beginnings of the EHF EURO in Portugal to the last major event, the EHF EURO in Denmark/Norway, across both competitions, the number of participants has increased from 12 to 16, the months in which the competition is played has been moved to January and December. The number of spectators has also evolved into a new dimension. Also in terms of media information, press conferences, events for all handball journalists have multiplied.

In the very early years of the EHF’s existence, there were no multiple TV transmissions direct to the LOC Media Centre. Journalists gained their information over the telephone or via other colleagues in other EURO venues. Significantly and always in demand was the ‘EHF Daily Bulletin’ delivered normally around midnight to all the hotels where media representatives were staying. Over breakfast, at the very latest, all the details of the previous day were being bandied about in a very collegial way – the ‘family of handball correspondents’ was not only very close, but also you were also dependant on your colleagues and from this, friendships that reached beyond work were created.

The services provided and the number of ‘visible’ journalists pales in comparison to what is now on offer and the number of journalists applying, year-on-year, for media accreditation to the top handball events. From early in the morning to very late in the evening, the media centres were not only open, but also very busy at all times, mostly populated with the print journalists who were bound to their typewriters; Telex and Fax machines, which in addition to the ‘Daily Bulletin’, were the most important work tools of the time. Contact to your editor at home was made possible via a large number of telephone connections provided by the LOC via the local telecommunications provider. In flash or mixed zones, there was hardly ever any crowding – all journalists managed to find space as well as interview partners. Hand-held tape recorders were the trend of the day. For the photographers, there were even ‘darkrooms’, sometimes occupied by their specialist counterparts. Compiling national and club team data was also a monumental task back then having to look through reams of paper, and utilising global contacts through numerous telephone calls, all this before even starting to present it in such a way to get it ready for print! Nowadays, nearly all information can be found at the click of a mouse from websites and databases that are regularly updated.



Today, print journalism takes place over a laptop with information flowing via the internet; interviews take place in hotels via video conferencing tools. Even the style in which reports are presented and distributed has changed nearly beyond recognition – continents can now be reached in seconds – content is abridged and transmitted over live-tickers. Print media no longer has to concentrate on the execution of the game; there are many more areas to be reported, such as the teams and their opponents and the events surrounding the match. Furthermore, the private lives of the trainers and players are no longer off-limits.

Years ago, radio journalists had to secure a LOC-ordered telephone lines and one of the technicians who had also travelled to the event would have to assist in the transmission of reports and commentary. ISDN and DSL were both still relatively unknown at the earlier events. Now the radio and video reporters are also the technician and 'cutter'.

Photographers have also seen an unbelievable progression in their field: the photographs had to be taken, film had to be developed and it was not unusual to see entrances to cellars, bedrooms and even bathrooms being used as dark rooms. Let us also not forget about the print paper and photo transmission via telephone with each transmission lasting several minutes. If you did not have access to this method, you still had to send your shots back home by post. As times changed and the technological age introduced the small picture scanner, this allowed the photographer to send the negatives to base using a modem. Soon after, newspapers started using colour photographs, this meant photographers had to have access to water warmed to 38 degrees to develop the images – this was often a challenge. However, this was all about to change...

In 2000, the first of the digital cameras started appearing at matches, most of our younger colleagues find it hard to imagine how other colleagues still worked and produced their photographs at the end of the 1990s. It was amazing to see how simple the production and dispatching of photographic imagery became with the introduction of internet and email. The photographs from each top handball event are not only in their thousands, but also of the highest quality!

The EHF too has seen many changes in its handling of the media. The rapid development and professionalism of competitions also led to the need for professional media management. From one employee dealing with media matters, the Corporate Communication department has become the Media & Communications department with five full-time staff providing media services, managing the websites of the EHF and giving support at an increased number of top EHF events. 🌟





# FIRE AND MUSIC! ACROBATS & ATMOSPHERE!

*Handball has become an event – whether an EHF draw or the VELUX EHF FINAL4, the show has become an important component of the game.*

**■ The draws have reached even higher altitudes for two years now at the semi-final pairings of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in KölnSky overlooking the famous Cologne Cathedral. ■**

When the Danish Pop duo Anna David and Jimmy Colding presented their anthem “Out of the Dark, Into the Light” at the Women’s EHF European Championship 2010 in Denmark/Norway, the song not only became a popular hit in the host countries for two weeks, but it also symbolised a development of the EHF. The handing over of the EHF EURO plate with a bit of confetti and a bottle of champagne at the award ceremonies is a thing of the past.

Looking at pictures from the first European Cup and the EHF Champions League draws and comparing them with today’s photos, they are worlds apart. This is not only because EHF Secretary General Michael Wiederer has opened over 20,000 balls, with the names of clubs and nations since the foundation of the EHF, but in the meantime also seems to have lost his moustache. Nowadays, even as the faces of Wiederer and Jan Tuik still appear, the names of the clubs are no longer stuck to a pin board.

In the electronic age, the EHF draws signify technological advances. The computer generated names of clubs or national federations are cast upon the wall and available worldwide on the Internet via live stream. Furthermore, the draws have now become media events. They are embedded into Gala events or fancy dinners, like on the occasion of the quarterfinal draw of the VELUX EHF Champions League, with a catered five-course meal gazing over the roofs of Vienna in the new Sofitel hotel. The draws have reached even higher altitudes for two years now at the semi-final pairings of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in KölnSky overlooking the famous Cologne Cathedral.

The first large-scale Draw Gala was on the 29 June 2007, in Vienna’s futuristic Uniqa Tower, where groups representing both the men and women’s Champions League were ceremoniously drawn from the lottery pots in front of over 300 invited guests – as part of the “Celebrate the Passion” Gala, which celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EHF Champions League.

