

WOMEN'S



EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

Media Information

Women's EHF Champions League
Season 2016/17

Qualification Tournaments

Group 1 - Drammen, NOR
Group 2 - San Sebastian, ESP
Group 3 - Ljubljana, SLO

9-11 September 2016

OFFICIAL EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCH BALL

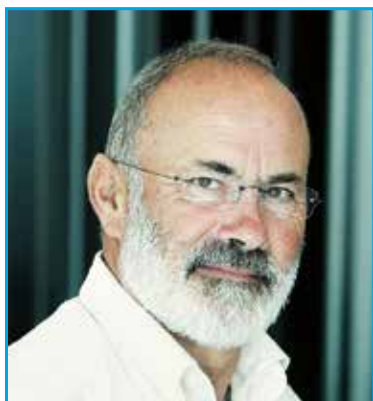
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Table of contents

Foreword	4
Media contacts - EHF/M, Media contacts	5
Map of participating clubs	6
Playing system diagram - stages and dates	7
Seeding list	8
Important regulations - extra-time and penalty throws	10
GROUP 1	
Preview	11
Glassverket	12
HC Podravka Vegeta	15
SERCODAK Dalfsen	18
Ankara Yenimahalle BSK	21
GROUP 2	
Preview	24
HC Leipzig	25
Hypo Niederösterreich	28
Super Amara Bera Bera	31
HC Gomel	34
GROUP 3	
Preview	37
RK Krim Mercator	38
MKS Selgros Lublin	41
Indeco Conversano	44
IUVENTA Michalovce	47
2015/16 top scorers	50
Past winners	51
All-time club standings	52

Foreword



Dear media representatives,

Welcome to a new season in the Women's EHF Champions League.

Four months after CSM Bucuresti completed their stunning Cinderella story, by claiming their maiden European crown in Budapest after beating Győr in the final's penalty shootout, we are ready to witness how a new handball fairy tale starts to unravel.

As we enter the 24th season of the competition, twelve matches in three qualification tournaments will determine which three teams will earn the remaining berths in the 2016/17 Group Matches. The tournaments will take place in three major countries in women's handball and I am sure we can look forward to large crowds in the Norwegian city of Drammen San Sebastian, Spain and the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana.

What makes this year's qualification even more exciting is the fact that we have three former EHF Champions League winners eyeing the return to the European top flight and remain in the run for the Women's EHF FINAL4 on 13/14 May 2017.

Record four-time champions Hypo Niederösterreich, two-time trophy holders RK Krim Mercator and 1996 winners HC Podravka found themselves fighting for their spots in the group matches and undoubtedly will do their best to bring back their glory days in this competition.

Their mission is clear, but not at all easy as they face formidable adversaries. Podravka will have expectations to live up to in Group 1, where the Norwegian runners-up and tournament's organisers Glassverket are amongst their fiercest opponents. Arguably the most difficult road awaits Hypo. Even if they overcome the Group 2 hosts Super Amara Bera Bera in the semi-final, they still have to outrun the German runners-up from Leipzig, who are likely to reach the tournament's final at the expense of the newcomers HC Gomel. Krim will enjoy the home crowd's support but their task is not much easier as they face ambitious Iuventa Michalovce in the semi-final and should they make it to the decider, the Polish champions from Lublin might stand in their way as they face Indeco Conversano, another debutant.

In the group matches Buducnost, Thüringer HC and Metz await the winner of Group 1 from Drammen, while the winner of Group 2 in San Sebastian will join Vardar, Astrakhanochka and Ferencváros and the Group 3 winners will enjoy a purely Scandinavian set of rivals in Larvik, Esbjerg and Sävehof.

There are twelve exciting matches ahead in this qualification phase and I wish all teams the very best of luck.

We pride ourselves on our positive and cooperative relationship with the press and media and I am sure this will continue and develop in the future. Should you require any information, help or assistance during the course of the season, your first point of contact is the EHF Media and Communications Department based in our office in Vienna. They will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you might have.

We look forward to working with you in the upcoming season!

Jean Brihault
EHF President



EHF/M Media contacts

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WOMEN'S EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Season 2016/17

● Qualification teams


● Group Matches teams



WOMEN'S EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2016/17

WOMEN'S

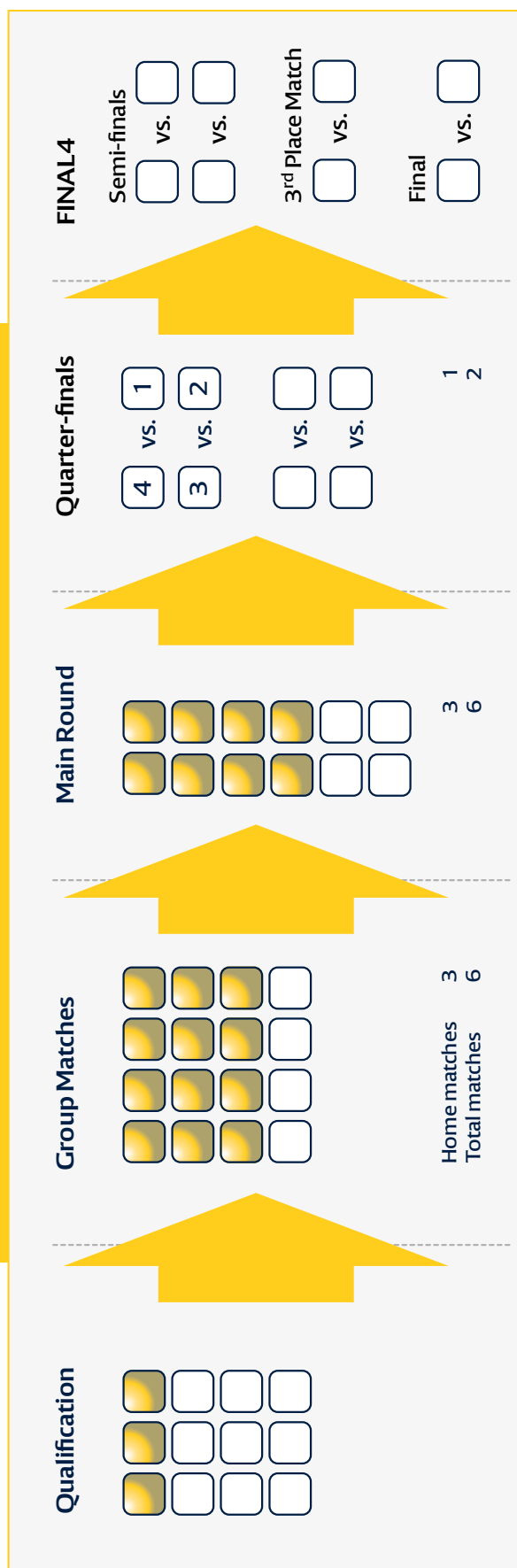


 NATION		Qualification Tournaments	Group Matches	Main Round	Quarterfinals	FINAL4	
		Tournaments	4 groups with 4 teams	2 groups with 6 teams	8 teams	4 teams	
		10./11.09.2016 tournaments played in semi finals and finals in one venue	14.-16.10.2016 (1) 21.-23.10.2016 (2) 28.-30.10.2016 (3) 04.-06.11.2016 (4) 11.-13.11.2016 (5) 18.-20.11.2016 (6)	27.-29.01.2017 (1) 03.-05.02.2017 (2) 10.-12.02.2017 (3) 24.-26.02.2017 (4) 03.-05.03.2017 (5) 10.-12.03.2017 (6)	07.-09.04.2017 first leg 14.-16.04.2017 second leg	13./14.05.2017 tournament	
DRAWS:		29 June 2016 in Vienna/AUT	01 July 2016 in Glostrup/DEN	no draw	no draw	18.04.2017	
1	MNE 1		Buducnost	1st, 2nd and 3rd placed team from each group	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th placed team of the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League Main Round	4 Winners of WOMEN'S EHF Champions League Quarterfinals	
2	HUN 1		Györi AUDI ETO KC				
3	MKD 1		HC Vardar				
4	NOR 1		Larvik HK				
5	ROU 1		CSM Bucuresti				
6	DEN 1		Team Esbjerg				
7	RUS 1		Astrakhanochka				
8	GER 1		Thüringer HC				
9	SWE 1		IK Sävehof				
10	FRA 1		Metz HB				
11	HUN 2		FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria				
12	DEN 2		FC Midtjylland				
13	RUS 2		Rostov Don				
14	NOR 2	Winners of the 3 Qualification tournaments					
15	GER 2						Glassverket IF
16	SLO 1						HC Leipzig
17	AUT 1						RK Krim Mercator
18	CRO 1						Hypo NÖ
19	POL 1						HC Podravka Vegeta
20	ITA 1						MKS Selgros Lublin
21	ESP 1						Indeco Conversano
22	NED 1						Balonmano Bera Bera
23	BLR 1						Sercodak Dalfsen
24	TUR 1						HC Gomel
25	SVK 1						Yenimahalle BSK
		Iuventa Michalovce					

3 groups with 4 teams

4th placed teams of CL Qualification Tournaments go to EHF Cup Rd 2, 2nd and 3rd placed teams of CL Qualification Tournaments go to EHF Cup Rd 3

Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 playing system



Season 2016/17 playing dates

Qualification	Group Matches	Main Round	Quarter-finals	FINAL4
10/11.09.2016	14.-16.10.2016 21.-23.10.2016 28.-30.10.2016 04.-06.11.2016 11.-13.11.2016 18.-20.11.2016	27.-29.01.2017 03.-05.02.2017 10.-12.02.2017 24.-26.02.2017 03.-05.03.2017 10.-12.03.2017	first leg 07.-09.04.2017 second leg 14.-16.04.2017	13. / 14.05.2017

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Important regulations

SCORING OF MATCHES AND RANKING

GENERAL

All matches of the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League shall be played in 2 x 30 minutes with a half-time break of 10 minutes.

The EHF reserves the right to extend the half-time break in special circumstances to 15 minutes.

QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENTS

If a semi-final match or the final (place 1/2) ends in a draw, there will be a five-minute break followed by one extra-time of 2x5 minutes, there will be a one-minute half-time break at the half-time for the changeover of teams. If the placement match (place 3/4) ends in a draw, there shall be no extra-time, the match will be decided directly by penalty throws. In the semifinals and/or final (place 1/2), if there is no winner after the extra-time, the match will be decided by penalty throws.

RULES FOR EXECUTION OF PENALTY THROWS

- Prior to penalty throwing, each team shall name five players eligible to play at the end of the match by handing the referees a list of numbers. These players shall then take one throw each, alternating with their opponents. Each team is free to determine the sequence in which throwers will take their throws
- The goalkeepers may be freely selected from the match report and exchanged in accordance with the Rules of the game. Goalkeepers may take throws and throwers may play as goalkeepers.
- The referees shall choose the goal at which throws are taken. The team taking the first penalty throw shall be determined by the referees by drawing lots. The team winning the draw may choose whether it wishes to throw first or last.
- If scores are equal after the first round of penalty throwing, it shall be continued until a decision is reached. In the second round, the other team shall start. Again five players shall be named who are eligible to play (the players named before may be named once again).
- In the second round, a decision is reached when a goal difference arises after both teams have taken one throw each.
- Eligible players are players entered in the match report who have not been disqualified or suspended at the time of the final whistle.
- Serious infractions committed during penalty throwing shall be sanctioned by disqualification. If a thrower is disqualified or suffers an injury, an eligible substitute player shall be named supplementary.
- While the throws are being taken, only the player taking the throw, the current goalkeeper and the referees may enter the respective half of the playing area.
- If the number of eligible players falls below five, players may be named to take a second throw in the same round.

Qualification Group 1



Playing hall
Drammenshallen
Knoffsgt. 18
3044 Drammen, Norway
Capacity: 4,000

Match schedule (all times local)

Saturday, 10 September 2016:

Semi-finals

1 16:30 hrs Glassverket IF vs Ankara Yenimahalle BSK

2 19:00 hrs HC Podravka Vegeta vs SERCODAK Dalfsen

Sunday, 11 September 2016:

3rd place match

15:30 hrs Loser semi-final 1 vs Loser semi-final 2

Final

18:00 hrs Winner semi-final 1 vs Winner semi-final 2

Qualification Group 1

Glassverket IF (NOR)
Ankara Yenimahalle BSK (TUR)
HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO)
SERCODAK Dalfsen (NED)



Group A

Buducnost (MNE)
Thüringer HC (GER)
Metz Handball (FRA)

Winner QT 1

2nd ranked team - EHF Cup, Round 3

3rd ranked team - EHF Cup, Round 3

4th ranked team - EHF Cup, Round 2 vs the Winner of Round 1 match ZRK Izvor Bukovicka Banja (SRB) vs AC Latsia Nikosia (CYP)

Head-to-head stats:

Glassverket vs SERCODAK Dalfsen 1-0-0 (26:21) 2:0

12.09.2015 Glassverket vs SERCODAK Dalfsen, EHF CL – Qualification Group 1 26:21 (15:8)

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

HC Podravka Vegeta vs SERCODAK Dalfsen

Glassverket vs Ankara Yenimahalle BSK

Glassverket vs HC Podravka Vegeta

Ankara Yenimahalle BSK vs HC Podravka Vegeta

Ankara Yenimahalle BSK vs SERCODAK Dalfsen

Preview: Venue is the same and so are two teams

The venue is the same and so are two of the teams. Just like last year, Drammenshallen in Norway is hosting a qualification group for the Women's EHF Champions League. Two of the four participating teams, hosts Glassverket and Dutch champions SERCODAK Dalfsen were also part of the qualification group last year, but both without reaching the group phase. This year, they have company by Turkish champions Ankara Yenimahalle BSK and Croatian titleholders HC Podravka Vegeta. Only the group winners proceed to the group matches, where they can look forward to meeting Montenegrin Buducnost, German Thüringer HC and French Metz Handball.

Glassverket (NOR) vs Ankara Yenimahalle (TUR)

Neither of the two teams, who open the qualification group in Drammenshallen has ever made it to the group phase yet. For both sides, the qualification tournament last year was the closest they ever got so far. Saturday afternoon, at least one of the teams will maintain the hope to proceed to the group stage, though.

"Our team has undergone many changes compared to last year, and we may be in a slightly poorer condition than last year. Still, I think that the ticket for the group phase will be a matter among three teams: Ourselves, Ankara and Podravka," Glassverket coach Geir Ustorp tell ehfCL.com. "Just one look at Ankara's squad shows that they have a strong as well as an experienced team, and there is no doubt that we are going to have our hands full already in this match,

but with the support we will hopefully get from the Drammen crowd, I think we have a chance," he adds.

HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO) vs SERCODAK Dalfsen (NED)

The two teams have at least one thing in common: They both consist entirely of players from their own countries. However, this more or less ends the similarity. While Podravka have a long and proud Champions League history behind them, Dalfsen have never been in the group matches, and if we are to believe Peter Portengen, head coach by the Dutch champions, it is not likely to happen this time either.

"I do not think we will advance to the Champions League. Our opponents are far more experienced than we are, and besides, we have only been able to train together for two weeks after I came back from the Rio Olympics," says Peter Portengen who is working as assistant coach of the Dutch national team beside his job as head coach by Dalfsen. "We will do our absolutely best, of course, and anything can happen in sport, and at least, we can play without pressure," he adds. Podravka's coach Goran Mroden is more optimistic on behalf of his team. "We obviously want to win both our matches and qualify for the Champions League. "I expect our first match against Dalfsen to be an equal game, while the home team, Glassverket is also an interesting team who will undoubtedly be hard to beat on home ground. "Judging by the names of the players, the Turkish team (Ankara) seems to be the strongest of all the teams in qualification group, though, but we will take them as they come, and at the end of the weekend, I expect HC Podravka to continue to the EHF Champions League," says a confident Podravka coach.

GROUP 1

Glassverket (NOR)



Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Norwegian runners-up upgraded by the EHF EXEC

Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:

The hosts of the last year's qualification tournament made it to the final of the Norwegian league again, but were not able to offer much resistance in the two-legged final against Larvik, though.

Glassverket had the home advantage in Drammenshallen for the first leg, but Larvik had no trouble winning by no less than 12 goals, 33:21.

This virtually reduced the return match in the Arena Larvik into a formality, but this did not make the Larvik ladies take things easily. 11 goals was the distance after these 60 minutes, which Larvik won 33:22.

**Playing hall**

Drammenshallen
Knoffsgt. 18
3044 Drammen
Norway
Capacity: 4,000

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Facebook: [GIF.handball](https://www.facebook.com/GIF.handball)
Twitter: [@glassverketelit](https://twitter.com/glassverketelit)

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 2
Qualification (1): 2015/16

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Last 16 2015/16
Norwegian league: 2 titles (1974, 1981)

Kit colours**LIGHT**

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

DARK

Player shirt: purple
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: black

Glassverket (NOR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
6	Charlotte	Aasbo	NOR	Left Wing	10.05.1988	Drammen, NOR	160
4	June	Andenaes	NOR	Line Player	09.06.1983	Gloppen, NOR	176
11	Linn	Andresen	NOR	Left Wing	16.06.1997		170
23	Lisa Forsberg	Bernhardsen	NOR	Line Player	16.04.1990	Fredrikstad, NOR	179
7	Line	Bjoernsen	NOR	Right Wing	03.07.1992	Stavanger, NOR	179
	Anna Aasprong	Brekke	NOR	Centre Back	21.07.1998		
19	Trine	Bronsta	NOR	Centre Back	04.09.1993	Drammen, NOR	170
15	Nina	Bull-Engelstad	NOR	Left Wing	01.09.1989		165
17	Emilie	Christensen	NOR	Centre Back	13.04.1993	Oslo, NOR	176
21	Line	Ellertsen	NOR	Right Back	04.06.1998	Stavanger, NOR	174
9	Birna Berg	Haraldsdottir	ISL	Centre Back	21.06.1993	Reykjavik, ISL	181
22	Ane Landaas	Hovland	NOR	Line Player	22.03.1998	Drammen, NOR	169
	Pernille	Hyggen	NOR	Right Wing	16.04.1998		
23	Marianne	Iversen	NOR	Centre Back	01.01.1987		175
5	Monica	Iversen	NOR	Line Player	12.03.1985	Drammen, NOR	179
16	Silje Meese	Johanesen	NOR	Goalkeeper	02.10.1997	Drammen, NOR	181
10	Amailie Henriette	Josendal	NOR	Left Wing	01.06.1994		170
12	Marte	Langeli	NOR	Goalkeeper	02.09.1997	Drammen, NOR	179
2	Mette	Leipart	NOR	Left Wing	26.05.1992	Oslo, NOR	167
3	Tiril	Merg	NOR	Centre Back	02.09.1993	Bærum, NOR	181
	Magdalena	Mitrovic	GER	Left Back	28.07.1999		
13	Pia Christine	Narvesen	NOR	Right Wing	16.07.1988	Drammen, NOR	160
	Anna	Riakhina	NOR	Left Back	25.02.1998		
1	Guro	Rundbraten	NOR	Goalkeeper	18.04.1990	Hønefoss, NOR	170
3	Martine	Wolff	NOR	Line Player	20.06.1996	Oslo, NOR	175



Geir Oustorp coach

- took over as head coach at the start of this season, replacing Kenneth Gabrielsen who has left for league rivals Vipers Kristiansand
- very familiar with the club, as he started working there as assistant coach last season
- has a past career as a top handball player himself, including the Norwegian national team
- particularly known for his calm way of being around his team
- works as a policeman besides his handball coaching job


Guro Rundbraten
goalkeeper

- has played for Glassverket since she joined from league rivals Byåsen in 2013
- returned to active duty after cruciate ligament surgery in 2016
- will have to carry some responsibility, after Martina Törn has left for FC Midtjylland
- has played 48 junior internationals for Norway
- tall keeper with good reactions and already a fine ability to read the shooters.


Mette Leipart
left wing

- joined this summer from relegated Nordstrand
- played in Nordstrand her entire handball life before changing for Glassverket
- filling out the gap after Hege Bakken Wahlquist who has left for Danish Cup Winners' Cup champions TTH Holstebro
- fast winger with a varied shooting repertoire
- has signed a two year contract with Glassverket in 2016


Tiril Günter Merg
left back

- has played for Glassverket since 2012, when she joined from league rivals Stabæk.
- versatile and well-shooting back court player
- can play at both ends of the court
- facing some kind of a challenge filling out the gap after Jeannett Kristiansen who has left for Vipers Kristiansand
- studying law at the university of Oslo along with playing handball at top level in Drammen based Glassverket


Emilie Christensen
centre back

- playing her third season for Glassverket after joining from 1. Division (second league) club Fana
- with Glassverket, she has got her first league experience and her first time as a professional handball player
- characterised by experts as one of the most talented female players born in Norway in 1993
- still waiting for her chance in Norway's national team, but has played a total of 26 matches for her country in various youth teams


Julie Andenaes
line player

- joined this summer from Molde
- has also represented Byåsen, Levanger and Bjørnar during her career
- adds valuable experience to the relatively young Glassverket team
- good at setting screenings and making herself available for passes from her back court players
- solid defender as well


Birna Berg Haraldsdottir
right back

- joined in the summer 2016 from IK Sävehof
- versatile back court player with a good shot
- can play equally well at both ends of the court
- has international experience from CL matches with Sävehof as well as a number of internationals for Iceland
- excellent back-up for Line Bjørnsen who may also have to take some court time on the right wing


Line Bjørnsen
right wing/back

- versatile left handed player who can play the right back as well as the right wing arrived in Glassverket from Stabaek in the summer of 2015
- part of the Norwegian team who took silver at the 2010 Junior WCh, together with her new teammates Emilie Christensen and Hege Bakken Wahlquist
- has played one senior international so far, but no less than 48 internationals in various youth teams
- has to carry some responsibility on the right back after Kristin Nørstebø has left for Vipers


Pia Christine Narvesen
right wing

- with Glassverket since 2013
- joined the club after a two-year break from handball, partly due to a foot injury
- has a past career by other Norwegian league clubs Larvik and Flint Tonsberg before her break
- before her league career, she represented the local clubs Konnerud IL and Drammen

GROUP 1

HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO)

**Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:**

After bringing the trophy back to Koprivnica last term, Podravka Vegeta have defended the Croatian champions title. Goran Mrdjen's investment in youth paid dividends, as Podravka defended the title, despite losing their biggest names to transfers and injuries.

The team took a valiant effort, playing virtually without any backcourt rotation, after Selena Milosevic, Dora Krsnik and Ivana Dezić all succumbed to fatigue-induced injuries at the decisive time in the championship.

However, Mrdjen's team stuck to the home-grown philosophy, as the youngsters brought continuation of success to Koprivnica. Podravka have been able to keep most of the players at the club, which was the driving force behind their 22nd Croatian champions title.

Podravka maintained their reputation of being a hatchery of youth talent, and as their players become stars and leave, the younger generations ensure that success remains in Koprivnica.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Croatian champions

**Playing hall****Sport Hall Fran Galović**

Zeljka Selinger bb
48000 Koprivnica
Croatia
Capacity: 2,500

Club address:

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Zeljka Selinger 3A
48000 Koprivnica
Croatia

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Facebook: [RkPodravka](https://www.facebook.com/RkPodravka)

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: red/white
Player short: red
Goalkeeper shirt: orange/white

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue/black
Goalkeeper shirt: black

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 23

Winners (1): 1995/96

Runners-up (1): 1994/95

Semi-finals (1): 1997/98

Quarter-finals (1): 1996/97

Main Round (3): 2000/01, 2001/02, 2008/09

Group Matches/Champions League (13): 1993/94, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2002/03, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16

Qualification (2): 2003/04, 2005/06

Other

Champions Trophy: Winners 1995/96

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2004/05, Semi-finals 2007/08

EHF Cup: Runners-up 2000/01, 2005/06

Croatian league: 22 titles

Croatian cup: 21 titles

HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
31	Ana	Debelic	CRO	Line Player	09.01.1994	Rijeka, CRO	182
4	Ivana	Dezic	CRO	Right Back	27.07.1994	Varazdin, CRO	178
9	Dragica	Dzono	CRO	Line Player	24.05.1987	Mostar, BIH	184
14	Lea	Franusic	CRO	Right Back	07.09.2000	Dubrovnik, CRO	182
21	Anamarija	Gugic	CRO	Right Back	25.07.1991	Sinj, CRO	186
3	Magdalena	Horvat	CRO	Left Wing	14.08.1998	Koprivnica, CRO	166
1	Antonia	Jukic	CRO	Goalkeeper	09.05.1992	Split, CRO	172
12	Ivana	Kapitanovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	17.09.1994	Split, CRO	183
5	Korina	Karlovcin	CRO	Left Wing	18.10.1998	Zagreb, CRO	168
7	Dora	Krsnik	CRO	Centre Back	19.01.1992	Zagreb, CRO	170
8	Selena	Milosevic	CRO	Centre Back	09.06.1989	Pula, CRO	176
11	Ivona	Mrden	CRO	Centre Back	29.12.1998	Zagreb, CRO	176
10	Ekatarina	Nemaskalo	CRO	Left Wing	31.07.1989	Brovari, UKR	167
13	Iva	Papac	CRO	Left Back	21.11.1998	Zagreb, CRO	176
17	Lara	Pavlovic	CRO	Right Wing	14.12.1998	Koprivnica, CRO	173
18	Tena	Petika	CRO	Left Back	16.06.2000	Koprivnica, CRO	190
6	Elena	Popovic	CRO	Line Player	29.05.2000	Koprivnica, CRO	178
16	Iva	Safar	CRO	Goalkeeper	06.09.1998	Koprivnica, CRO	173
15	Marijeta	Vidak	CRO	Left Back	14.08.1992	Virovitica, CRO	179
2	Nikolina	Zadavec	CRO	Right Wing	02.09.1997	Cakovec, CRO	168



Goran Mrden coach

- returned to Podravka in the summer 2013 after an absence of 10 years when he coached Virovitica and Sv. Ivan Zelina
- in his premiere season as coach of Podravka the club achieved second place in the domestic league and reached the group matches of the CL
- in 2015/16 he steered Podravka to the Croatian league title and Cup trophy
- also the Croatian national team coach


Ivana Kapitanovic
goalkeeper

- one of the best goalkeeper in Croatian Championship in 2015/16 with almost 40% of saved shots
- came to Podravka from Kaštela near Split when she was 13 years old
- her ultimate sports goal is to win Champions League and Olympic games
- the 2016/17 season is her 7th season in CL with only 22 years of age


Ekatarina Nemaskalo
left wing

- her mother Elena was a star left wing playing for the USSR
- coached by her mother when she played for Sesvete
- suffered two tough knee injuries, which have slowed her development a little
- member of Croatia national team and one of the most experienced in Podravka


Dora Krsnik
back

- the 2016/17 season will be her 3rd season in CL but also has experience of playing European cups with her former club Lokomotiva Zagreb
- versatile player who can cover all back positions but also can turn into a line player when needed
- played for RK Gorica, RK Trešnjevka, RK Lokomotiva Zagreb, RK Zelina
- member of all junior and youth national team selections and now occasional member of senior national team


Selena Milosevic
centre back

- spent most of her career as Zamet player, no international clubs
- won 2nd place with Zamet in Croatian Championship and 3rd place in Croatian Cup in 2014/2015
- won her first title in Croatian Championship and Cup with Podravka in 2015/2016
- occasional member of Croatia national team


Dragica Dzono
line player

- first choice on the line and mentor for younger Podravka line players
- very important in defence due to her height and great defensive skills
- Podravka brought her after Vesna Milanovic-Litre left Koprivnica
- won several caps for the Croatia national team


Anamarija Gugic
right back

- newcomer on right back position
- played in European cup for the first time in 2015/2016 (EHF Cup with Zamet)
- played in Sinj and Zamet before
- occasional member of national team


Ivana Dezic
right back

- top scorer of Croatian Championship in 2014/2015 with Koka Varazdin, 150 goals from 24 matches
- member of all junior and youth national team selections
- 1st time in senior national team for WCh Denmark 2015 qualification against Sweden
- her first ever senior transfer was from Koka (Varazdin) to Podravka Vegeta (Koprivnica)


Nikolina Zadavec
right wing

- first senior transfer from Koka to Podravka
- member of junior and senior Croatia national team
- replaced Ana Niksic who got pregnant in 2016
- scored 111 goals in Croatian Championship in 2015/16 for Koka

GROUP 1



Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Dutch champions

SERCODAK Dalfsen (NED)

Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:

Although it was their sixth straight title in the Dutch league, it was something like a sensation that SERCODAK Dalfsen were on top again after the final series against VOC Amsterdam. The face of the team had changed completely, nearly all experienced players had left the club, thus coach Peter Portegem (also assistant coach of the Oranje national team) had to build up a completely new squad.

"We never could expect this, I am so proud on this team," Portegem said after the 24:22 win in the crucial third final.

After a clear 24:31 away defeat, Dalfsen turned the tide first on home ground (21:19) and then again at Amsterdam. It all happened just one month after the club had announced that due to financial reason it will stop with the current season. At the end a cooperation with the Zwolle Football Club saved the future of Dalfsen later.

**Playing hall****Topsportcentrum IISPA Almelo**

Stadionlaan 60
7606 JZ Almelo
Netherlands
Capacity: 1,700

Club address:

SERCODAK Dalfsen
To: R. Cloo
Ossenkamp 2a
8024 AE Zwolle
Netherlands

Media contact:

Rene Cloo
+31 624 86 7951
info@sercodakdalfsen.nl

Online information:

www.sercodakdalfsen.nl
Facebook: [SercodakDalfsenHandbal](https://www.facebook.com/SercodakDalfsenHandbal)
Twitter: [SercodakDalfsen](https://twitter.com/SercodakDalfsen)

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 6
Qualification (5): 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16

Other

Challenge Cup: Quarter-final 2009/10, Last 16 2010/11
Cup Winners' Cup: Last 16 2014/15, 2015/16

Dutch league: 6 titles (2011-16)
Dutch cup winners: 4 titles

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: red
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: black

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

SERCODAK Dalfsen (NED)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
14	Nienke	De Wild	NED	Right Back	28.03.1996	Diemen, NED	189
15	Jill	Huizing	NED	Back	13.12.1999	Assen, NED	166
1	Ellen	Janssen	NED	Goalkeeper	14.08.1998	Maastricht, NED	177
2	Jill	Kooij	NED	Line Player	30.04.1996	Oostzaan, NED	176
17	Silvana	Koppe	NED	Right Back	29.12.1991	Purmerend, NED	176
3	Fabienne	Logtenberg	NED	Line Player	27.12.1991	Deventer, NED	181
18	Annika Maria	Noordink	NED	Back	09.01.1996	Hengelo, NED	166
9	Larissa	Nusser	NED	Back	08.02.2000	Sittard, NED	175
6	Lisa	Oosterwijk	NED	Back	16.10.1997	Deventer, NED	186
7	Ana	Pavkovic	NED	Right Wing	28.10.1995	Rotterdam, NED	163
5	Fenne	Rijks	NED	Right Wing	16.05.1996	Venray, NED	167
11	Alineke	Ros	NED	Left Wing	17.06.1995	Tilburg, NED	180
4	Angela	Steenbakkers	NED	Left Wing	03.06.1994	Venlo, NED	169
16	Yara	ten Holte	NED	Goalkeeper	23.11.1999	Amsterdam, NED	175
8	Tess	Van Buren	NED	Back	18.02.1996	Dordrecht, NED	165
20	Roos	Van Leeuwen	NED	Back	23.01.1997	Amsterdam, NED	183
12	Janneke	Vandewall	NED	Goalkeeper	17.03.1994	Meerssen, NED	180
23	Britte	Wilmink	NED	Line Player	02.02.2000	Dalfsen, NED	173
19	Nikki	Wilsterman	NED	Left Wing	07.12.1996	Alkmaar, NED	170



Peter Portengen coach

- was a player for several Dutch clubs such as Emmen or Lions in his active career
- played 128 international matches for the Dutch national team
- was coach of the men's team of Volendam for eleven years, before he joined Dalfsen's women's team in 2011
- assistant coach of the Dutch women's national team and U20 national team, at the side of Henk Groener, who was his coach in Emmen before


Janneke Vandewall
goalkeeper

- despite her young age, she is actually the oldest among Dalfsen's very young goalkeeper trio
- a tall (180 cm) goalkeeper with a good reach, particularly good in the upper third of her goal
- has played for Dalfsen since she joined from Venlo Handbal in 2014
- got CL experience already last season, when she was part of the Dalfsen team for the qualifiers
- has taken an education as a physio therapist along with her handball career


Angela Steenbakkers
left wing

- played for Venlo before she joined Dalfsen
- had her debut in the Dutch national team in 2014
- might get the chance to play her first big tournament with the national team in 2015 or 2016
- had gone through all youth teams in the Netherlands
- one of the best counter attack specialists in her team


Roos van Leeuwen
left back

- had her first European Cup appearance at the age of 16 with Dalfsen
- three-time Dutch champion despite her age of 18
- should replace two former top stars Myrthe Schoenaker (left for Berlin) or Inger Smits (now Oldenburg)
- played only in defence before - on club level and the U20 national team - but should get more space in attack too


Larissa Nusser
left back

- can have her international debut in the qualification tournament in Drammen at the age of 15
- was even too young to be part of the Dutch U17 team at the EURO in FYR Macedonia, but will be integrated in that team soon
- biggest back court talent in Dutch handball
- one of three 15-year-old players in Dalfsen
- like other young players lives in a hotel, as she is 150 kilometres from home


Tess van Buren
centre back

- started her career at Quintus, including two European Cup appearances in the Cup Winners' Cup and Challenge Cup, before she joined Dalfsen in 2014
- should fill the void after the playmaker Kelly Dulfer left to German side Oldenburg
- very valuable in the Dalfsen defence, famous for her steals
- has to take the full responsibility in organising the attack despite her age of 19


Fabienne Logtenberg
line player

- by far oldest and most experienced player of the squad - at the age of 23
- plays already her seventh international season for Dalfsen (Challenge Cup, Cup Winners' Cup, CL qualification)
- boss of Dalfsen's defence and a powerful line player in attack
- part of the Dutch national team


Nienke de Wild
right back

- successor of Dutch international Debbie Bont (now Kobenhavn) on the right back position
- in contrast to Bont, who often plays on the right wing, is a much taller shooter with a hammer shot
- had her first appearance in European Cup competitions in 2012, when playing for VOC Amsterdam
- transferred to Dalfsen in 2014
- with 189 cm the tallest player of the team


Ana Pavkovic
right wing

- has Croatian roots, but played handball only in the Netherlands, where she lives since her early childhood
- has 38 matches for the Dutch Youth and Junior national team on her tally
- the fastest player of the Dalfsen squad
- joined Dalfsen in 2013 and had her first European Cup match at the age of 18

GROUP 1

Yenimahalle BSK (TUR)

**Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:**

It was one of the toughest seasons in history of the Turkish league as none of the top five teams avoided defeats in the regular season. The Challenge Cup finalists Kastamonu BGSK lost in the quarter-final of the play-off.

Yenimahalle BSK, who were defending the title from last year finished the regular season in fourth place, but in very intense semi-final matches they prevailed 3:2 against Ardesen GSK, who claimed the national cup for the first time in history at Yenimahalle's expense in return.

Serdar Eler's charges had much lighter work in the final against Muratpasa BSK from Antalya and closed the final series already in three matches (3:0). Yeliz Özel, most valuable player of Turkish handball according to many experts, lifted the trophy with joy and thanked her teammates and her opponents for being part of such a challenging competition.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Turkish champions

**Playing hall**

THF Spor Complex
Yildizevler Hilal Mah., Holanda
06550 Cankaya/Ankara
Turkey
Capacity: 2,090

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 2
Qualification (1): 2015/16

Other

Cup Winners' Cup Last 16 2015/16
EHF Cup: Round 3 2014/15

Turkish league: 2 titles (2015, 2016)

Club Address:

Yenimahalle BSK
Gayret Mahallesi
Asik Celebi Sokak No:9
06170 Ankara
Turkey

Media contact:

Mesut Bolatcan
yenimahbel.sporkulubu@gmail.com

Online information:

Website: sporkulubu.yenimahalle.bel.tr

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: blue
Player short: light blue
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: dark blue and yellow
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: black

Ankara Yenimahalle BSK (TUR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
14	Nurceren	Akgün	TUR	Line Player	20.06.1992	Antalya, TUR	179
94	Armelle	Attingre	FRA	Goalkeeper	15.01.1989	Kadjokro, FRA	178
17	Duygu	Aydogan Soysal	TUR	Left Back	29.01.1986	Ankara, TUR	180
9	Kateryna	Chumak	UKR	Right Wing	07.12.1988	Kiev, UKR	173
8	Anita	Gace	CRO	Right Wing	14.04.1983	Split, CRO	178
6	Esra	Gündar	TUR	Left Wing	23.05.1980	Ankara, TUR	168
5	Sabiha	Gündogdu	TUR	Left Back	24.07.1997	Bursa, TUR	178
88	Lenche	Ilkova	MKD	Line Player	04.10.1984	Strumica, MKD	183
19	Buket	Keskin	TUR	Centre Back	07.10.1987	Ankara, TUR	172
2	Olga	Laiuk	UKR	Right Back	17.05.1984	Kiev, UKR	180
1	Isabelle Noelle	Mben Bediang	CMR	Goalkeeper	05.01.1988	Makak, CMR	180
7	Yeliz	Özel	TUR	Left Back	06.03.1980	Ankara, TUR	175
19	Maja	Sokac	CRO	Left Wing	31.05.1982	Split, CRO	178
3	Marina	Tankaskaya	AZE	Centre Back	30.07.1983	Baku, AZE	174
4	Beyza Irem	Türkoglu	TUR	Line Player	04.02.1997	Ankara, TUR	175
16	Anna Maria	Wysokinska	POL	Goalkeeper	17.06.1987	Wroclaw, POL	182



Serdar Eler coach

- considered the best Turkish right back ever
- lecturer at Gazi University College of Physical Education and Sports
- played 571 games for all Turkish national teams (494 games in 19 years for men's team) holding the country's record
- won 14 national championship, 13 Turkish Cup, 5 Super Cup, 3 Prime Minister's Cup and 5 President's Cup titles as a player
- as a coach, famous for coaching Gazi University men's team that has 26 gold medals
- won bronze medal at European University Championship, fourth place at World University Handball Championship



Anna Maria Wysokinska goalkeeper

- has strong sport traditions in the family: her mother born in Russia was a silver medalist of Soviet Union in javelin throw
- her younger sister Aleksandra is also a good handball goalkeeper who won three Polish championship titles with Lublin
- graduated from German Philology at Marie Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin and already before moving to Bundesliga she was fluent in German
- spent three seasons in Germany (Union Halle and Bietigheim), where she was also working in a kindergarden



Maja Sokac left wing

- started her career in Sinj and at the age of 14 joined Split Kaltenberg – team that competed in first Croatian league
- with Podravka Koprivnica won the Croatian championship seven times and added one gold and two silver medals in the Regional League
- spent one season each in Lokomotiva Zagreb and Itxako and two years in Zajecar, Serbia
- biggest addition of Yenimahalle in the summer 2016 after she joined from Vardar where she played three seasons



Marina Tankaskaya centre back

- three-time champion of Turkey, she has won two titles with Muratpasa and one title with Ankara in the past season
- has been playing in Turkey for the last seven years with the exception of 2013-14 season when she briefly came back to Azerbaijan and played for ABU Baku, a club where she had started her career
- before moving to Turkey for the first time, she had also a short spell in Romania playing for Tomis
- captain and a key player of the Azerbaijan national team for many years



Olga Layuk right back

- started her career at Spartak Kiev where she played until 2007, and then joined Motor Zaporozhye to spend there two more seasons in her homeland Ukraine
- her first experience abroad were two seasons at Spain's Sagunto
- after that, she moved to Turkey, where she won three gold medals for four seasons at Muratpasa and in 2015 signed a contract with Ankara
- plays for the national team of Ukraine not only in regular handball but also in beach handball, having been selected to the All-Star team at the WCh in 2014 in Brazil where the Ukrainians finished fourth



Esra Gündar left wing

- played more than 100 games for national team, won silver medal at Mediterranean Games, also a player of Turkish women's beach handball national team
- won 8 national championship titles with four different clubs in Turkish league, 4 Turkish Cup titles and 2 Turkish Super Cup titles.
- spent all her career in Ankara as a key player in top women clubs like Havelsan SK, Milli Piyango SK, Cankaya Belediye SK and Yenimahalle BSK
- graduated from a respectable Hacettepe University and working as a teacher in Ankara



Yeliz Özel left back

- with 20 successful years of handball career considered the best Turkish player of all time, played more than 450 games for the national team
- won 12 national championship titles (6 in Turkey, 4 in Macedonia with Kometal Skopje and 2 in Romania with Oltchim Valcea)
- fourth top scorer of 2004/05 CL with 61 goals, when she reached the final with Kometal
- as a part of beach handball national team won the silver medal both at World (twice) and ECh
- nominated for the 2006 IHF Player of the Year



Lenche Ilkova line player

- started her career in Mlaz Bogdanci and few years later transferred in the most successful Macedonian club – Kometal, where she also played the CL
- in 2010 moved to Turkey where she has played for three clubs: Muratpasa Belediyeski SK, Üsküdar BSK and Ankara Yenimahalle
- in the 2010/11 season reached the Challenge cup Final with Muratpasa but her team failed vs Mios Biganos
- part of the Macedonian national team at the EHF EURO 2008 (7th place)



Anita Gace right wing

- joined Ankara from Dinamo-Sinara in the summer of 2015 after she took part at the MVM EHF FINAL4 in Budapest with the Russian club
- spent all her previous career at home in Croatia, changed four clubs Makarska, Osijek, Podravka and Lokomotiva
- won six gold medals in a row at the Croatian league (2006-11), all of them with Podravka
- played more than 100 games for the Croatia national team, took part in four major tournaments (2011 WCh, 2012 OG, EHF EURO 2012 & 2014)

Group 2



Playing hall

Polideportivo Josean Gasca
Paseo de Anoeta 8
20014 San Sebastian, Spain
Capacity: 2,448

Match schedule (all times local)

Friday, 9 September 2016:

Semi-finals

1 16:00 hrs

HC Leipzig vs HC Gomel

2 18:30 hrs

Super Amara Bera Bera vs Hypo NO

Saturday, 10 September 2016:

3rd place match

16:00 hrs

Loser semi-final 1 vs Loser semi-final 2

Final

18:30 hrs

Winner semi-final 1 vs Winner semi-final 2

Qualification Group 2

HCL Leipzig (GER)

HC Gomel (BLR)

Super Amara Bera Bera (ESP)

Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT)



Group A

HC Vardar (MKD)

Astrakhanochka (RUS)

FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria (HUN)

Winner QT 2

2nd ranked team - EHF Cup, Round 3

3rd ranked team - EHF Cup, Round 3

4th ranked team - EHF Cup, Round 2 vs Winner of Round 1 match HB Dudelange (LUX) vs HC Dunarea Braila (ROU)

Head-to-head stats:

HC Leipzig vs Hypo Niederösterreich 3-0-4 (183:171) 6:8

19.02.1989	SC Leipzig vs Hypobank Südstadt, Champions Cup – Quarter-final	20:25 (11:15)
26.02.1989	Hypobank Südstadt vs SC Leipzig, Champions Cup – Quarter-final	28:22 (12:09)
29.12.2004	Hypo Niederösterreich vs HC Leipzig, ECh for Club Teams – Group A	30:29 (14:15)
23.10.2010	HC Leipzig vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – Group B	23:28 (12:15)
20.11.2010	Hypo Niederösterreich vs HC Leipzig, EHF Champions League – Group B	20:23 (12:11)
31.10.2014	HC Leipzig vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – Group A	42:22 (20:11)
09.11.2014	Hypo Niederösterreich vs HC Leipzig, EHF Champions League – Group A	18:24 (7:12)

HC Leipzig vs Balonmano Bera Bera 1-0-1 (67:63) 2:2

12.02.2005	Bera Bera S. Sebastian vs HC Leipzig, EHF Cup – Last 16	37:34 (22:18)
20.02.2005	HC Leipzig vs Bera Bera S. Sebastian, EHF Cup – Last 16	33:26 (17:12)

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

HC Leipzig vs HC Gomel

Hypo Niederösterreich vs Balonmano Bera Bera

HC Gomel vs Hypo Niederösterreich

HC Gomel vs Balonmano Bera Bera

Preview: From San Sebastian to Europe

One EHF Champions League debutant, the record winners of the competition and two teams with a long international experience will face in San Sebastian on Friday and Saturday for a spot in the group matches.

HC Leipzig (GER) vs. HC Gomel (BLR)

Maybe it is a good omen for HC Leipzig to face Gomel in their semi-final: In the successful 2013/14 and 2014/15 qualifications, the German runners-up proceeded after beating Belarusian champions in their semi-final, in that case, it was Minsk twice. Leipzig had planned to host the qualification tournament, but due to the parallel football Bundesliga match it was impossible. But still the German record champions are confident to at least make it to the final: "We are in a favourite role, but we have strong respect for Gomel," coach Norman Rentsch said. His team (current German cup winner) lost the German Super Cup match against champions Thüringer HC (21:22) last weekend.

While HCL are constant participants on the international stage in all EHF club competitions, HC Gomel will open a new chapter of their history: The match against Leipzig will be their first Champions League game after participating twice in the EHF Cup and once in the former Cup Winners' Cup.

Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT) vs. Super Amara Bera Bera (ESP)

It is a completely new situation for Hypo Niederösterreich: 23 straight times since the start of the Women's EHF Champions League in 1993, the Austrian record champions (40 straight titles) had been seeded directly for the group stage, now the team of new coach Martin Matuschkowitz has to go through the qualification for the very first time. And the hurdle for the four times Champions League winners is high, as hosts Super Amara Bera Bera are super-ambitious. After two years, when the All-Spanish team of coach Montserrat Puche had become Spanish champions but did not use the right to participate in the Champions League due to financial reasons, a new setup strengthens the club: This week, Bera Bera announced the cooperation with Real Sociedad football club in all terms of management and mutual support. The Bera Bera players will wear Real Sociedad's jerseys during the Champions League qualification tournament, and hope for a lot of football fans to support them. However they will have to fight without their and Spanish national team long-term captain Eli Pinedo who announced her retirement just after the Rio Olympics.

Hypo will arrive at San Sebastian with some new faces in the squad, such as French Audrey Bruneau or Danish line player Christina Haurum. Some of their "old stars" like Marina Budecevic or Gorica Acimovic are still wearing Hypo's jersey. As a start of a new era, Hypo completely changed its branding with a new logo, and new image video and a "fighters' claim". The record winners will know their fate soon, if the 24th group phase berth will be clinched.

GROUP 2

HC Leipzig (GER)



Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Germany third ranked team upgraded by the EHF EXEC

Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:

It was the closest race for the trophy in more than a decade and with three rounds before the end four teams - Thüringer HC, Leipzig, Metzingen and Bietigheim - could become champions.

Finally a final of two clubs level on points decided the championship with eventual cup winners Leipzig clearly defeated 31:20 by THC.

The biggest surprise was EHF Cup finalists Metzingen (including season MVP Anna Loerper), playing the by far best season of their history, but lost two crucial matches right before the end, finishing second thanks to their better goal difference compared to Leipzig. As Metzingen decided not to pursue the Champions League ticket via an upgrade request, the right for an additional place passed to HCL, who are coming back to the European top flight after a one-year break.

**Playing hall**

Arena Leipzig
Am Sportforum 1
04105 Leipzig
Germany
Capacity: 7,000

Club address:

HC Leipzig
ARENA Leipzig
Am Sportforum 1
04105 Leipzig
Germany

Media contact:

Kay-Sven Hähner
+49 172 1399888
buero@hc-leipzig.de

Online information:

Website: www.hc-leipzig.de
Facebook: [HCLeipzig](https://www.facebook.com/HCLeipzig)
Twitter: [HCLeipzig](https://twitter.com/HCLeipzig)

Kit colours**LIGHT**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: red or blue

DARK

Player shirt: blue
Player short: yellow
Goalkeeper shirt: green

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2015/16 season): 12
Main Round (3): 2009/10, 2010/11, 2014/15
Group Matches/Champions League (4): 1998/99, 1999/2000, 2002/03, 2006/07, 2013/14
Qualification (3): 2000/01, 2008/09, 2012/13

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Final 1996/97, Semi-finals 2011/12
EHF Cup: Runners-up 2008/09, Semi-finals 2004/05

German league: 21 titles (1953, 1957, 1965, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1984, 1988, 1991, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2010)
German cup: 9 titles

HC Leipzig (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
40	Anna	Ansorge	GER	Wing	05.04.1999	Leipzig, GER	178
15	Tamara	Bösch	AUT	Right Back	05.06.1989	Lustenau, AUT	174
33	Wiebke	Detjen	GER	Goalkeeper	12.07.1996	Leipzig, GER	175
10	Hildigunnur	Einarsdottir	ISL	Line Player	11.02.1988	Reykjavik, ISL	180
41	Jenice	Funke	GER	Back	20.05.1999	Leipzig, GER	170
42	Lea	Guderian	GER	Line Player	27.08.1997	Leipzig, GER	170
17	Anne	Hubinger	GER	Right Back	31.07.1993	Ribnitz-Damgarten, GER	185
43	Isabell	Hurst	GER	Line Player	17.10.1999	Leipzig, GER	177
12	Katja	Kramarczyk	GER	Goalkeeper	18.03.1984	Frankfurt/Oder, GER	178
44	Tammy	Kreibich	GER	Line Player	28.06.1997	Leipzig, GER	180
45	Lucie	Kretzschmar	GER	Back	07.08.2000	Leipzig, GER	180
14	Karolina	Kudlacz-Gloc	POL	Left Back	17.01.1985	Wabrzezno, POL	178
21	Nele	Kurzke	GER	Goalkeeper	16.06.1990	Leipzig, GER	187
18	Saskia	Lang	GER	Left Back	19.12.1986	Lörrach, GER	179
5	Alexandra	Mazzucco	GER	Right Wing	29.01.1993	Lauf a.d. Pegnitz, GER	175
6	Franziska	Mietzner	GER	Left Back	20.12.1988	Bad Saarow, GER	192
23	Ewgenija	Minevskaja	GER	Centre Back	31.10.1992	Minsk, GER	183
30	Anna Lena	Plate	GER	Back	20.11.1998	Leipzig, GER	185
20	Nele	Reimer	GER	Left Wing	09.09.1996	Rostock, GER	180
25	Nina	Reißberg	GER	Line Player	09.10.1998	Leipzig, GER	178
46	Elaine	Rode	GER	Wing	08.04.1999	Berlin, GER	172
34	Joanna	Rode	GER	Right Wing	30.07.1997	Berlin, GER	173
22	Nicole	Roth	GER	Goalkeeper	08.05.1995	Nürnberg, GER	183
13	Luisa	Schulze	GER	Line Player	14.09.1990	Altenburg, GER	190
47	Lena	Smolik	GER	Wing	28.05.1999	Leipzig, GER	170
24	Luisa	Sturm	GER	Line Player	08.02.1996	Nürnberg, GER	175
48	Emely	Theilig	GER	Wing	26.03.2000	Leipzig, GER	173
49	Pauline	Uhlmann	GER	Wing	27.09.2000	Leipzig, GER	173
26	Michelle	Urbicht	GER	Left Wing	06.01.1994	Cottbus, GER	172
35	Julia	Weise	GER	Right Wing	19.01.2000		180



Norman Rentsch coach

- first non-Danish born coach at HC Leipzig in a decade
- arrived from the Zwickau women's team before the 2014/15 season
- assisted by German goalkeeping legend Wieland Schmidt, Olympic Champion at the 1980 Games in Moscow
- his motto is: pressure is my motivation
- led Leipzig to the German cup trophy in May



Katja Kramarczyk **goalkeeper**

- returned from maternity leave in the 2014/15 season – she gave birth to her first son in January 2014
- her husband Lars is a famous wrestler her biggest international success was reaching the 2009 EHF Cup final with HCL
- has played seven major events (EURO, World Championships) with the German national team
- team captain together with Karolina Kudlacz
- parallel working as a sports teacher



Joana Rode **left wing**

- part of a handball-crazy family, as her two sisters also play professional handball, her older sister Jennifer is even German national team player, playing for Bayer Leverkusen
- arrived at Leipzig at the age of 16 from Frankfurter HC
- became silver medallist at the U18 WCh in 2014 with the German team
- will play her first season as number 1 on her position now
- still goes to school, at the Leipzig sport college



Ewgenija Minevskaja **left back**

- her mother Svetlana was World Champion three times with Soviet Union, her father Andrej was Olympic Champion 1992 with the EUN
- at the age of 16 she arrived at the sports college of Thüringer HC
- in 2013, she joined TuS Metzingen and right in her first season became top scorer of the Bundesliga, after two successful years, she transferred to Leipzig in 2015
- had her debut in the women's national team at the age of 19, is one of the testimonial faces for the World Championship 2017 in Germany



Saskia Lang **left back**

- has a German and a Swiss passport, but decided to play for the German national team after 40 matches in the younger age category teams of Switzerland
- started her career at Swiss club Brühl St. Gallen, in 2009, she transferred to German club HSG Blomberg-Lippe
- two years later, she joined HC Leipzig
- played her first major tournament with the national team at the 2013 World Championship
- one of Leipzig's defence specialists



Karolina Kudlacz-Gloc **centre back**

- eleven seasons already with Leipzig, despite offers from top international clubs
- team captain at HCL and for the Poland national team
- in her business life she is psychologist in Leipzig
- led Poland to the 2013 and 2015 WCh 2013 semi-finals, finishing fourth each time
- short-listed for the IHF World Player of the Year 2015 award
- EHF Player of the Month in June 2016



Luisa Schulze **line player**

- with a height of 1,90 metres, she is the second tallest player of the HCL squad (below Franziska Mietzner/1,94) and the tallest one in the German national team
- at the age of 19 she became part of the HCL squad and thus is one of the most experienced
- in 2011, she had her debut in the women's national team after going through all German younger age category teams
- awarded best defence player at the Women's 19 EHF EURO 2009



Anne Hubinger **right back**

- arrived in 2011 at the age of 18 from Bandits Magdeburg
- youngest player of the German team at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, since then been part two more major events with the national team
- had replaced Susann Müller two years ago, who transferred to Győr (now Bietigheim)
- has won the German cup twice (2014, 2016) with Leipzig



Alexandra Mazzucco **right wing**

- progressed through all of the German youth and junior national teams
- had her debut in the women's national team in 2015 and was part of the team at the WCh 2015 in Denmark
- studying sports management
- arrived at Leipzig at the age of 18 in 2011

GROUP 2

HANDBALLKLUB
HYPO NOE

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Austrian champions

Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT)

Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:

Hypo Niederösterreich made Austrian and European sport history thanks to two clear wins in the final against Union Korneuburg (29:23, 41:16).

The team of coach Martin Matuschkowitz took their 40th straight league title in Austria. Since 1976 no other team managed to leave Hypo behind.

This season marked an unwanted piece of history for the champions as the 24:26 defeat in the regular season at eventual final opponent Korneuburg was the first defeat in a league since 22 March 1993, but that counted for nothing when the sides came face to face again in the final.



Playing hall

BSFZ Südstadt
Liese Prokop Platz 1
2344 Maria Enzersdorf
Austria
Capacity: 1,020

Club Address:

Hypo Niederösterreich
BSFZ Südstadt
Liese-Prokop-Platz 1
2344 Maria Enzersdorf
Austria

Media contact:

Kati Kovacs
+43 664 6016 4583
info@hypo-noe.at

Online information:

Website: www.hypo-noe.at
Facebook: [hyponoe](https://www.facebook.com/hyponoe)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 24
Winners (4): 1993/94, 1994/95, 1997/98, 1999/2000
Runners-up (2): 1995/96, 2007/08
Semi-final (5): 1996/97, 1998/99, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09
Quarter-final (1): 2005/06
Group Matches (11): 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16

Other

Champions Trophy: Winners 1999/2000
Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2012/13, Runners-up 2003/04

Austrian league: 40 titles (1977-2016)
Austrian cup: 29 titles

Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
77	Gorica	Acimovic	AUT	Back	28.02.1985	Banja Luka, BIH	186
24	Altina	Berisha	AUT	Back	24.11.1994	Vienna, AUT	181
93	Audrey	Bruneau	FRA	Back	21.09.1992	Clichy-la-Garenne, FRA	189
10	Marina	Budecevic	AUT	Centre Back	25.11.1982	Sremska Mitrovica, SRB	177
6	Mirela	Dedic	AUT	Left Wing	15.12.1991	Bruck an der Mur, AUT	169
1	Verena	Flöck	AUT	Goalkeeper	29.06.1992	Vienna, AUT	176
27	Anna	Hajgato	HUN	Goalkeeper	27.04.1992	Budapest, HUN	170
19	Christina	Haurum	DEN	Line Player	09.02.1989	Frederiksberg, DEN	180
7	Kitti	Kiss	HUN	Right Wing	13.03.1994	Győr, HUN	163
92	Klaudia	Kovacs	AUT	Left Wing	23.01.1992	Feldkirch, AUT	165
9	Patricia	Kovacs	AUT	Centre Back	26.05.1996	Lustenau, AUT	178
25	Edona	Krasniqi	AUT	Line Player	14.05.1996	Mödling, AUT	175
22	Mona	Magloth	AUT	Line Player	11.05.1996	Mödling, AUT	175
20	Viktoria	Mauler	AUT	Wing	23.08.1993	Wien, AUT	165
5	Tanja	Posch	AUT	Wing	26.01.1996	Mödling, AUT	168
16	Olga	Sanko	RUS	Goalkeeper	28.02.1978	Rostov/Don, RUS	180
11	Jennifer	Thurner	AUT	Centre Back	19.05.1993	Mödling, AUT	180
8	Marina	Topic	AUT	Back	17.09.1996	Mödling, AUT	185
23	Sonata	Vijunaite	LTU	Line Player	23.02.1980	Lietuva, LTU	176
15	Claudia	Wess	AUT	Right Wing	15.06.1995	Wien, AUT	185



Martin Matuschkowitz coach

- took over the team in the middle of the previous season, succeeding on Ferenc Kovacs
- part of the club since 1997
- had been Hypo's head coach (2004, 2009), youth coach and assistant coach before
- had intermediately been coaching teams from Germany (Lützellinden) and Denmark (Kolding)
- assistant under Kovacs, who now is his assistant


Olga Sanko
goalkeeper

- played and won her so-far only CL final against Hypo when playing for Zvezda in 2007/08
- came to Hypo as a young player in 2005, then returned to her home country of Russia before joining the Austrians again in 2009
- mother of twins
- since 2015/16 season shares the job with young Verena Flöck


Mirela Dedic
left wing

- arrived at Hypo at the age of 17, had been playing for Bruck/Leitha
- had played more than 30 matches for the Austrian national team
- had been part of all Austrian younger age category national teams

EC trophies: CL 2008


Patricia Kovacs
left back

- playing for Hypo, since she is eight years old
- supposed to take over the role of Marina Budecevic in the future
- her best international result was the fourth position at the School World Championship in 2011
- her nickname is Poti and her hobby is swimming
- despite her age of 20, is already part of the Austrian women's national team


Audrey Bruneau
left back

- arrived from French side Fleury at Hypo
- had been finalist of the EHF Cup in 2013 and 2015 and lost the 2013 with Issy against Hypo
- played two years for Fleury and became French champion (2015) and cup winner (2014)
- the most important Hypo signing for the next season
- youngest player in the World Championship 2011 the French squad

WCh: S 2011


Marina Budecevic
centre back

- most experienced in the rejuvenated squad
- playmaker of the Austrian national team, but also can play on the right back position
- most of her handball career player for Hypo (1998-2006 and again since 2014), but has also played for German side TV Mainzlar, Danish side Aarhus or Norwegian club Oslo


Christina Haurum
line player

- successor of Austrian international Stefanie Kaiser on the line player position, who transferred to Germany
- daughter of former Danish national team player Carsten Haurum
- arrived from Danish second division team Ajax København
- had been playing in the first league for København Handbold, started her career in Lyngby


Gorica Acimovic
right back

- had quit playing handball after the 2014/15 season, then returned to the Hypo squad in February 2016 to help the young team
- had her first time at Hypo from 2004 to 2009, then transferred to Viborg, Denmark
- after three successful years the Bosnian-born former Austria national player returned to Hypo
- last one in the team, who had been part of the 2008 EHF Champions League final squad


Kitty Kiss
right wing

- born in the Hungarian capital of handball, Győr, but she never made an appearance for the first team there
- played for Győr's youth academy, Mosonmagyaróvár and signed a contract with Hypo in the summer of 2015
- former coach Ferenc Kovács, who will have three Hungarian players at Hypo, personally asked for her
- had already been playing coach for Austrian club Wiener Neustadt, before she returned to Hypo

EC trophies: CL 2010, Cup Winners' Cup 2013

GROUP 2

Super Amara Bera Bera (ESP)



Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Spanish champions

Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:

The Basque team claimed their fourth league title in a row after winning their last 18 matches.

The league saw the most thrilling finale of the last 13 years as only the goal difference decided in favour of the defending champions after the reigning Women's Challenge Cup team Rocasa Gran Canaria gained as many points as Bera Bera.

Coach Montse Puche steered her team to the second title as she could rely on more leaders in the squad. The Spanish national team stalwart Eli Pinedo, who became the topscorer of the team with 129 goals, finished only the 13th in the league ranking.

**Playing hall****Polideportivo Gasca**

Paseo de Anoeta 8
20 014 San Sebastian
Spain
Capacity: 2,448

Club Address:

Balonmano Bera Bera
Travesia Rodil, 8
20013 Donostia/Gipuzkoa
Spain

Media contact:

Jabier Otermin
+34 669 796 556
prensa.balonmano@berabera.com

Online information:

Website: www.balonmanoberabera.com
Twitter: [@BalonmaBeraBera](https://twitter.com/BalonmaBeraBera)

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 3

Group Matches (1): 2013/14

Qualification (1): 2012/13

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 2007/08,
Quarter-finals 1996/97, 2012/13

Spanish league: 4 titles (2013-16)

Spanish cup: 5 titles

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: anthracite
Player short: anthracite
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Super Amara Bera Bera (ESP)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
5	Leyre	Aramendia Yerro	ESP	Left Wing	23.04.1993	Lerin (Navarra), ESP	167
3	Esther	Arrojeria	ESP	Centre Back	11.02.1994	Usurbil (Gipuzkoa), ESP	164
89	Silvia	Ederra Urrea	ESP	Line Player	08.09.1983	Estella (Navarra), ESP	173
13	Patricia	Elorza Eguiara	ESP	Back	08.04.1984	Vitoria-Gasteiz (Alava), ESP	180
24	Lur	Errekondo	ESP	Back	16.02.1995	Usurbil (Gipuzkoa), ESP	178
15	Maitane	Etxeberria Martinez	ESP	Right Wing	15.01.1997	Lezo (Gipuzkoa), ESP	168
22	Ainhoa	Etxeberria Ugart.	ESP	Left Back	22.06.1998	Errenteria (Gipuzkoa), ESP	180
7	Uxue	Ezkurdia Álvarez	ESP	Left Wing	22.01.1994	Donostia - San Sebastián, ESP	160
27	Alicia	Fernandez Fraga	ESP	Centre Back	21.12.1992	La Coruña , ESP	172
2	Maialen	Husillos Aginaga	ESP	Right Wing	01.06.1996	Pasaia (Gipuzkoa), ESP	170
18	Eider	Lizarbe Bon	ESP	Left Wing	02.04.1996	Donostia - San Sebastián, ESP	170
21	Marta	Lopez Herrero	ESP	Right Wing	04.02.1990	Malaga, ESP	168
44	Ana Isabel	Martinez Martinez	ESP	Left Back	07.12.1991	Elche (Alicante), ESP	173
8	Alba	Menéndez Martínez	ESP	Right Back	14.11.1991	Zarautz (Gipuzkoa), ESP	170
9	Maialen	Música Aramendi	ESP	Left Back	04.06.1991	Zarautz (Gipuzkoa), ESP	175
1	Nagore	Odriozola	ESP	Goalkeeper	31.07.1991	Zarautz (Gipuzkoa), ESP	167
4	Judith	Sans Serra	ESP	Line Player	31.03.1994	Barcelona, ESP	175
12	Ana	Temprano Fernandez	ESP	Goalkeeper	28.01.1984	Oviedo (Asturias), ESP	173
6	Elene	Vazquez	ESP	Centre Back	23.11.1999	Donostia (Gipuzkoa), ESP	177
14	Andrea	Zaldua Urresti	ESP	Left Back	22.03.1996	Zarautz (Gipuzkoa), ESP	182
16	Maite	Zugarrondo Etxeberria	ESP	Goalkeeper	04.05.1989	Pamplona (Navarra), ESP	173



Montse Puche coach

- became the coach after Bera Bera had parted ways with Aitor Etxaburu
- former national team player and one of the all-time most successful Spanish players with 195 matches and 736 goals (the third top scorer in the history)
- won Champions Trophy in 1997 with Mar Valencia and winner of the Cup Winners' Cup with Bera Bera in 2008

EC: Champions Trophy 1997, Cup Winners' Cup 2007/08



Ana Temprano goalkeeper

- started with football at six but quickly switched to handball
- originally a back court changed her position after one match when she was forced to replace an injured goalkeeper
- started student of physiotherapy
- won a Spanish Supercup trophy

EHF EURO: S 2014



Leyre Aramendia left wing

- has to fill the void on the left wing after the Spanish national team captain Eli Pinedo announced her retirement after the 2016 Olympics
- joined Berra Berra in the summer of 2016 from Helvetia BM Alcobendas
- part of Itxako's team in their last season in the CL in 2010/11 when they finished second
- made a debut in the CL as a 17-year-old against Leipzig



Patricia Elorza left back

- one of the big names of the Basque team
- joined the club in the summer of 2012
- started at the age of seven and it has been the only sport this tall player (180 cm) has ever trained
- has over 100 caps in the national team including 2012 and 2016 Olympics
- loves trekking, fishing and reading novels



Judith Sans Serra line player

- should become more regular member of the Spanish national team in the years to come
- Barcelona-born became a defensive cornerstone of the team
- joined Berra Berra in 2015 after having played in Alcobendas and mainly in Castelldefels

OG: B 2012; WCh: B 2011; EHF EURO: S 2014



Alba Menendez right back

- started to play handball a late (14) because she had already tried many sports at early stage - her father is a cycling fanatic
- already has titles from the Spanish league, the Spanish Cup and the Spanish Supercup in her cabinet
- joined the senior team in 2008/09 season still as a teenager



Ana Isabel Martinez right back

- started with gymnastics but switched to handball already at seven
- at the beginning played on the line but feels more comfortable on the right back now
- before she joined Berra Berra played in Elche (Alicante), where she had her premiere EC experience from (2009/10 EHF Cup)



Maitane Etxeberria right wing

- debuted with the first team at the age of 16
- Spanish national team player with U18 and U20 teams
- one of the brightest talents of the Spanish handball on the right wing position



Marta Lopez right wing

- in the summer of 2016 transferred from French Fleury Loiret, where she played for three seasons
- her 1-vs-1 skills are especially impressive
- selected best right winger in the French League in 2013 and 2014
- member of Women's 19 EHF EURO 2007 All-star team
- in the Spanish national team she normally shares the position with Carmen Martin

OG: B 2012, EHF EURO: S 2014

GROUP 2

HC Gomel (BLR)

**Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:**

After Belarus gained independence in 1991, BNTU-BelAZ had been a dominant force in the national women's handball. They won the league 22 times and previously lost the title only once, to Gorodnichanka in 2008. But now, the country has a new champion named HC Gomel. Coached by the Belarus national coach Tomaz Cater since December, this club made a small revolution in the national league.

After the regular season, Gomel had two points less than BNTU-BelAZ, and they lost the first match of the final series. Yet Cater's team did not give up and beat BNTU in the next three games, which was enough to be crowned champions.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Belarusian champions

**Playing hall**

Sportshall Victoria
Leningradskaya 4
224028 Brest
Belarus
Capacity: 3,500

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 1

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Round 3 2012/13
EHF Cup: Round 3 2014/15

Belarusian league: 1 title (2016)
Belarusian cup: 2 titles

Club Address:

HC Gomel
st. 50 let Gomselmasha, 12
246018 Gomel
Belarus

Media information

+375296435603
club_56@mail.ru

Online information:

Website: www.ghc.by
Facebook: [gk.gomel](https://www.facebook.com/gk.gomel)
Twitter: [HandballGomel](https://twitter.com/HandballGomel)

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: green

HC Gomel (BLR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
2	Khrystsina	Akhramenka	BLR	Right Wing	20.09.1995	Gomel, BLR	168
11	Oxana	Artamonova	RUS	Left Back	06.02.1991	Bishkek, KGZ	181
1	Lillia	Burduk	BLR	Goalkeeper	18.04.1989	Minsk, BLR	176
15	Iryna	Dronova	BLR	Left Wing	09.02.1981	Gomel, BLR	166
19	Yulia	Ganichkina	RUS	Left Back	06.09.1989	Penza reg., RUS	180
13	Yulia	Golubeva	RUS	Centre Back	19.07.1994	Togliatti, RUS	172
10	Yana	Hrom	BLR	Left Wing	03.01.1995	Gomel, BLR	170
16	Valiantsina	Kumpel	BLR	Goalkeeper	11.11.1989	Grodno, BLR	180
5	Krystsina	Misachenka	BLR	Left Wing	21.09.1997	Gomel, BLR	170
9	Natallia	Platanovich	BLR	Line Player	25.10.1981	Oshmiany, BLR	180
77	Anna	Redka	UKR	Centre Back	21.01.1989	Kiev, UKR	166
8	Viktoryia	Shamanouskaya	BLR	Line Player	08.08.1993	Minsk, BLR	177
16	Eliza	Slauta	BLR	Goalkeeper	18.08.1997	Gomel, BLR	179
89	Tatsiana	Tsyrybka	BLR	Right Back	18.09.1989	Gomel, BLR	182
19	Volha	Vinakurava	BLR	Right Back	15.04.1994	Gomel, BLR	174



Tomaz Cater coach

- replaced Igor Chebrov as a head coach of Gomel midway through the 2015/16 season and led the team to their first ever champion's title
- also a head coach of Belarus national women's team
- previously the Slovenian worked with the Austrian and Slovenian clubs as well as the UAE national team
- married to Hanna Stsiapanava, ex-national player of Belarus


Valiantsina Kumpel
goalkeeper

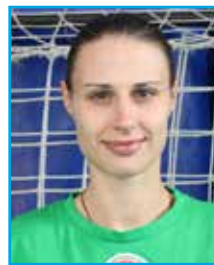
- arrived at Gomel in the summer of 2015
- born in Grodno and spent most of her career at the local club Gorodnichanka
- her only experience abroad was a year at Hungary's Siofok
- first-choice goalkeeper of the Belarus national team


Iryna Dronova
left wing

- the 35-year-old has a lot of experience and is the captain of Gomel
- born and raised in Gomel and has played only for the local team on club level
- after giving birth to her daughter at the age of 21 she interrupted her career and came back only five years later
- has been playing for Belarus national team since 2007


Yulia Ganichkina
left wing

- moved to Gomel in 2015 from Romania's Dunare together with her another Russian player Anastasia Boldyreva
- easily adapted at Gomel and made a big contribution to Gomel's victory in the Belarusian league
- born in Togliatti and started her career at the local club Lada
- also played at Ukraine's Smart Kryvy Rog and Russia's Kuban Krasnodar


Oksana Artamonova
left back

- the 25-year-old Russian moved to Gomel at the summer of 2015 from Kuban Krasnodar
- born in Togliatti and started to play handball following her brother's example
- her first professional club was Lada Togliatti
- used to play for the Russia junior national team


Hanna Redka
centre back

- born in Brovary and started her career at Spartak Kiev where she won a bronze medal of the Ukrainian league
- moved to Gomel in 2012 because she wanted a new challenge in her career
- plays for the Ukraine national team
- her hobbies are swimming and beach volleyball


Natalia Platanovich
line player

- experienced veteran is a new player at Gomel since the summer of 2016
- spent three previous seasons at BNTU-BelAZ and won the Belarus league in 2014 and 2015
- elected the best line player of the Belarus league in the 2015/16 season
- earlier in her career spent three years at Russia's Zvezda Zvenigorod and another three years at Gorodnichanka


Tatsiana Tsyrybka
right back

- born and raised in Gomel, but spent a few years at Russia's Lada Togliatti at a young age
- came back to Gomel in 2009 and has been playing for the club since then, except for 2012/13 season which she missed for family reasons
- wears the shirt number 89 because her birth year is 1989
- her elder sister Katsiaryna also used to play for Gomel as a goalkeeper


Khrystsina Akhramenka
right wing

- one of the most promising Gomel players
- used to play football in her childhood but eventually chose handball
- already made her debut in the national team of Belarus
- calls herself a very sentimental person who likes melodramas very much

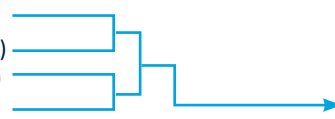
**Playing hall****Sportna dvorana Kodeljevo**

Gortanova 21
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Capacity: 2,500

Qualification Group 3

Qualification Group 3

RK Krim Mercator (SLO)
Iuventa Michalovce (SVK)
MKS Selgros Lublin (POL)
Indeco Conversano (ITA)

**Group D**

Larvik (NOR)
Team Esbjerg (DEN)
IK Sävehof (SWE)

Winner QT 3**2nd ranked team** => EHF Cup, Round 3**3rd ranked team** => EHF Cup, Round 3**4th ranked team** => EHF Cup, Round 2 vs Winner of Round 1 match HC Neistin (FAR) vs CSM Ploiesti (ROU)**Match schedule (all times local)****Saturday, 10 September 2016:***Semi-finals*

1 16:00 hrs RK Krim Mercator vs
Iuventa Michalovce
2 18:30 hrs MKS Selgros Lublin vs
Indeco Conversano

Sunday, 11 September 2016:*3rd place match*

14:00 hrs Loser semi-final 1 vs loser
semi-final 2

Final

17:00 hrs Winner semi-final 1 vs
winner semi-final 2

Head-to-head stats:**RK Krim Mercator vs MKS Selgros Lublin 0-0-2 (50:59) 0:4**

27.01.2002 MKS Montex Lublin vs RK Krim Neutro Roberts, EHF CL – Group D 32:26 (17:13)

24.02.2002 RK Krim Neutro Roberts vs MKS Montex Lublin, EHF CL – Group D 24:27 (10:12)

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

RK Krim Mercator vs Indeco Conversano
IUVENTA Michalovce vs MKS Selgros Lublin
IUVENTA Michalovce vs Indeco Conversano
RK Krim Mercator vs IUVENTA Michalovce
MKS Selgros Lublin vs Indeco Conversano

Preview: Krim face unpredictable Michalovce

Slovenian RK Krim Mercator will host Qualification tournament 3 in Ljubljana, at Sportna dvorana Kodeljevo. Four teams will fight for the only spot in the group matches to join Group D competitors Larvik, IK Sävehof and Team Esbjerg. The most experienced side hosting the tournament should stand on the front line along the Polish champion Lublin, while Iuventa Michalovce want to make their dreams come true and make the qualifying cut in sixth attempt. Any underestimation of Indeco Conversano can prove costly for favourites, although it will be very difficult for Italian debutants to spring a surprise at the tournament.

RK Krim Mercator (SLO) vs Iuventa Michalovce (SVK)

Already the first semi-final promises to become one of the highlights of the Qualifying tournament 3 played in Ljubljana. Slovenian runners-up and Champions League winners from 2001 and 2003 are considered the biggest favourites to advance into the group stage, yet they face a strong opponent in team of Iuventa Michalovce. No Slovakian champion has ever qualified for the group matches and only Iuventa failed in their all six attempts so far. Krim have lost last season all six group stage games, however strengthened by several arrivals of players, from which French international line player Laura Kamdop from Fleury and Slovenian national team captain Nina Jericek from Nîmes stand out. On the other hand, coach Uroš Bregar lost important player and a former inspiring captain in person of Tamara Mavsar. Krim already won the first trophy of the season after beating Zagorje in the Slovenian Super Cup.

Iuventa are described as the most unpredictable side of all four teams. They can beat any of these teams, but so they can lose. Frantisek Urban have lost two important players over the summer. Tatiana Filkova-Trehubova is expecting a baby, whilst Julia Kucerova did not extend the contract. The national team goalkeeper Lucia Gubikova left to Presov. The best Czecho-Slovakian side, winner of WHIL and Slovakian double had solid pre-season with six wins and five defeats. Notably, they won a traditional tournament on home court, meeting likes of Rostov (without Olympians), Lublin, which they can face in this tournament, and Kisvarda. On Wednesday, before turning their attention to Ljubljana, Iuventa beat Czech champions Banik Most 30:26. Early start of the league can be one of the advantages of the Slovakian side.

MKS Selgros Lublin (POL) vs Indeco Conversano (ITA)

If you are struggling to recall the Italian's club name, do not worry. Conversano will make a debut in the European most prestigious competition on Saturday. On contrary Polish champions are regular contenders in the competition, having played in the group stage last three seasons. Sabina Wlodek girls will hope they can prove their European status, as they did not win a single match last season, similarly to Krim. Lublin got off to a winning start in the league, beating Novy Sacz 28:23 over the weekend. Their preparation matches included likes of Iuventa Michalovce, also featuring in Ljubljana. "It is a pity this good tournament has not been held later. It was our first serious test, but very useful lesson ahead of Champions League qualification," said Sabina Wlodek. Indeco Conversano are the winners of "La Tripletta" in two years, hat trick consisting of winning league, cup and super cup. It will be their first appearance amongst the European elite.

GROUP 3

RK Krim Mercator (SLO)

**Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:**

There was a surprise in the Slovenian league this season as Zagorje overthrew the powerful Krim after two decades to reign supreme.

The 21-time Slovenian champions Krim, were dethroned after more than two decades, as RK Zagorje defeated RK Brezice to put an end to Krim's hegemony and claim their first domestic title. The young Zagorje team were the more consistent of the two bitter rivals in a heated title race.

Zagorje also came undefeated in both of their matches against Krim this season, which put an unequivocal claim to the title as early as mid-way through the competition. Since Zagorje decided not to use their right to participate in the EHF Champions League in what would be their maiden season, Krim have filled the spot and registered for yet another season.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Slovenian runners-up upgraded by the EHF EXEC

**Playing hall****Arena Stožice**

Vojkova Cesta 100
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Capacity: 6,000

Club Address:

RK Krim Mercator
Center Stožice
Vojkova Cesta 100
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Media contact:

Gašper Lončarič
+386 51 630 877
gasper@rkkrim.com

Online information:

Website: www.rkkrim.com
Facebook: [rkkrim](https://www.facebook.com/rkkrim)

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: white

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 22
Winners (2): 2000/01, 2002/03
Runners-up (3): 1998/99, 2003/04, 2005/06
Semi-final (1): 2012/13
Quarter-final (4): 1996/97, 1997/98, 2004/05, 2006/07
Last 16 (1): 1995/96
Main Round (6): 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15
Group Matches (4): 1999/00, 2001/02, 2007/08, 2015/16

Other

Champions Trophy: Winners 2002/03, 2003/04
Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-final 2015/16

Slovenian league: 21 titles (1995 – 2015)
Slovenian cup: 23 titles

RK Krim Mercator (SLO)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
8	Ana	Abina	SLO	Left Back	30.07.1997	Ljubljana, SLO	175
71	Ines	Amon	SLO	Left Wing	13.07.1992	Celje, SLO	169
13	Mirjeta	Bajramoska	MKD	Left Back	22.11.1984	Bitola, MKD	179
23	Polona	Baric	SLO	Left Wing	15.05.1992	Izola, SLO	165
14	Aneja	Beganovic	SLO	Line Player	09.11.1997	Ljubljana, SLO	172
5	Aneta	Benko	CRO	Right Wing	29.07.1985	Zagreb, CRO	174
6	Valentina	Blazevic	CRO	Centre Back	14.02.1994	Sinj, CRO	171
2	Tamara	Georgijev	SRB	Left Back	06.09.1992	Pirot, SRB	173
10	Lara	Hrncic	SLO	Right Back	18.04.1993	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	184
9	Nina	Jericek	SLO	Centre Back	10.04.1984	Celje, SLO	172
3	Manca	Juric	SLO	Line Player	18.01.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	171
45	Laura	Kamdop	FRA	Line Player	14.09.1990	Chartres, FRA	182
20	Alja	Koren	SLO	Right Wing	11.12.1990	Celje, SLO	185
16	Misa	Marincek	SLO	Goalkeeper	18.02.1985	Celje, SLO	187
7	Vesna	Milanovic Litre	CRO	Line Player	30.05.1986	Sinj, CRO	181
17	Elizabeth	Omoriegie	BUL	Left Back	29.12.1996	Athens, GRE	174
21	Amra	Pandzic	SLO	Goalkeeper	20.09.1989	Ljubljana, SLO	177
12	Sergeja	Stefanisin	SLO	Goalkeeper	19.09.1974	Ljubljana, SLO	184
71	Ana	Zrimsek	SLO	Right Wing	17.08.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	180



Uros Bregar coach

- became the youngest ever coach of any Slovenian women's team, having taken over Krim at 36-years of age
- started his coaching career at 20 years old, later mentored by Marta Bon, whom he succeeded at the helm of Krim in 2015
- spent one and a half season as the assistant coach to Indira Kastratovic at Vardar in 2013, before taking over Hungarian side Vac
- also the current Slovenian women's national team coach
- expert in youth coaching, having worked with all Slovenian women's youth categories in the past


Misa Marincek
goalkeeper

- in her second spells with Krim
- has also played with Ptuj, Zalec, Olimpija and Kärnten (AUT)
- returned to Krim for the 2013/14 season
- looking to edge out Sergeja Stefanisin as number one goalkeeper


Polona Baric
left wing

- named best Slovenian women's player in 2015
- current Slovenia national team member
- started with gymnastics but soon made first handball steps under supervision of her father Tone Baric, who is a handball coach
- will replace the former team captain and one of club's best players Tamara Mavsar on the left wing


Mirjeta Bajramoska
left back

- has some CL experience from her stints with Macedonian clubs
- this is only her third venture abroad – she played with Elpides (GRE) and Alicante (ESP)
- had to fill the void in the backcourt left by Andrea Penezic and Linnea Torstenson in the past
- known for having a fiery and inspiring personality on court


Tamara Georgijev
centre back

- scored 39 goals in six matches in the Cup Winners' Cup with Turkish side Ardesen
- two-time Serbian Super League champion with RK Zajecar
- 2016/17 is her first Women's EHF Champions League season, after failing to qualify twice before
- very versatile player – can play all across the backcourt as well as cover the line player position
- older sister Kristina is a goalkeeper for Tamara's former club Ardesen


Elizabeth Omoregie
centre back

- widely considered among the most talented players of her generation
- very versatile, playing across the back-court as well on the wing, with inherent ability to find space and create her own chances to score
- made her CL debut in 2014/15 aged 17, scoring 34 goals for Krim
- student of Economics was selected CL Rookie of the Round 4 in 2014/15


Vesna Milanovic-Litre
line player

- playing her sixth CL season, with 72 goals scored so far in the competition
- played in the 2014/15 quarter-final with Győr
- important Croatian national team member, with almost 100 matches played
- versatile end-to-end line player, who relishes defensive duties
- started playing handball as a 12-year old, at her hometown club RK Sinj


Alja Koren
right back/right wing

- had her first experience in the CL with Celje in 2005/06.
- moved to Krim in 2009 for three seasons.
- later spent two seasons (2012/13 and 2013/14) with Erd (HUN) as a right wing
- made a successful transformation from wing to right back before the 2014/15 season, so she can play on both positions


Aneta Benko
right wing

- the summer 2016 addition to the team from Lokomotiva Zagreb
- part of the Croatia national team, a valuable defender, and fast in counter attacks
- plays with her right hand
- spent four seasons in Serbia with RK Zajecar before returning to Lokomotiva, where her handball career began
- better known by her maiden name: Peraica

GROUP 3



MKS Selgros Lublin (POL)

Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:

MKS Selgros Lublin won their 19th gold medal, fourth in succession, in 23 Polish Superleague seasons.

The team from Lublin coached by Sabina Wlodek and Monika Marzec finished the regular season in second place behind Pogon Baltica Szczecin but in the best of five matches play-off final, they turned the tables and won 3:1.

In the fourth final game in Lublin MKS Selgros trailed 16:21 just 14 minutes before the end but eventually won 27:25. 3,500 spectators in Globus Sportshall celebrated the improbable victory.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Polish champions

**Playing hall****Globus Hall**

ul.Kazimierza Wielkiego 8
20 611 Lublin
Poland
Capacity: 4,300

Club Address:

MKS Lublin
ul.Kazimierza Wielkiego 8
20 611 Lublin
Poland

Media contact:

Adam Rozwalka
+48 609 543 931
media@spr.lublin.pl

Online information:

Website: www.mks.lublin.pl
Facebook: [mkslublin](https://www.facebook.com/mkslublin)
Twitter: [@sprlublin](https://twitter.com/sprlublin)

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: green
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 19

Quarter-final (2): 1999/2000, 2001/02

Last 16 (1): 1995/96

Group Matches (9): 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 2000/2001, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16

Qualification (6): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2000/01, quarter-finals 2007/08, 2009/10

Cup Winners' Cup: quarter-final 2014/15

Polish league: 19 titles (1995-2003, 2005-2010, 2013-16)

Polish cup: 10 titles

MKS Selgros Lublin

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
26	Edyta	Charzynska	POL	Centre Back	12.01.1994	Plock, POL	175
20	Joanna	Drabik	POL	Line Player	28.10.1993	Wloszczowa, POL	180
12	Weronika	Gawlik	POL	Goalkeeper	20.10.1986	Gliwice, POL	180
10	Marta	Gega	POL	Left Back	16.04.1986	Bielawa, POL	184
1	Aleksandra	Januchta	POL	Goalkeeper	31.01.1996	Kielce, POL	173
6	Agnieszka	Kowalska	POL	Right Wing	17.01.1988	Jelenia Gora, POL	171
18	Katarzyna	Kozimur	POL	Right Back	09.06.1994	Przemysl, POL	175
13	Sylwia	Matuszczyk	POL	Line Player	11.06.1992	Zory, POL	173
23	Alesia	Mihdaliova	BLR	Right Back	22.01.1985	Orsza, BLR	177
5	Iwona Malgorzata	Niedzwiedz	POL	Centre Back	22.07.1979	Nowy Sacz, POL	177
24	Dagmara	Nocun	POL	Left Wing	02.01.1996	Kolno, POL	166
17	Krystina	Repelewska	POL	Right Back	07.01.1981	Minsk, BLR	176
8	Malgorzata	Rola	POL	Right Wing	07.01.1983	Lukow, POL	170
66	Aleksandra	Rosiak	POL	Left Back	07.07.1997	Lubin, POL	177
25	Kamila	Skrzyniarz	POL	Centre Back	20.11.1984	Kielce, POL	175
91	Aleksandra	Uzar	POL	Right Wing	10.12.1991	Swiebodzice, POL	167



Sabina Wlodek coach

- best left wing in the history of Polish Handball as voted by Polish Handball Federation experts
- voted best left wing at the EHF EURO 1998 in the Netherlands, where Poland placed 5th
- played for Lublin almost her entire professional career (1995-2011)
- became Lublin's head coach in November 2013
- her assistant is Monika Marzec, the best Polish line player in the last 20 years


Weronika Gawlik
goalkeeper

- grew up in Gliwice, southern Polish city near Katowice with good handball tradition
- joined Lublin at the end of 2011 due to the bankruptcy of Zgoda Bielszowice team
- best photographer among all Polish handball players, while injured she was always staying behind goals and taking pics of her teammates
- had a brilliant game against Russia in quarterfinal of WCh in Denmark in 2015
- the team captain since summer 2015


Agnieszka Kowalska (Kocela)
left wing

- considered the successor of Lublin's legendary left wing: Sabina Wlodek
- did not participate in the CL 2013/14 or WCh 2013 in Serbia due to injury
- her biggest sport-related dream is to participate in the Olympic Games
- got married in 2016 summer and changed not only the last name but also a number on her shirt from 6 to 9


Marta Gega
left back

- top scorer of the Polish league in 2009
- played in Le Havre alongside Karolina Siodmiak, another well-known Polish handball player
- at the first training in Le Havre, Gega accidentally broke two of Siodmiak's teeth with a shot, a terrible start to an eventually successful season with the club, reaching the EHF Cup semi-finals
- moved to Lublin in 2013 after an injury hampered spell at Cergy-Pontoise


Iwona Niedzwiedz
centre back

- the most experienced player in the team
- her transfer from runners-up Vistal Gdynia team considered the hottest one in Poland in last 5 years
- was playing for many years in Denmark for Aarhus and Team Tvis Holstebro but has never played any CL game before
- very interested in journalism, media and after the end of career might become a sport journalist

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013


Joanna Drabik
line player

- youngest key player in the team
- debuted in the CL 2013/14 when the first line player was injured right before the start of the competition
- played her first match for the Poland national team in March 2014 against Portugal


Krystsina Repelewska
centre back/right back

- born in Belarus (Minsk) but came to Poland at the age of 20, in 2010 she got her Polish passport
- her first Polish club was supposed to be Montex Lublin but as the team had no money for the transfer she started in Kielce
- came to Lublin in 2004 and in the first season won Polish championship, moved immediately to Koszalin and later to Piotrcovia, but came back to Lublin in 2008
- in May 2012 made her debut for Poland
- works at the Wincenty Pol University of Lublin


Alesia Mihdaliyova
right back

- Belarusian but came to Poland in 2013 at the age of only 18 joining Start Elblag
- was considering getting a Polish citizenship and to play for national Polish team but after many years she started back to perform for Belarus
- her biggest weapon are massive left hand shots
- in past she used to ride motorbikes and still enjoys the sound of their engines


Malgorzata Rola
right wing

- has the longest experience in the team of Lublin as she arrived in the city as a teenager and played her first league match with MKS in 2003
- in February 2004 had an extraordinary performance in Norway against Larvik in CL match scoring 10 goals against Lene Rantala - that day Rola was substituting injured Sabina Wlodek
- her idol and former team mate is also left wing Sabina Wlodek, now the head coach of MKS Selgros

GROUP 3

Indeco Conversano (ITA)

**Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:**

Second consecutive time the Italian title went to Indeco Conversano, who in two games put the word "end" to the final series against Cassano Magnago, in the remake of the final 2014/15.

The Italian pivot Elena Barani earned the seventh "Scudetto" in career. Conversano won 24:20 away and 27:16 at the Pala San Giacomo, with the support of 2,000 fans.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Italian champions

**Playing hall**

Pala San Giacomo
Via San Giacomo
70014 Conversano-Bari
Italy
Capacity: 3,978

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 1

Other

EHF Cup: Round 3 2015/16

Italian league: 2 titles (2015, 2016)
Italian cup: 2 titles

Media contact:

Giuseppe Roscino
giusepperoscino@gmail.com

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: red
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: grey/black

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: grey/black

Indeco Conversano (ITA)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
10	Cintia Analía	Albertini	ITA	Left Wing	15.04.1982	Mendoza, ARG	170
25	Giada	Babbo	ITA	Left Wing	12.09.1997	Putignano, ITA	160
4	Elena	Barani	ITA	Line Player	14.06.1978	Pontedera, ITA	171
	Nila	Bertolino	ITA		04.07.2000		
3	Carmen	Caccioppoli	ITA	Left Back	19.03.1997	Conversano, ITA	165
9	Stefania	Chiarappa	ITA	Right Wing	11.01.1986	Conversano, ITA	165
17	Giorgia	Di Pietro	ITA	Right Back	13.06.1994	Sant'omero, ITA	174
2	Arassay	Duran Morens	CUB	Back	12.08.1985	Santiago de Cuba, CUB	180
19	Giusy	Ganga	ITA	Centre Back	01.09.1989	Nuoro, ITA	170
1	Martina	Giona	ITA	Goalkeeper	17.01.1989	Latina, ITA	174
32	Giulia	Gozzi	ITA	Wing	05.07.2002	Arezzo, ITA	169
18	Dominga	Lo Greco	ITA	Wing	09.04.1997	Mola di Bari, ITA	155
15	Enrica	Minoia	ITA	Line Player	15.02.1993	Bari, ITA	165
16	Diana Andreea	Moroca	ROU	Goalkeeper	07.06.1999	Podu Turcului, ROU	167
33	Rebecca	Romualdi	ITA	Right Back	04.01.2000	Arezzo, ITA	170
5	Laura Celeste	Rotondo	ITA	Left Back	15.07.1992	Putignano, ITA	175
6	Francesca	Tricase	ITA	Right Wing	05.10.1999	Acquaviva delle Fonti, ITA	167



Giuseppe Fanelli coach

- born in 1956, originally from Conversano
- coach of Indeco Conversano since August 2014
- player In his early years and then coach in the 2nd and 1st men's leagues, with the team of Fasano, Noci and Conversano
- as a coach, won one Italian Supercup in the season 2009/10 with HC Conversano (male); one Italian Supercup, one Italian Championship and one Italian Cup in the season 2015/16 with Indeco Conversano (female)
- teacher of Physical Education, has the hobby of gardening


Martina Giona
goalkeeper

- arrived in Conversano in 2012 from Teramo; also played with the team of Pontinia
- won 3 Italian championships (2011/12 with Teramo, 2014/15 and 2015/16 with Conversano), 2 Italian Cups (2014/15, 2015/16) and 2 Italian Supercups (2014/15, 2015/16)
- best goalkeeper of the Italian Championship in 2014 and 2015


Cintia Albertini
goalkeeper

- played with Conversano in the season 2014/15, next year in Teramo and is back from 2016/17
- other teams in her career: Gefessa Torralba, Magna, Siracusa, Nuorese, Messina and Sassari
- won 1 Italian league (2014/15) and 2 Italian Cups (2010/11 with Sassari and 2014/15 with Conversano)
- played with the Argentina national team in the WCh 2003 in Croatia
- bronze medallist at the beach ECh in Croatia 2011


Giada Babbo
left wing

- 10 matches played with the ITA National Team
- won 2 Italian championships (2014/15, 2015/16), 2 Italian Cups (2014/15, 2015/16) and 2 Italian Supercups (2014/15, 2015/16)
- Best Young Player of the Italian Championship in 2015


Laura Rotondo
left back

- in the 2011/12 season she played with the Esercito-FIGH Futura Roma, the Olympic team created by the Italian Handball Federation
- won two Italian championships (2014/15, 2015/16), 2 Italian Cups (2014/15, 2015/16) and 2 Italian Supercup (2014/15, 2015/16)
- MVP of the Italian league in 2014 and 2015
- beach Handball: won 1 bronze medal at the ECh 2015 and 1 gold medal at the Mediterranean Beach Games 2015


Giusy Ganga
centre back

- in the 2011/12 season she played with the Esercito-FIGH Futura Roma
- won two Italian championships (2014/15, 2015/16), 2 Italian Cups (2014/15, 2015/16) and 2 Italian Supercup (2014/15, 2015/16)
- MVP of the Italian league in 2014 and 2015
- beach handball: won 1 bronze medal at the ECh 2015 and 1 gold medal at the Mediterranean Beach Games 2015


Elena Barani
line player

- 143 matches played with the Italian National Team (2nd best ever), also as a team captain
- played one edition of the WCh (2001) and 3 editions of the Mediterranean Games
- won 8 Italian championships and 7 cups
- gold medallist at the Beach ECh 2009 and at the World Games 2009
- played with Casarosa di Fornacette, Enna, Sassari, Bancole, Teramo and Conversano (from 2012)
- only player of the team to have already played in the EHF CL, in 2005/06 and 2006/07 with Sassari

Challenge Trophy: G 2004


Arasay Durrán
right back

- played with the national team of Cuba from 2002 to 2011
- joined Conversano in the seasons 2012/13
- won 1 Italian championship (2015/16), 1 Italian Cup (2015/16) and 1 Italian Supercup (2015/16)
- with the national team of Cuba won 1 gold medal at the Central American and Caribbean Games 2006, 1 silver medal at the Pan American Games 2007 and 1 bronze medal at the Pan American Championship 2011
- Best Foreign Player of the Italian League in 2013


Stefania Chiarappa
right wing

- always played in Conversano, she is the team captain
- won 2 Italian championships (2014/15, 2015/16), 2 Italian Cups (2014/15, 2015/16) and 2 Italian Supercups (2014/15, 2015/16)

GROUP 3



Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17 season: Slovakian champions upgraded by the EHF EXEC

IUVENTA Michalovce (SVK)

Road to the Women's EHF Champions League:

It is the same story in past six years in Slovakian women's handball. Iuventa Michalovce won their ninth title, the sixth in a row. They also won the Slovakian Cup as well as the Czech-Slovakian Interliga.

Michalovce played their arch rivals Slovan Duslo Sala in the final. Sala were the record title holders with nine titles but have been waiting for their tenth for eleven years.

Despite surprising defeat in the second of a possible five matches in the final (23:26) played in Michalovce, the eastern Slovakian team won both away games by nine goals (31:22, 32:23) to be crowned champions for the ninth time. Out of those nine titles, Michalovce celebrated eight of them away from home.

For Michalovce it is their ninth title in thirteen years. They completed golden hat-trick by winning Czech-Slovakian Interliga for the third time in a row, showing their dominance in the region.

**Playing hall**

Chemkostav Arena
Karola Kuzmanyho 24
07101 Michalovce
Slovakia
Capacity: 1,800

Club Address:

IUVENTA Michalovce, s.r.o.
Karola Kuzmányho 6225/24
071 01 Michalovce
Slovakia

Media contact:

Jaroslav Curny
+421 903 411 499
curny@iuventa-zhk.sk

Online information:

Website: www.iuventa-zhk.chemkostavarena.sk
Facebook: [IuventaMichalovce](https://www.facebook.com/IuventaMichalovce)

Past achievements**Women's EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2016/17 season): 6
Qualification (5): 2003/04, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2011/12, 2012/13

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Last 16 2008/09
EHF Cup: Last 16 2006/07, 2007/08, 2013/14, 2015/16

WHIL interleague: 7 titles (2005-07, 2009, 2014-16)
Slovakian league: 9 titles (2003, 2006, 2007, 2011-16)
Slovakian cup: 7 titles

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: yellow
Goalkeeper shirt: green

IUVENTA Michalovce (SVK)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
1	Raquel	Alvares Lafuente	ESP	Goalkeeper	08.08.1985	Gijón, ESP	183
24	Vladimira	Bajciova	SVK	Centre Back	24.06.1998	Michalovce, SVK	175
3	Julia	Chernova	RUS	Left Back	09.11.1992	Togliatti, RUS	180
23	Katsiaryna	Dubautsova	BLR	Right Back	09.12.1989	Gomel, BLR	185
22	Jana	Dziurova	SVK	Left Wing	06.05.1995	Michalovce, SVK	168
14	Veronika	Habankova	SVK	Right Back	26.07.1995	Trencin, SVK	181
19	Adriana	Holejova	SVK	Left Back	11.02.1999	Michalovce, SVK	174
4	Maria	Holesova	SVK	Left Wing	24.04.1993	Bytca, SVK	163
9	Vladimira	Kisikova	SVK	Line Player	29.10.1995	Michalovce, SVK	180
17	Yevgenia	Levchenko	UKR	Right Wing	09.11.1994	Zaporozhye, UKR	170
66	Adriana	Medvedova	SVK	Goalkeeper	11.07.1992	Banska Bystrica, SVK	184
12	Katarina	Mulikova	SVK	Goalkeeper	13.07.1998	Michalovce, SVK	177
13	Sofia	Nagyova	SVK	Left Wing	19.02.1995	Nove Zamky, SVK	165
77	Olga	Perederiy	UKR	Line Player	12.04.1994	Zaporozhye, UKR	175
10	Marianna	Rebicova	SVK	Left Back	15.08.1993	Michalovce, SVK	179
18	Slavica	Schuster	CRO	Centre Back	17.06.1989	Tesanj, BIH	170
8	Frantiska	Solarova	SVK	Right Back	25.03.1998	Trebisov, SVK	168
7	Bibiana	Stefanikova	SVK	Right Wing	07.12.1998	Michalovce, SVK	172
21	Patricia	Wollingerova	SVK	Centre Back	21.05.1990	Revuca, SVK	175



Frantisek Urban coach

- became head coach in February 2015 after coaching the youth team and being long serving assistant coach
- as the head coach, won twice WHIL, Slovakian Championship and Slovakian Cup
- one of the youngest coaches in the region - 31 years old
- successfully implemented modern aspects of men's handball into the team
- considered to be one of the most perspective Slovakian coaches



Raquel Alvarez Lafuente goalkeeper

- first Spanish player in the Czecho-Slovakian WHIL
- joined Michalovce in June 2015
- born in Gijon, played in Nantes before joining Slovakian Champion
- known for her ability to stop 7 metres throws, often called "7m specialist"
- 2014 European Championship Finalist with Spain



Maria Holesova left wing

- started playing handball at 10, played in Partizanske and Bytca before joining Iuventa Michalovce
- quadruple Slovakian champion (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), triple Czecho-Slovakian WHIL champion (2014, 2015, 2016)
- with 23 goals, best scorer of the 2015/2016 final series against Slovan Duslo Sala
- most tattooed female handball player in Slovakia

EHF EURO: S 2014



Marianna Rebicova left back

- raised in Michalovce, where she begun her career
- Slovakian Talent of the year 2012
- won the Slovakian title six times, triple Czecho-Slovakian WHIL champion
- made debut in Slovakian national team in September 2010 in a friendly against Belarus
- missed 2014 EURO for Slovakia because of knee injury



Patricia Wollingerova centre back

- won the Slovakian title six times, triple Czecho-Slovakian WHIL Champion
- started playing handball in the first grade in elementary school
- played at all positions on the court, but prefers to play centre back – in 2014 she finished the game in Veseli as a goalkeeper
- from a football family, but Patricia was never good at football



Slavica Schuster centre back

- started playing handball in Podravka Koprivnica
- joined Michalovce from Slovenian club ŽRK Minotest Ajdovščina
- her only previous EC experience comes from last 16 of Challenge Cup with Ajdovščina
- finished third in Slovenian league and won the Slovenian Cup



Olga Perederyi line player

- scored 110 goals in the 2015/16 WHIL season, 29 in the European competitions
- described by her teammates as the joker in the team, known for singing Slovakian songs during the training camps
- joined Iuventa in 2015 from Russian side Rostov-Don
- Zaporozhye-born Ukrainian national team player, part of EHF EURO 2014 squad



Katsiaryna Dubautsova right back

- Belarusian player joined Michalovce in the summer of 2016 from Gomel as first ever Belarusian to feature in the Czecho-Slovakian WHIL
- with 188cm, the tallest player in the current squad and third oldest after Raquel Alvarez Lafuente and Slavica Schuster
- born as right handed, but when she was 14, she broke her fingers and was forced to shoot with her left
- since then she has the ability to shoot with both her hands



Yevgenia Levchenko right wing

- just like Olga Perederyi comes from Zaporozhye, but arrived to Michalovce from another Ukrainian club Real Mykolajiv
- played for Iuventa youth teams
- in Ukrainian national team, she was coached by Borys Petrovskyj, former coach of Michalovce, who brought her to Iuventa in 2014

2015/16 Top Scorers

Rank	Player	Club	Goals
1	Isabelle Gulldén (SWE)	CSM Bucuresti (ROU)	108
2	Ekaterina Ilina (RUS)	Rostov-Don (RUS)	97
3	Cristina Neagu (ROU)	Buducnost (MNE)	94
4	Nora Mørk (NOR)	Larvik (NOR)	93
5	Allison Pineau (FRA)	HCM Baia Mare (ROU)	89
6	Katarina Bulatovic (MNE)	Buducnost (MNE)	87
7	Andrea Penezic (CRO)	HC Vardar (MKD)	79
8	Iuliia Managarova (UKR)	Rostov-Don (RUS)	72
9	Andrea Lekic (SRB)	HC Vardar (MKD)	70
10	Heidi Loke (NOR)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	69
11	Alexandrina Cabral Barbosa (ESP)	Fleury Loiret Handball (FRA)	68
12	Julia Eriksson (SWE)	IK Sävehof (SWE)	67
13	Gnonsiane Niombla (FRA)	Fleury Loiret Handball (FRA)	66
14	Ana Paula Rodrigues Belo (BRA)	CSM Bucuresti (ROU)	64
15	Nerea Pena Abaurrea (ESP)	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria (HUN)	63
16	Lois Abbingh (NED)	HCM Baia Mare (ROU)	60
	Eduarda Amorim Taleska (BRA)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	60
18	Eliza Buceschi (ROU)	Thüringer HC (GER)	58
19	Johanna Ahlm (SWE)	FC Midtjylland (DEN)	57
20	Linn Jorum Sulland (NOR)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	56

Past Winners

1994	Hypo Niederösterreich	AUT
1995	Hypo Niederösterreich	AUT
1996	Podravka Koprivnica	CRO
1997	Mar El Osito L'Eliana Valencia	ESP
1998	Hypo Niederösterreich	AUT
1999	Dunaferre SE	HUN
2000	Hypo Niederösterreich	AUT
2001	RK Krim Neutro Roberts	SLO
2002	Kometal D.P. Skopje	MKD
2003	Krim ETA Kotex Ljubljana	SLO
2004	Slagelse FH	DEN
2005	Slagelse FH	DEN
2006	Viborg A/S	DEN
2007	Slagelse FH	DEN
2008	Zvezda Zvenigorod	RUS
2009	Viborg A/S	DEN
2010	Viborg A/S	DEN
2011	Larvik HK	NOR
2012	Buducnost Podgorica	MNE
2013	Győri Audi ETO KC	HUN
2014	Győri Audi ETO KC	HUN
2015	Buducnost Podgorica	MNE
2016	CSM Bucuresti	ROU

All-time club standings 1993 - 2016

#	TR	Name of the club	MP	W	D	L	GF:FA	GD	P	NP	%	G
1	1	Hypo NÖ AUT	198	124	5	69	5285:5002	+283	252*:144	(23)Q	63,64%	Q
2	2	Buducnost MNE	202	114	21	67	5393:5082	+311	249:155	(20)*	61,63%	
3	3	Györi AUDI ETO KC HUN	156	109	11	36	4348:3831	+517	229:83	(12)*	73,40%	
4	4	Larvik HK NOR	176	107	8	61	4749:4327	+422	222:130	(17)*	63,07%	
5	5	RK Krim Mercator SLO	202	102	10	90	5484:5362	+122	214:190	(20)Q	52,97%	Q
6	6	Viborg HK DEN	164	87	12	65	4565:4323	+242	186:142	(17)	56,71%	
7	7	Oltchim Rm. Valcea ROU	118	62	8	48	3148:3005	+143	132:104	(12)	55,93%	
8	8	FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN	118	60	9	49	3207:3116	+91	129:107	(14)*	54,66%	
9	9	CBM Astroc Sagunto ESP	100	52	3	45	2658:2582	+76	107:93	(12)	53,50%	
10	10	HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	124	50	7	67	3124:3262	-138	107:141	(18)Q	43,15%	Q
11	11	Kometal Gjorce Petrov MKD	98	47	6	45	2460:2410	+50	100:96	(12)	51,02%	
12	12	Dinamo-Sinara RUS	94	38	9	47	2473:2520	-47	85:103	(11)	45,21%	
13	13	FC Midtjylland DEN	82	38	6	38	2125:2132	-7	82:82	(8)*	50,00%	
14	14	Slagelse DT DEN	56	38	2	16	1514:1400	+114	78:34	(5)	69,64%	
15	15	HC Lada RUS	62	33	2	27	1729:1737	-8	68:56	(7)	54,84%	
16	16	HC Vardar MKD	46	29	5	12	1284:1135	+149	63:29	(3)*	68,48%	
17	17	Dunafer NK HUN	52	29	4	19	1395:1285	+110	62:42	(6)	59,62%	
18	18	Zvezda Zvenigorod RUS	46	21	3	22	1294:1297	-3	45:47	(5)	48,91%	
19	19	Metz HB FRA	66	18	6	42	1603:1746	-143	42:90	(9)*	31,82%	
20	20	MKS Selgros Lublin POL	64	18	5	41	1617:1782	-165	41:87	(10)Q	32,03%	Q
21	21	HC Leipzig GER	66	19	3	44	1653:1829	-176	41:91	(8)Q	31,06%	Q
22	22	Grupo Asfi Itxako Navarra ESP	34	17	5	12	879:839	+40	39:29	(3)	57,35%	
23	23	Thüringer HC GER	50	17	4	29	1268:1338	-70	38:62	(5)*	38,00%	
24	24	Byasen NOR	40	15	3	22	942:1006	-64	33:47	(6)	41,25%	
25	25	HCM Baia Mare ROU	34	16	0	18	886:895	-9	32:36	(3)	47,06%	
26	26	IK Sävehof SWE	54	9	7	38	1392:1610	-218	25:83	(6)*	23,15%	
27	27	Rostov Don RUS	14	11	1	2	405:348	-57	23:5	(1)*	82,14%	
28	29	CSM Bucuresti ROU	16	10	1	5	416:387	+29	21:11	(1)*	65,63%	
29	54	Balonmano Bera Bera ESP	6	1	0	5	123:157	-34	2:10	(1)Q	16,67%	Q
	NR	Team Esbjerg DEN	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)*	0,00%	
	NR	Astrakhanochka RUS	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)*	0,00%	
	NR	HC Gomel BLR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)Q	0,00%	Q
	NR	Indeco Conversano ITA	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)Q	0,00%	Q
	NR	Sercodak Dalfsen NED	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)Q	0,00%	Q
	NR	Glassverket IF NOR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)Q	0,00%	Q
	NR	Iuventa Michalovce SVK	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)Q	0,00%	Q
	NR	Yenimahalle BSK TUR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)Q	0,00%	Q

* Point for Hypo NÖ deducted by official decision

^ = Excluding Qualifying matches

The club name is the last used name in EHF CL

TR – total ranking

MP – matches played

W – wins

D – draws

L – losses

GF:GA – goals for:goals against

P – points

NP – number of participations

% = winning percentage

G – group

All stats in this guide are provided by Roy Knoppert.

2016/17 Women's EHF Champions League Qualification tournaments

Media Guide

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