This Gala truly set milestones and was only outdone once in the magnitude of its ceremonial and noble ambiance: on 24 June 2009, when the Liechtenstein Museum was the setting of the important draws.

Both the Champions League Group Phases, as well as the Preliminary Rounds of the Men’s 2010 EHF EURO in Austria, drew lots in Vienna in front of 300 handpicked guests – embedded in a spectacular entertainment programme and fine dining. However, that is not the only reason why the EHF will remember this event for a long time to come, but also because of the fire alarm that went off due to a suspected fire.



Additionally, the EHF Headquarters in Vienna is not the only venue worthy of having the multi-coloured lots be drawn from a glass bowl. Concurrently, the draw has become a reputable tradition to establish the EHF EURO Qualifications and Final Rounds in the respective host countries. To highlight this, the Qualification Groups for the Women's 2012 EHF EURO were drawn by the EHF representatives along with two Dutch junior national players, Myrthe Schoenaker and Antje Angela Malestein, in the splendid Dutch Castle Nienoord in Leek (near Gronigen). In addition, the 'Handball Good Luck Charms', Marko Vujin (Serbia), Igor Vori (Croatia), Uros Zorman (Slovenia) and Christoffer Rambo (Norway) drew the Men's 2012 Preliminary Rounds in Belgrade, Serbia before an impressive crowd of 250 guests in a formal setting with a magician, a large international media presence, lots of music and even more handball VIPs.

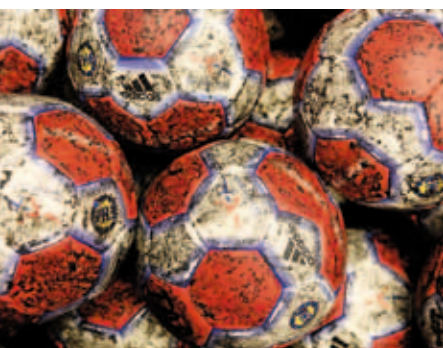
The best example of the slogan "Out of the dark, Into the Light" was without a doubt the VELUX EHF FINAL4, which took place in the LANXESS arena in Cologne. Teams ran across the court a giant inflatable adidas match ball alongside a pyrotechnic and music show. After the 2010 Premiere, the Handballwoche headline was justified, 'The Best Handball Event in the Last 20 Years' because it is simply not possible to organise a more spectacular handball event.

"It was the merging of the perfect sport with a perfect show," claimed Xavier O'Callaghan, Manager of FC Barcelona. Right from the very opening with the acrobatic performances and the carrying in of the winner's trophy, created by the Austrian blacksmiths, the Gahr brothers, you had goose pimples. The Queen Musical performance of 'We Will Rock You' was the climax in 2010, and in 2011 it was the tightrope acrobats that got the 20,000 fans all hyped up.

For all that, the VELUX EHF FINAL4 was still not the first event in which the EHF set a milestone. 'The Show' has become an integral part of the European Championship just the same. This ranges from folk dance groups like at the 2008 Women's EHF EURO in FYR Macedonia to music stars such as DJ Ötzi, who made the Austrian 2010 EHF EURO anthem "Sweet Caroline" the song that everyone had stuck in their head.

This linking of handball and music even set the stage for the Austrian star to lose his trademark. After the EHF EURO winner's ceremony in Vienna's Stadthalle, where DJ Ötzi gave a live performance, Iceland's Bronze Medal Winner Olafur Stefansson snatched his white cap and sported it himself for the rest of the evening. In the end, it turned out that everyone got a piece of the show. 🌟





# THE EHF HANDBALL FAMILY

*From 29 nations in 1991 to 50 member federations and one associated federation in 2011, the growth of our handball community has been remarkable. We are proud to foster long-standing and strong relationships with these handballing countries.*

	Albania	ALB	1992		France	FRA	1991		Netherlands	NED	1991
	Andorra	AND	2011		Georgia	GEO	1991		Norway	NOR	1991
	Armenia	ARM	1992		Germany	GER	1991		Poland	POL	1991
	Austria	AUT	1991		Greece	GRE	1991		Portugal	POR	1991
	Azerbaijan	AZE	1992		Hungary	HUN	1991		Romania	ROU	1991
	Belgium	BEL	1991		Ireland	IRL	1992		Russia	RUS	1992
	Bosnia Herzegovina	BIH	1996		Iceland	ISL	1991		Scotland	SCO	2004
	Belarus	BLR	1992		Israel	ISR	1991		Slovenia	SLO	1992
	Bulgaria	BUL	1991		Italy	ITA	1991		Serbia	SRB	2006
	Croatia	CRO	1992		Latvia	LAT	1991		Switzerland	SUI	1991
	Cyprus	CYP	1991		Liechtenstein	LIE	1991		Slovakia	SVK	1993
	Czech Republic	CZE	1993		Lithuania	LTU	1991		Sweden	SWE	1991
	Denmark	DEN	1991		Luxembourg	LUX	1991		Turkey	TUR	1991
	England	ENG	2004		Moldova	MDA	1992		Ukraine	UKR	1992
	Spain	ESP	1991		FYR Macedonia	MKD	1993	Associated Federation Kosovo			
	Estonia	EST	1991		Malta	MLT	1996				
	Faroe Islands	FAR	1991		Montenegro	MNE	2006				
	Finland	FIN	1991		Monaco	MON	2006				





#### Credits

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HeartBeat  
HandBall  
20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
17 November 2011



EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION