

# 2012

**EHF EURO • SERBIA**  
WOMEN • 4-16 DECEMBER

## CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDE

### WOMEN'S EHF EURO 2012

4 - 16 December 2012 in Serbia



EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION



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EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION

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**Jean Brihault**  
*EHF President*

On behalf of the European Handball Federation, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Serbia and to the Women's EHF EURO 2012. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Women's European Handball Championship is an event that has set a new precedent prior to the first throw-off; this is the first time in the history of the Championship that the men's event and the women's event has been hosted in the same country within one tournament cycle.

We are back in Serbia and I take this opportunity to thank the Serbian Handball Federation for their engagement in hosting this tournament on short notice. Once again, the Serbian Handball Federation has proven adept at organising major handball tournaments. Anew, with the same individuals, the Organising Committee have intensely dedicated their time and, with renewed energy, have created an event to remember...now it is time for the 16 national teams to show what they are bringing to the event.

The pre-qualification process to the EHF EURO 2012 began in June 2011, 30 countries registered their national teams and the standard 28 teams were drawn into seven groups. A year later, the Final Tournament participants were known. Nevertheless, due to the surprise withdrawal of the Netherlands, the European Handball Federation had to reorganise some fundamental aspects of the event. Today, we welcome the national team of Iceland back to the EHF EURO. Due to the national team of Serbia having successfully completed its qualification, Iceland was awarded the final place in the EHF EURO 2012 as the team was the overall best third ranked team. Moreover, boasting five European Championship titles, the national team of Norway returns to defend its crown.

The countdown has begun, on 4 December 2012 at 17:45 local time, the first match of the 10<sup>th</sup> EHF Women's European Handball Championship will throw-off...are you ready for action?



**Arne Elovsson**  
*EHF EURO 2012 Chairman*

Across the four venues in the Cities of Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad and Vršac, the handball spotlight will shine on the women's national teams of the sixteen participating nations. Serbia is ready to welcome the national delegations of Europe comprising of over 250 athletes along with their coaches and team representatives. The race is on and the primary objective of all the teams is to make it through to the Main Round of the Final Tournament – but only twelve teams can reach this goal.

How the teams will fare is mostly up to chance. Once again, in this handball cycle and as is following an edition of the Olympic Games, we will see a renewal of the national teams. Moreover, there is a generational movement that can be seen in many teams at the moment and we are pleased to see a wealth of younger players, who are very ambitious and hungry for success.

The question on the minds of many handball protagonists is not only who will take the title; does the Norwegian national team have what it takes to win their fifth consecutive title? In addition, who will follow Norway (defending champion) and Serbia (host) to the 21<sup>st</sup> IHF Women's World Championship in December 2013...the best two teams will qualify directly for the event. The remaining 8 teams will have to take their chances in the European play-offs.

Therefore, when it is all said and done, get ready for a very exciting EHF EURO 2012; the only thing that is guaranteed at the Final Tournament, is an unforgettable experience.

# WELCOME TO SERBIA

## Following the withdrawal of the Netherlands, did the Serbian Handball Federation expect to get the contract to organise the Women's EHF EURO 2012?

*Despite competition from ten other National Federations, I think that the EHF did not choose the Serbian Handball Federation at random. The mood at the men's EHF EURO in January was very euphoric, and with this event, we broke all records in terms of spectators. The organisation of the event was praised from all sides. Therefore, we had of course hoped that we would be given the opportunity to host the women's European Championship in December.*



**Bozidar Djurkovic**  
Secretary General  
Serbian Handball  
Federation

## How great are the expectations of the Federation for the second EHF EURO in the space of eleven months?

*We are naturally being cautious in some respects. We have had only a few months to prepare and one must remember that we had a preparation period of three years for the men's championship. It is the first time that a country has organised two European Championships in one year. But I think that we will get there, because we will do our very best.*

## Does the Serbian Handball Federation believe that the organisation has been easier due to the close temporal proximity of the men's event?

*Yes, of course. The "ingredients" are the same as for the men's championships. Based on experience, the European Handball Federation trusts us to deliver the organisation of the women's European Championship in this short time; being true to the motto: Never change a winning team!*

## Reflecting on the men's event, what are the differences relating to the women's EURO event?

*The preparations are the same, as I said. The only difference is the duration of the Women's EHF EURO, which has been scheduled two days shorter than the men's championship in January. Moreover, in Belgrade all matches will be played exclusively in the Kombank Arena. Those are the only differences.*

## Does the Serbian Handball Federation expect a similar number of spectators as were received in January?

*The number of spectators is dependent on many factors. Of course, we only had a limited time to advertise the women's EHF EURO. Furthermore, the weather also needs to play along and the current financial situation across Europe is decisive. We have worked very hard to attract the fans and in this direction, we have made progress. We will see...*

## How big is the international interest in tickets for the Women's EHF EURO 2012?

*In the beginning, there was already a lot of interest from Norway; additionally, we are also expecting numerous fans from other traditional handball countries such as FYR Macedonia, Denmark, France, Romania and Hungary.*

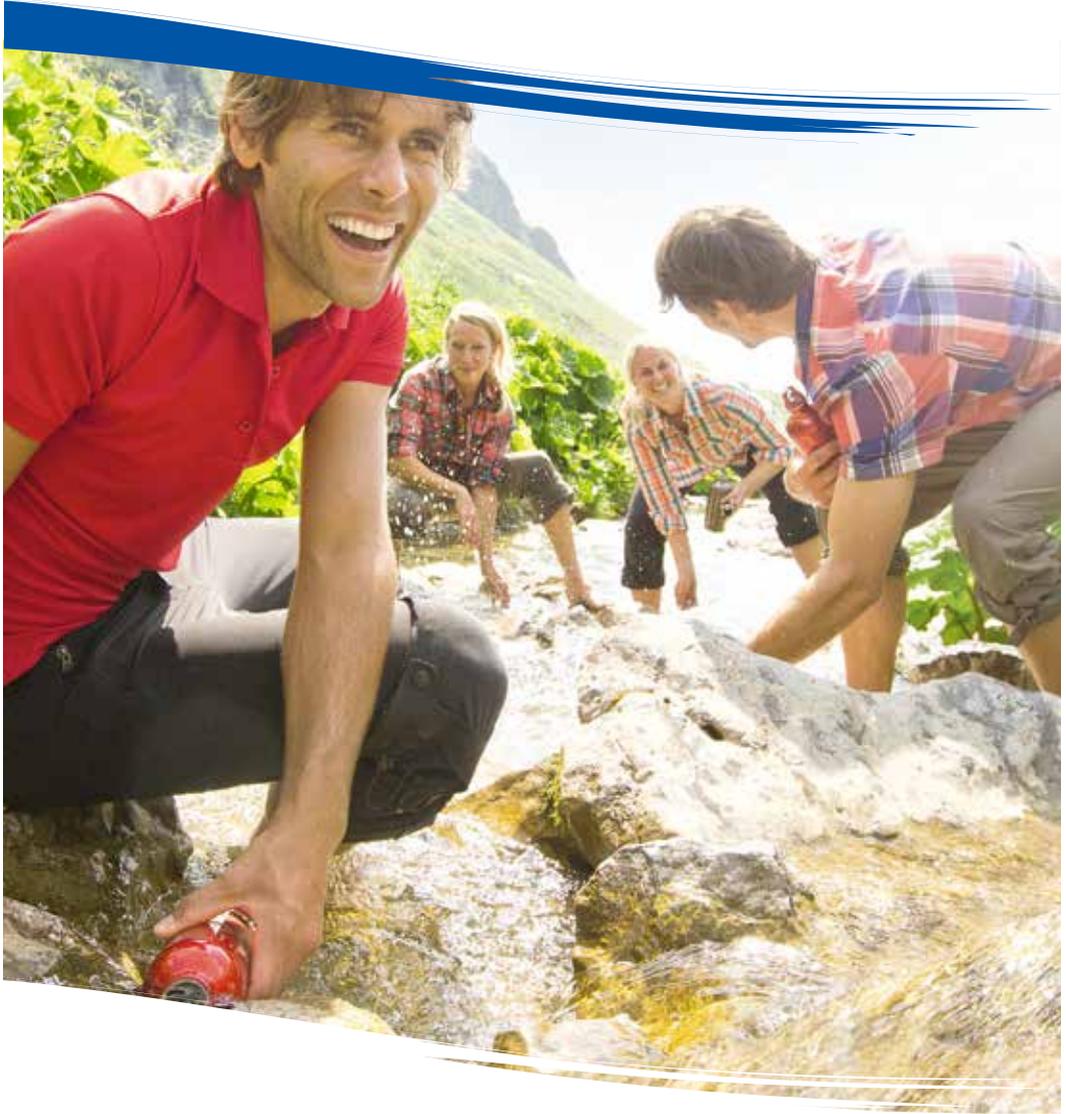
## Do you believe that the Serbian women's national team will cause a sensation?

*From us, there is no doubt that the women's national team will receive the same support as their male counterparts did. Now it is up to the team, but the players are good, and we believe in their success.*

**"Never change  
a winning  
team"**

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# WHERE NEXT?

## **To Serbia – 2013 Women’s World Championship**

7 to 22 December 2013

Organiser: IHF – SRB

The defending World Champion Norway qualified directly for the Final Tournament in Serbia

The national team of Serbia gained an automatic place as the host team  
In addition to Norway and Serbia, the two best ranked teams at EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia will also qualify directly for the World Championship

The remaining eight places allocated to Europe will be decided through the qualification and play-off matches. The qualification tournaments will take place from 3 – 7 October 2012, 21 – 25 November 2012 concluding in the week 28 November – 2 December 2012. The play-off matches will commence on the weekend of 1/2 June and end on the following weekend 8/9 June 2013. The draw for the play-off matches will take place on 16 December 2012.

## **To Hungary/Croatia – 2014 Women’s European Handball Championship**

7 to 21 December 2014

Organiser: EHF – HUN/CRO

On the occasion of the EHF Executive Committee meeting in April 2011, the right to organise and host the Final Tournament of the Women’s EHF EURO 2014 was awarded to Hungary and Croatia. For the second time in the history of the competition, the EHF EURO will be jointly organised by two National Federations. The competition will take place across five venues with the final phase of the competition being played in Budapest, Hungary.

The qualification for the national teams participating in this tournament will take place over two distinct qualification phases. Wholly dependant on the number of registrations received from the National Federation, some teams according to the national team ranking will start their EHF EURO journey in the groups of Qualification Phase 1. The national teams of Hungary and Croatia have automatically qualified as hosts. The remaining 14 places will be decided in Qualification Phase 2. The dates of the phases are as follows:

### **Qualification Phase 1**

Qualification Tournament: 31 May to 2 June 2013

### **Qualification Phase 2**

Rounds 1 and 2: 23 to 27 October 2013

Rounds 3 and 4: 26 to 30 March 2014

Rounds 5 and 6: 11 to 15 June 2014

The Final Tournament draw will take place shortly after the conclusion of Qualification Phase 2.

 <p>WOMEN'S HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP EHF EURO 2010 DENMARK &amp; NORWAY 7-19 DECEMBER</p>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> European Championship</b> 7 – 19 December 2010 / Denmark & Norway	<b>2010</b>
	1. NOR 2. SWE 3. ROU 4. DEN 5. FRA 6. MNE 7. RUS 8. NED 9. CRO 10. HUN 11. ESP 12. UKR 13. GER 14. SRB 15. ISL 16. SLO	

 <p>EHF EURO 2008 FYR MACEDONIA</p>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> European Championship</b> 2 – 14 December 2008 / FYR Macedonia	<b>2008</b>
	1. NOR 2. ESP 3. RUS 4. GER 5. ROU 6. CRO 7. MKD 8. HUN 9. SWE 10. UKR 11. DEN 12. BEL 13. SRB 14. FRA 15. AUT 16. POR	

 <p>euro2006 HANDBALL SWEDEN</p>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> European Championship</b> 7 – 17 December 2006 / Sweden	<b>2006</b>
	1. NOR 2. RUS 3. FRA 4. GER 5. HUN 6. SWE 7. CRO 8. POL 9. ESP 10. AUT 11. DEN 12. MKD 13. UKR 14. SRB 15. NED 16. SLO	

 <p>6<sup>th</sup> WOMEN'S EUROPEAN HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP HUNGARY 2004</p>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> European Championship</b> 9 – 19 December 2004 / Hungary	<b>2004</b>
	1. NOR 2. DEN 3. HUN 4. RUS 5. GER 6. UKR 7. ROU 8. ESP 9. SLO 10. AUT 11. FRA 12. SCG 13. CRO 14. SWE 15. CZE 16. BLR	

 <p>EM 2002 HANDBALL DENMARK</p>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> European Championship</b> 6 – 15 December 2002 / Denmark	<b>2002</b>
	1. DEN 2. NOR 3. FRA 4. RUS 5. HUN 6. YUG 7. ROU 8. CZE 9. AUT 10. SLO 11. GER 12. UKR 13. ESP 14. NED 15. SWE 16. BLR	



## 4<sup>th</sup> European Championship

2000

8 – 17 December 2000 / Romania

- |        |        |        |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. HUN | 2. UKR | 3. RUS | 4. ROU  | 5. FRA  | 6. NOR  |
| 7. YUG | 8. MKD | 9. GER | 10. DEN | 11. BLR | 12. AUT |



## 3<sup>rd</sup> European Championship

1998

11 – 20 December 1998 / The Netherlands

- |        |        |        |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. NOR | 2. DEN | 3. HUN | 4. AUT  | 5. POL  | 6. GER  |
| 7. UKR | 8. MKD | 9. RUS | 10. NED | 11. ROU | 12. ESP |



## 2<sup>nd</sup> European Championship

1996

6 – 15 December 1996 / Denmark

- |        |        |        |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. DEN | 2. NOR | 3. AUT | 4. GER  | 5. ROU  | 6. CRO  |
| 7. RUS | 8. SWE | 9. UKR | 10. HUN | 11. POL | 12. LTU |



## 1<sup>st</sup> European Championship

1994

17 – 25 September 1994 / Germany

- |        |        |        |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. DEN | 2. GER | 3. NOR | 4. HUN  | 5. CRO  | 6. RUS  |
| 7. SWE | 8. CZE | 9. AUT | 10. ROU | 11. UKR | 12. SVK |



### The Championship Ball

Reaching velocities of over 100km/h, depending on the player, the unique handball ball is, along with the players, at the very heart of the sport. Supplied by the longstanding EHF sports equipment partner adidas, the match ball is created from hand-stitched panels which ensures precision bouncing behaviours.

Especially designed for the women's EHF EURO, red with white and blue hues, the balls which weigh up to 375 grams and have a maximum circumference of 56 centimetres meet international standards as regulated by the International and European Handball Federations. Over the course of the event approximately 150 official match balls will be used.

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## **Eleven nations had expressed their interest to host the EHF EURO 2012. What spoke in favour of Serbia?**

*We undertook a direct communication process with all the nations; after all, it was a relatively short window of only six months to the start of the EHF EURO. In January, Serbia organised a good men's EHF EURO and in this case, many of the elements from that organisation could be employed again. We, at this point, had just finished our cooperation with the Serbian Handball Federation, so the communication was very simple.*



**Michael Wiederer**  
EHF Secretary General

## **How important was it to have the use of the same arenas and the involvement of the same persons as before?**

*This women's Championship will be played in four arenas instead of five, because in Belgrade, we will exclusively use the great Kombank Arena. A crucial factor to the decision by the EHF Executive Committee in favour of Serbia, was the fact that all technical aspects of the organisation had been already clarified in January – and naturally, we can now build on this.*

## **The EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark and Norway has raised the bar very high – can this be increased further in Serbia?**

*At this EHF EURO, the periodisation needs to be taken into consideration: in 2010, for the teams it was all about the direct qualification phase for the Olympic Games in London, then it was about the qualification to the World Championship. Now, we will see teams with young players, which was the same in 2000, 2004 and 2008 after the Olympics. Nevertheless, even with the success of the EHF EURO 2010, the hosts played a crucial role in the positive outcome, for example, in Herning for five consecutive days, there were more than 10.000 fans in the arena. I hope that this very positive trend will continue in Serbia. One can only say “new game, new chances!”*

**“I hope for the same euphoria in Serbia”**

## **The European Handball Federation has declared the intensive promotion and development of women's handball – where can the influences be seen in Serbia?**

*After the elections for all EHF bodies, women in these bodies now represent 22.3 percent of the total. Across all the bodies, 14 women and 49 men were elected. Once you look at the nominations to the Women's EHF EURO in Serbia, you will see that 50 percent of all referees and technical delegates are female. On all levels, in which the EHF can be seen as influential, we want to also be prevalent. These are the measures that promote women's handball.*

## **Back to the game; an EHF EURO following an edition of the Olympic Games, as you already mentioned, is often a sign of change. Do you therefore expect surprises?**

*I think so; the tournament can be completely unpredictable. For example, look at the silver medal won by Spain in 2008 or at the gold medal won by Hungary in 2000 – this just confirms that after an Olympic tournament, you can expect surprising results.*

## **What headlines would you like to read across the European sports pages summarizing the EHF EURO on 17 December 2012?**

*Something along the lines of “That was women's handball at its best” – because, as already stated, we do not want to compare women's and men's European Championships, especially when it comes to any figures. What we do hope for, of course, is a pan-European high media presence and an advancement of the entire event that is the 10th Women's European Handball Championship.*

The Women's EHF EURO 2012 will mark the third occasion that the Serbian Handball Federation has been selected by the European Handball Federation to host a major national team event. Preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> Women's European Handball Championship began in June 2012, with the majority of the infrastructure in place and available to employ on this occasion.

For the Women's EHF EURO 2012, we return to the central and Vojvodina provinces of the Republic of Serbia. Located in the south of Europe covering a geographical area of 88.361km<sup>2</sup>, Serbia has approximately 7.3 million inhabitants. Over the course of the next 12 days, the European Handball Federation and the local organising committee welcomes you to the Cities of Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad and Vršac.

## WHO TO CONTACT

### European Handball Federation

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[zl@rss.org.rs](mailto:zl@rss.org.rs)

# VENUE INTRODUCTION

**NOVI SAD**

**VRŠAC**

**BELGRADE**  
Airport "Nikola Tesla" Belgrade

**NIŠ**  
Airport "Konstantin Veliki" Niš

**SERBIA**

Hungary  
Croatia  
Bosnia Herzegovina  
Montenegro  
Albania  
FYR Macedonia  
Romania  
Bulgaria  
Kosovo

**Novi Sad – Spens Hall**  
Capacity: 8,000

**Vršac – Millennium Hall**  
Capacity: 4,000

**Belgrade – Kombank Arena**  
Capacity: 20,000

**Niš – Sportski Centar Cair**  
Capacity: 4,000

The 10<sup>th</sup> Women's European Handball Championship will begin and end in Belgrade. The handball spotlight once again returns to the capital city of Serbia. The Kombank Arena, with seating capacity of 20.000, will host the Group A matches of the Preliminary Round. The defending champions Norway will meet the national teams of Serbia, Ukraine and the Czech Republic; the Main Round and the anticipated final weekend matches will be played out in the City. Belgrade has approximately 1.6 million inhabitants and is one of the oldest cities in Europe with over 6000 years of history. With over 600 sport and recreational facilities, Belgrade is a hub for professional and promising athletes. Welcome to Belgrade!

## **PLAYING ARENA** (Preliminary Round , Main Round & Final Weekend)

Kombank Arena  
Arsenija Carnojevica Blvd. 58  
11070 Belgrade

Tel: +381 11 22 02 222  
Fax: +381 11 21 31 321  
Web: [www.arenabeograd.com](http://www.arenabeograd.com)  
Email: [info@arenabeograd.com](mailto:info@arenabeograd.com)

## **EHF HOTEL**

Hotel Hyatt Regency Belgrade  
Milentija Popovica 5, PO BOX 067  
11070 Belgrade

Tel: +381 11 30 11 234  
Fax: +381 11 31 12 234  
Web: [www.belgrade.regency.hyatt.com](http://www.belgrade.regency.hyatt.com)  
Email: [belgrade.regency@hyatt.com](mailto:belgrade.regency@hyatt.com)

## **TEAM HOTEL**

In Hotel  
Arsenija Carnojevica Blvd. 56  
11070 Belgrade

Tel: +381 11 31 05 300  
Fax: +381 11 31 05 351  
Web: [www.inhotel-belgrade.rs](http://www.inhotel-belgrade.rs)  
Email: [bosko.rupic@inhotel-belgrade.rs](mailto:bosko.rupic@inhotel-belgrade.rs)

Welcome to Novi Sad! The national teams drawn to Group C (Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Spain) will have the pleasure of playing the matches of the Preliminary Round in Novi Sad. The Spens Hall is a multi-function leisure centre that hosts a range of different sports including swimming and ice hockey. It opened its doors in 1981. Novi Sad is the capital in the province of Vojvodina and it lies directly on the Danube River, connecting the city with Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade. It is the second largest city in Serbia. Novi Sad is explicitly linked to cultural and sporting excellence. It is no stranger to hosting numerous summer festivals and is steeped in sporting traditions with over 200 sport organisations.

## **PLAYING ARENA** (Preliminary & Main Round)

Spens Hall  
Sutjeska 2  
21000 Novi Sad

Tel: +381 21 48 82 222  
Fax: +381 21 66 11 031  
Web: [www.spens.rs](http://www.spens.rs)  
Email: [office@spens.rs](mailto:office@spens.rs)

## **EHF HOTEL**

Hotel Leopold  
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Email: [office@leopoldns.com](mailto:office@leopoldns.com)

## **TEAM HOTEL**

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Novosadskog sajma 35  
21000 Novi Sad

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Fax: +381 21 48 88 885  
Web: [www.hotelparkns.com](http://www.hotelparkns.com)  
Email: [info@hotelparkns.com](mailto:info@hotelparkns.com)

In December, Niš will host the Preliminary Round of the Women's EHF EURO 2012 – the national teams of Sweden, France, Denmark and FYR Macedonia, drawn into Group B, will play their matches in Sportski Centar Cair. In 2011, the arena underwent reconstruction to improve the infrastructure to one of the oldest sports venues in the region. Commonly used for football, it has a spectator capacity of 4000 seats. Connecting Asia Minor to Europe, Niš is known as the gateway between the east and west. It is one of the oldest cities in the Balkan Peninsula and the birthplace of Constantine the Great, founder of Constantinople. Located to the south of Serbia, Niš is the third largest city in the country and encapsulates 68 suburbs. Niš thrives on its industry and the three most important industrial areas are engineering, construction and electronics. Welcome to Niš!

### **PLAYING ARENA** (Preliminary Round)

Sportski Centar Cair  
9. Brigade 10  
18000 Niš

Tel: +381 18 511 972  
Fax: +381 18 511 973  
Web: [www.sccair.rs](http://www.sccair.rs)  
Email: [office@sccair.rs](mailto:office@sccair.rs)

### **EHF HOTEL**

BW Hotel My Place  
Kej 29. Decembar bb  
18000 Niš

Tel: +381 18 525 111  
Fax: +381 18 295 295  
Web: [www.hotelmyplace.com](http://www.hotelmyplace.com)  
Email: [hotel@hotelmyplace.com](mailto:hotel@hotelmyplace.com)

### **TEAM HOTEL**

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18000 Niš

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Fax: +381 18 505 800  
Web: [www.tamiresidence.com](http://www.tamiresidence.com)  
Email: [office@tamiresidence.com](mailto:office@tamiresidence.com)

Welcome to Vršac! In 2001, under great fanfare, the Millennium Hall was unveiled. The multi-purpose indoor arena has a spectator capacity of 4000 and was used for the preliminary matches of the men's EHF EURO in January 2012. Handball returns to the Millennium Hall again hosting Group B in the Preliminary Round of the Women's EHF EURO 2012, however, the hall is the home of the local basketball club KK Hemofarm, the hall also hosts concerts and other live entertainment. According to the 2011 census, the town located in the municipality of Vojvodina, has just fewer than 36.000 inhabitants. Steeped in history, the region has over 54.000 hectares of arable land, meaning that Vršac contributes significantly to the agriculture industry in the South Banat District. Other notable industries in Vršac include pharmaceuticals and breweries; however, it also boasts a very famous wine making industry with Vršacki Vinogradi being largest winery in the region. If you do get a chance for sightseeing amidst all the handball excitement, take the time to visit the two orthodox monasteries or the Vršac Castle that sits on the hill overlooking the town.

## PLAYING ARENA (Preliminary Round)

Millennium Hall  
Omladinski trg 17  
26300 Vršac

Tel: +381 13 800 105  
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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	GOLD
2008	FYR Macedonia	GOLD
2006	Sweden	GOLD
2004	Hungary	GOLD
2002	Denmark	SILVER
2000	Romania	6th place
1998	Netherlands	GOLD
1996	Denmark	SILVER
1994	Germany	BRONZE

## GETTING TO SERBIA

As the reigning European Champion, the national team of Norway entered the EHF EURO 2012 Final Tournament automatically.

## NORWAY IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Belgrade.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	20:15	NOR v SRB
06.12.	20:15	CZE v NOR
08.12.	18:15	NOR v UKR

## KEY PLAYERS



Heidi Løke

For line player Heidi Løke, it took a few years before her star ascended rapidly. In the past three years, Løke has won every title that is possible for a player: Olympic Champion, World Champion, European Champion, Champions League winners (with her former club from Larvik). Primarily because of her terrific performance at the 2011

World Championships, she was selected to the All-Star Team as in the year before at the EHF EURO 2010; Løke was also awarded the honour and title of "world handball player of the year". Meanwhile Heidi Løke plays for the top Hungarian club team Győr, with whom she made it to the 2012 Women's EHF Champions League final. Being a competitive player, for Heidi, a success in Serbia would mean a third consecutive European title.



L.K. Riegelhuth Koren

A married couple in the national jersey: just like her husband Einar, Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth Koren also carries the honour of wearing the Norwegian colours. Moreover, despite being born in a region dedicated to skiing, the 28-year-old chose handball at a very early age. She, in the same vein as Heidi Løke, has also won all available titles: named "world

handball player of the year" in 2008, double Olympic Champion, World Champion, vice World Champion and already four-time European Champion (2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010). With Larvik, she also won the 2011 Women's EHF Champions League and the 2005 EHF Cup Winners' Cup. With nearly 800 goals in 200 international matches, Riegelhuth Koren is one of the most experienced Norwegian players on the roster.



## THE TEAM

Gold, Gold, Gold! At all three previous major tournaments, it was the Norwegian national team that stood on the first position of the podium. Following on from the race for the fourth consecutive European title, which began in Herning in 2010, the continuation of the Norwegian success story culminated with the second world championship gold medal in Sao Paulo in 2011 and the successful defence of their title at the 2012 Olympics in London. In 23 tournaments since 1994, the Norwegian women have won 18 medals – five gold medals alone at the European Championships. All this tremendous achievement has been possible despite many of the current golden generation not being part of the starting line-up due to pregnancy (Gro Hammerseng) or injury (Tonje Larsen, Katja Nyberg). Nevertheless, Coach Thorir Hergeirsson, recently named the IHF World Coach of the Year, has been able to shape a new top team from the large pool of Norwegian young players led by the likes of stalwarts Caroline Dyhre Breivang, Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth Koren, Heidi Løke, Katrine Lunde Haraldsen and her twin sister Kristine Lunde-Borgersen. However, let us not forget that it was at the Olympic Games in London that the young talents, such as Ida Alstad and Linn Jørum Sulland, primarily set the course in the final against Montenegro by scoring numerous goals. Thus, in Serbia, Norway is once again the big favourite for the gold medal – which would make it five European Championship titles in a row.

## THE COACH



**Thorir Hergeirsson**

At one of the most anticipated handball press conferences in the history of the sport on 16 April 2009, all eyes were on Thorir Hergeirsson; the man who had just inherited the most successful women's national handball team on the continent of Europe. Hergeirsson led the team to the winners' podium in China, where the team's performance earned them a bronze medal. Then the Icelander was off, climbing the ladder of success even faster as his famous forerunner by winning gold at the 2011 World Championship and the 2012 Olympic Games. Right before the start of their gold mission in London, his contract was extended until 2016. Hergeirsson joined the Norwegian coaching team in 2001 working alongside Mia Hermansson Högdahl, who is now the assistant coach. Born in 1964, Thorir Hergeirsson began coaching in 1994. Prior to his transition to the national team arena, his previous club teams included Nærbø IL, Elverum Handball and Gjerpren Handball.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	12th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	10th place
2006	Sweden	13th place
2004	Hungary	6th place
2002	Denmark	12th place
2000	Romania	SILVER
1998	Netherlands	7th place
1996	Denmark	9th place
1994	Germany	11th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

In the qualification, the national team of Ukraine gave a perfect performance in Group 7, winning five from six matches against the opponents from Iceland, Spain and Switzerland.

## UKRAINE IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Belgrade.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	17:45	UKR v CZE
06.12.	18:15	SRB v UKR
08.12.	18:15	NOR v UKR

## KEY PLAYERS



**Iulia Managarova**

With her national team, Iulia Managarova wants to move to the Main Round of the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia and with her club, Oltchim Valcea in Romania, she is this year's big favourite to win the Women's EHF Champions League. The 24-year-old right wing player was one of the most successful top scorers for Ukraine in the qualification for Serbia and is an expert in the counter-attack. Prior to joining Valcea in 2010, Iulia Managarova played for the top Ukrainian club Sparta Kiev.



**Anastasiya Pidpalova**

Anastasiya Pidpalova, the 30-year-old back court player standing at over 1.90 meters tall, seems destined to rank once again among the top three players at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia. At the EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark and Norway, she was by far the most successful Ukrainian player at the event. Her greatest success at club level was reaching the Champions League final with her former club Oltchim Valcea, despite losing out to the Danes from Viborg. For almost ten years, Pidpalova previously played for HC Motor Zaporozhye. In her second season with the club, she is giving her all on the court for the current Russian champions from Volgograd.



## THE TEAM

The success of Ukraine was one of the biggest surprises in the qualification to the women's EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, because even though it was a very close match, no one expected the national team of Ukraine to defeat Spain on their home turf in Estella-Navarra to win Group 7. Since 1991, women's handball in Ukraine has rapidly developed. The women's national team has participated at every edition of the EHF EURO since the inauguration of the competition in 1994. However, laudable success continues to evade the team. With the exception of a silver performance in Romania (2002), the team has never ranked in the top five. The last appearance at the EHF EURO, the team managed to garner 12th place in Denmark/Norway after a tremendous ten-goal final group phase victory against Germany. The only other handball success story of the women's national team that can be told, was the surprising performance at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens; in their first and only appearance at the summer Olympic Games, the national team won bronze medal under the leadership of Coach Leonid Ratner. The stars in the team are the prolific and very tall back court players Anastasiya Pidpalova and Victoriya Borshchenko; and in the qualification, Olga Lajuk impressed everyone with her goalkeeping skills.

## THE COACH



**Leonid Ratner**

For over a decade and only with a brief interruption, Leonid Ratner has been the coach of the Ukrainian women's national team. Ratner is the senior among the EHF EURO coaches and the father of all the successes following the fragmentation of the Soviet Union. Since the independence of Ukraine, Ratner has been working on bringing the women's national team back to the top of European handball. Though some may think that a few of his training methods are slightly antiquated, one must reflect on his successes e.g. leading his team through the qualification phase for the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia and winning the bronze medal in 2004 at the Olympic Games in Athens; his methods seem to work well. Ratner puts great emphasis on physical game, a solid defence, great back court players and fast wing players with strength in the counter-attack. Leonid Ratner was involved in all of the great successes of the Ukrainian team – and retirement is the last thing on the mind of the grand master.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	14th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	13th place
2006	Sweden	14th place
2004	Hungary	12th place*
2002	Denmark	6th place**
2000	Romania	7th place**

\* qualified as Serbia & Montenegro (SCG)

\*\* qualified as Yugoslavia (YUG)

## GETTING TO SERBIA

Serbia ranked second in Qualification Group 2 conceding only one defeat against fellow EHF EURO 2012 participants Romania.

## SERBIA IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Belgrade.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	20:15	NOR v SRB
06.12.	18:15	SRB v UKR
08.12.	20:15	SRB v CZE

## KEY PLAYERS



**Andrea Lekic**

Andrea Lekic has played for the national team for the past six years, but she has seen much more success on a club level. Lekic has been awarded the title of 'Serbian handball player of the year' on three occasions. With over 230 goals scored in the EHF Champions League, first for the Slovenian top club RK Krim Mercator and then

with Györi Audi ETO KC since 2011, the accolade is well deserved. With Györi, Andrea Lekic made it to the 2012 Women's Champions League Final, where she and her team faced Buducnost and lost. Also considered one of the best back court players in the Balkans, Lekic was also twice voted "best player" of the regional women's league and in 2010 was even among the nominees for the world handball player of the year title.



**Biljana Filipovic**

The 26-year-old left wing Biljana Filipovic began her handball career in Niš, the birthplace of Karabatic and Bojana Popovic. She was a late starter in the Serbian national team, however, during the EHF EURO qualification, she developed into one of the most important players the team. Her comeback in the team of Sasa Boskovic

was extremely successful. Last season, she moved to France and with just under 100 decisive goals, Filipovic was instrumental in taking Arvor 29 – Pays de Brest to the national championship where they lifted the title for the very first time. Regrettably, the club failed to receive a license to play in the first division. It was at this point that Biljana Filipovic took the opportunity to sign for the Turkish club Uskudar B.S.K.



## THE TEAM

The women's national team of Serbia now dream the dream that their male counterparts achieved eleven months ago - to win a medal at the EHF EURO on home soil. Unexpectedly, as is often the case, the fight to win a piece of precious metal was the original plan of team Serbia, but at the home 2013 World Championship. Now, a year earlier, they get a chance to make women's handball in Serbia popular, just as the men had done in January.

The women's national handball team of Serbia has undergone radical transformation since the 1970's. Until 2002, the team qualified for most major competitions under the national banner of Yugoslavia and had intermittent success (1980 & 1984 OG silver and gold medals; 2001 WC bronze). In the four years when the team was under the SCG indicator, the team was relatively unsuccessful in making waves on the international stage. The women's national team of Serbia continues to make progress on the handball scene by participating often in various tournaments. Finally, the hard work and determination is beginning to pay off for the team! Of course, the minimum objective of the team is to reach the Main Round of the Final Tournament in the hope of putting the failures of the past three EHF EURO events to rest. Nevertheless, the Serbian national team is determined to take it a step at a time, and as we know - anything can happen at the EHF EURO, especially when you are hosting the tournament. In addition, as the team already proved during the qualification against Romania, they are ready to compete in this top tier competition.

## THE COACH



**Sasa Boskovic**

Sasa Boskovic has been tasked with getting the Serbian women's team back on its feet. This is a challenge that sees Boskovic moving in a dual function, as he is not only the coach of the national team, but also the coach of the national champions: RK Zajecar have made it through to the Women's EHF Champions League qualification tournament. With the backing of the club and because of his experience, Boskovic will make sure that the club is the best advertisement for the EHF EURO 2012. Boskovic is convinced that his team have what it takes: "I think that we can reach the Main Round - even if it is against Norway though it would be very difficult of course. But, getting past the national teams from Ukraine and the Czech Republic are feasible tasks that together we can achieve with the support of our fans."

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2004 Hungary 13th place  
2002 Denmark 8th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

In Group 5 of the EHF EURO 2012 Qualification Tournament, the women's national team from the Czech Republic ranked second after losing both matches against Sweden.

## CZECH REPUBLIC IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Belgrade.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	17:45	UKR v CZE
06.12.	20:15	CZE v NOR
08.12.	20:15	SRB v CZE

## KEY PLAYERS



**Klara Cerna**

Out of 45 international matches for the women's national team, the back court player had scored already over 150 goals prior to the start of the EHF EURO 2012 preparation phase. The 27-year-old, currently contracted to DHC Slavia Prague, was indispensable in the qualification efforts of the Czech national team. Not only

did Cerna score in every match, she scored at least four times. With nine goals, Klara Cerna was almost solely responsible for the 36:26 victory against Austria. Cerna's debut in the national team came in October 2005 against Iceland and resulted in a 28:25 win. Additionally, and in the national league, right from the start, Cerna stood out as a top scorer.



**Romana Chrenkova**

Romana Chrenkova is a highly talented left wing player and is one of the most successful scorers for the Czech national team. Chrenkova boasts more than 200 goals in some 65 international appearances. During the qualification for the EHF EURO 2012, she proved herself as one of the most dangerous hitters in

the counter-attack. The 25-year-old plays for TJ Sokol Poruba and prior to signing for Poruba, Chrenkova played for Olomouc. She was called to the national team in 2007.



## THE TEAM

It has been a long time since the Czech women's national team qualified for a major tournament – but the long-term development work, including the organisation of the junior world and European championships, is now beginning to bear fruit. The original plan of the national team was to qualify for the 2013 World Handball Championship in Serbia, but then, the newly formed team were already showing their quality in the qualification matches for the EHF EURO 2012. The Czech Republic ranked confidently behind the unbeaten group winners Sweden having managed two wins against internationally experienced teams from Austria and Slovenia. The biggest surprise however is that previously most of the players in the current national team earned their salaries abroad; now with the exception of a few players, Jana Simerska and Katerina Keclicova who play in France and Martina Crhova, who plays in Sweden, all of the players on the national team roster all play for Czech clubs. Moreover, once the qualification for the EHF EURO 2012 was signed and sealed, a large part of the team secured an international title after winning the 21st World University Handball Championship in Blumenau, Brazil.

## THE COACH



Jan Bašný

In July 2010 and in a seemingly surprising move, Jan Bašný was named as the successor to Jirí Tkadlec and the new coach of the Czech women's national team. The change came after the team failed to qualify for EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark and Norway; at this time, Bašný was the assistant coach at the first division club Dusan Zlin. Bašný focused on emphasising the features of the players and rejuvenated the team and after taking over, the first objective for Bašný was to qualify the team to the 2011 World Championship, but that did not go according to plan. As a result of this, for the first time since 2004 (EHF EURO in Hungary), the Czech national team was on their way back to a major event. Prior to his nomination, Bašný was the men's coach in Ajaccio, Corsica. Always thinking ahead, Bašný had this to say: "For us, the EHF EURO 2012 is an excellent opportunity to give us a good basis for the qualification to the 2013 World Championship.



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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	SILVER
2008	FYR Macedonia	9th place
2006	Sweden	6th place
2004	Hungary	14th place
2002	Denmark	15th place
1996	Denmark	8th place
1994	Germany	7th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

With eleven points from six matches, Sweden topped Qualification Group 5.

## SWEDEN IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Niš.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	20:15	SWE v DEN
06.12.	18:15	MKD v SWE
08.12.	18:15	SWE v FRA

## KEY PLAYERS



**Linnea Torstenson**

With over 500 goals in more than 130 international matches, Linnea Torstenson is currently the most accurate goal scorer in the Swedish national team delegation. On two occasions, the back court player, has been named Sweden's handball player of the year. In 2008, she led her team to the Olympic Games in Beijing. In 2010, not only did

she win the silver medal at the EHF EURO, but she was also voted the most valuable player of the tournament. After she became Swedish national champion with her club Skövde, Torstenson moved to Denmark where she played for Aalborg before moving to FC Midtjylland, the current Danish champion. Torstensen ventured a move to Slovenia, where she now plays for the renowned RK Krim Mercator.



**Isabelle Gulldén**

In the past season, the back court player nicknamed "Bella" was voted Sweden's handball player of the year, now Isabelle Gulldén wants repeat the success of the EHF EURO 2010 - albeit against strong opponents. The 23-year-old started her career with IK Sävehof - and after she became a multiple Swedish champion,

she moved to the top Danish club Viborg HK. Gulldén's was conscripted to the national team in 2008 and since the start of the EHF EURO 2012 preparations, she also belongs to the club of those players with more than 100 appearances for the national team and her goal count is rapidly approaching 300.



## THE TEAM

At the 2009 World Championship in China, the Swedish national delegation failed to make it to the Main Round but was consoled by winning the President's Cup. At the EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark and Norway, the Swedes rose like a phoenix from the ashes; for the first time in the history of the team, that they reached the semi-finals of a major tournament, which saw Sweden play a strong game and defeat Romania in Herning. However, in the final against Norway, the team ran out of steam. Nevertheless, winning the silver medal at the EHF EURO 2010 signified the first medal ever for the Swedish women's national team - and later, thanks to the Norwegian World Championship title in Brazil – the team subsequently qualified directly for the 2012 Olympic Games; finally, the long-term reconstruction work of the team had paid off.

Many Swedish national team players, having gained more experience playing for top clubs in Denmark, Germany and France, have worked well and made a name for themselves in the time since the national team finished eighth at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. The top stars of the team such as Linnea Torstenson, Isabelle Gulldén or Kristina Flognman are now in their prime. It is clear that the team still has a few more years to play together in this constellation, but there are up and coming talents who are rising through the ranks; in summer 2012, the younger team members won the Junior World Championship title.

## THE COACH



**Torbjörn Klingvall**

The highly successful era of Per Johansson came to an end following the conclusion of the 30th Summer Olympic Games in London. The search for a new coach led the Swedish Handball Federation to 58-year-old Torbjörn Klingvall. Klingvall has been in charge of various Swedish youth national teams since 2006 and played in the Swedish league for HK Drott from Halmstad, with whom he was Swedish champion in 1978 and 1979. From 1978 to 1982, he played 40 international matches for Sweden.

Klingvall gained his coaching experience in Norway as well as Sweden; he has an academic education in sports, economics and management and previously worked as a teacher. Additionally, he co-produced educational materials for handball lecturers and was part of the EHF and IHF lecturer pool. From 1996 to 1997, he was the mentor for the women's national team. From 1982 to 1984 and then in 1989 to 1991, Klingvall coached the men's team of Kroppskultur, which Per Johansson coached from 1993 to 1997.

Since 2006 Klingvall has been the coach of the Swedish youth national teams, boys born in 1992/93, including the bronze medalists at the 2011 Men's Youth World Championship in Argentina and ranked fourth at the Men's 20 European Championship in Turkey 2012. In October, he left this assignment and turned his focus to the women's national team. His first task as Head Coach was the Golden League tournament in Bergen, Norway, where Sweden faced Norway, France and Denmark as final part of the EHF EURO 2012 preparations.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	5th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	14th place
2006	Sweden	BRONZE
2004	Hungary	11th place
2002	Denmark	BRONZE
2000	Romania	5th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

France suffered only one defeat in the third round of the Qualification. However, with five strong victories, the team won Qualification Group 4.

## FRANCE IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Niš.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	18:15	FRA v MKD
06.12.	20:15	DEN v FRA
08.12.	18:15	SWE v FRA

## KEY PLAYERS



Allison Pineau

Allison Pineau is one of the best examples of continuity of an athlete rising from the YAC events to the EHF EURO events. Even at her first appearance at the European Youth Championships, the centre back caused a stir, then again at the junior events at age 18; at the age of 23, Pineau made her debut in the women's senior

national team. She a classic centre back, which her teammates cleverly bring into play, but it is also a threat when she aims at the goal. Pineau's importance for the French team became apparent when she was missing; she suffered a torn cruciate ligament during the semi-finals of the 2011 World Championship. She is already a two-time vice world handball champion however, the European Championship medal remains elusive.



Siraba Dembele

Siraba Dembele, the 26-year-old left wing player was part of the 2006 French delegation that won the last medal at the European Championship - bronze in Sweden. Since then, the former youth player that participated in YAC events has become a leading figure in the senior team. She is not only responsible for notable counter-

attacks, but she is also indispensable in the defence. Dembele is sometimes called "the princess", which is something of a paradox, considering her powerful style of play. Now, with nearly 150 international matches under her belt, Siraba is one of the most experienced players in Olivier Krumbholz's squad. With the start of the 2012/13 season, Dembele has moved abroad for the first time: from Toulon to Issy; the left wing now steps onto the court in Denmark for Randers HK.



## THE TEAM

For whatever reason, the French women's national team seems to have more success at the World Championship than at the EHF EURO events; just note the two bronze EHF EURO medals compared to the three silver and one gold medal won at the various World Championships. Nevertheless, the team coached by Olivier Krumbholz is taking a renewed approach with the objective of gaining a European Championship medal at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia; especially after ranking fifth in Denmark and Norway in 2010 having barely missed the semi-finals.

Over the past three years, Krumbholz has gradually built a new team; after ranking 14th at the EHF EURO 2008, the team had reached an interim low. However, since then France is once again at the top of their game. The team is physically very strong, has a great back court scorers like Mariama Signate, brilliant game technicians like Allison Pineau also swift wings such as Siraba Dembele. With this mixture of youth and experience, France has a good chance of winning a medal in Serbia. However, despite dominating their qualification group with ease, the French team still has an important question to answer: how do they plan to compensate for the absent n°1 goalkeeper, Amandine Leynaud, who is out recovering from a cruciate ligament injury?

## THE COACHES



**Olivier Krumbholz**

In 1998, Krumbholz accepted the position of head coach and he has supported the team and skilfully masterminded their achievements over the past seventeen years. The former professor of sport began his professional handball career in 1976 playing in Metz in the first division. Ten years later, when he played his last match in 1986, he turned his hand to coaching where he led ASPTT Metz to the national championship title 5 times. Having spent over a quarter of a century coaching, all prize-winning performances of the French national team have had Krumbholz at the helm. Before accepting the position of national team coach, Krumbholz trained the women's junior national team for 6 years.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	4th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	11th place
2006	Sweden	11th place
2004	Hungary	SILVER
2002	Denmark	GOLD
2000	Romania	10th place
1998	Netherlands	SILVER
1996	Denmark	GOLD
1994	Germany	GOLD

## GETTING TO SERBIA

Eight points from the six qualification matches was enough to get Denmark through to the EHF EURO 2012 Final Tournament. The Danes finished second in Group 6 behind Croatia.

## DENMARK IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Niš.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	20:15	SWE v DEN
06.12.	20:15	DEN v FRA
08.12.	20:15	DEN v MKD

## KEY PLAYERS



**Ann Grete Nørgaard**

With 32 goals in five games, the 28-year-old became the best Danish scorer at the Olympic Games in London; so it can be said that it was not the fault of the left wing player that her team had to return home after the Preliminary Round. Ann Grete Nørgaard began playing handball in her hometown club Viborg HK; this is where

her professional career also began. Her rise to the top however, was neither straight nor direct. At the age of 23, Nørgaard signed to Randers HK, but returned to Viborg after two years. But she still managed to play her way to a place on the national team. After an interlude in Horsens, after signing a contract in 2010, Nørgaard now plays for the club by Tvis Holstebro. She made her national team debut in 2007.



**Line Jørgensen**

It was at the 2011 World Championship in Brazil that her star ascended – where Line Jørgensen was not only by far the leading scorer of the Danish national team, but was also the only Dane nominated to the All-Star Team of the event. Line Jørgensen is a tremendous left-handed player, which spells danger in the right back. The

23-year-old began her career in the Danish women's national team five years ago and since then has made her mark on the team. Jørgensen used to play for the Danish champion FC Midtjylland; it is the players from this team that form the backbone of the national team. Born in Hvidovre, Jørgensen first picked up a handball at the tender age of three. After short interludes at clubs in Frederiksberg and Odense, Jørgensen has been a fixture at Midtjylland since 2010.



## THE TEAM

After having been on the edge of extinction in 1990, the Danish national team became one of the biggest sport successes – if not the biggest – of all time: Olympic Champions in 1996, 2000 and 2004, World Champions in 1997 and European Champions in 1994, 1996 and 2002. The team, coached previously by Ulrik Wilbek and now by Jan Pytlick, has been a dominant force in international handball for nearly two decades. After the team missed participating at the 2007 World Championship and the 2008 Olympic Games, the latest dry spell ended when the team reached the semi-finals of the EHF EURO 2010 on home soil. Since then, the Danes have been part of all major tournaments and once again, in 2011, they made it to the semi-finals of the World Championship in Brazil, despite failing to win another EURO medal in 2010. Pytlick & Co. also qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games, but after a weak performance, the team was knocked out after the first round. Nevertheless - and despite the two defeats at the hands of Croatia in the qualification for the EHF EURO 2012, Denmark are back with a strong team in which more and more young players are integrated.

## THE COACH



Jan Pytlick

Jan Pytlick was born in 1967 on the Danish Constitution Day on the small island of Thurø. As a young player, he was an extremely talented centre back, but at 19, he had to give up a promising career due to a serious shoulder injury. Instead he took up coaching at his club, GOG Gudme, and at the remarkably young age of 23 he was in charge of the club's women's team who won the Danish Championship three years in succession. Pytlick also won the Danish Championship with the male team in GOG prior to inheriting the female national team from Ulrik Wilbek in 1998. After winning a silver medal at the European Championship in the same year, Pytlick had his first major triumph when he led the Danish women's team to the gold medal at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. Prior to repeating this success in Athens four years later, Pytlick and the team won the European Championship on Danish soil in 2002. After a very short retirement in 2005, Pytlick returned as national coach committing himself to the team and at the 'home' EHF EURO in 2010, he took the team back to the top by reaching the semi-final and continued on this path by taking the team to the semi-finals of the World Championship in Brazil. Now he is building a team for the future.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2008	FYR Macedonia	7th place
2006	Sweden	12th place
1998	The Netherlands	8th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

FYR Macedonia qualified for the Final Tournament after gaining eight points in the Qualification, this result meant they ranked second behind France.

## FYR MACEDONIA IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Niš.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	18:15	FRA v MKD
06.12.	18:15	MKD v SWE
08.12.	20:15	DEN v MKD

## KEY PLAYERS



**Mirjeta Bajramovska**

At numerous matches to date, club or national team, Mirjeta Bajramovska (left back) has played a decisive role during many crucial moments. She is part of the new generation of players. It is not her natural predisposition to act as the bombardier at the back, Bajramovska has a very precise shot, especially from the

nine-meter mark. Another advantage that she has, is her ability to work in tandem with the wing and line players, which constitutes the majority of her teammates as they have played together for a long period of time whether it be on a club level or on the national stage. Altogether, she has over ten years of national team experience under her belt, which saw her play in one junior, two senior World Championships, and one EHF EURO.



**Elena Gjorgjievska**

Everyone sees Elena Gjorgjievska as the successor to Indira Kastratovic because of her strong left-hand shots. Nevertheless, so far Gjorgjievska has had no real chance to prove this comparison. Gjorgjievska was called to the national team in 2005 at the very early age of 15, but she has not had much

time on the court in comparison to her colleagues. At the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, this is expected to change. She made her first national team appearance at the 2005 World Championship in Russia and with the team, she returned at the EHF EURO 2006, the 2007 World Championship and the home EHF EURO 2008 in FYR Macedonia. She currently plays for Kometal GP where, with her strong arm, she is a silent threat to her opponents.



## THE TEAM

For the fourth time in the history of the team, FYR Macedonia have qualified for an EHF Women's European Handball Championship, their best ranking so far was 7th place at the home EHF EURO in 2008. In the qualification phase for EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, FYR Macedonia gave a noble performance losing only to France who ranked first in the group. Coach Gino Strezovski began the preparation for the European Championship with seventeen players and in Niš, he not only expects a strong performance from his team, but also loud support from the stands. Currently thirteen players from the national squad play in the national league, with the most coming from the champion club Metalurg Skopje. In December, the goal of the national team is to reach the Main Round, but this will not be easy with Denmark, France and Sweden as opponents. The most well known player on the team is Elena Gjorgievska who comes from the current Women's EHF Champions League titleholder Buducnost. The most experienced player is Dragana Pecevska who participated in the 2005 Champions League final and later with Buducnost won the EHF Cup. For many years, women's handball in FYR Macedonia was characterised by the former top team Kometal Skopje that won the Women's EHF Champions League title in 2002. The national team has been in the shadow of the men's national team for many years, but with the organisation of the EHF EURO 2008, women's handball experienced a revival.

## THE COACH



**Gino Strezovski**

For Gino Strezovski (53), the EHF EURO 2012 will rate as his biggest success as a women's national team coach. On several occasions, he has been at the helm of the FYR Macedonia national team, but on a club level, he has tasted success with the men's teams. With Vardar Vatrostalna, he won the FYR Macedonian national championship and cup; with Metalurg, Strezovski led the team to the finals of the national championship, where they came second. Since 1994, Gino Strezovski has been appointed as national team coach in various age categories. In 1996, he took the men's youth team to Israel the outcome was a ranking in the top ten. From 2005 to 2007, Strezovski was head coach of men's national team of FYR Macedonia. In his 2010 assignment to the women's national team, Strezovski faced the difficult task of strengthening the team in order to return them to a point where they were qualifying once again for major events; he soon realised that a generational problem concerning home-grown players was at the heart of the difficulties. The first attempt failed, FYR Macedonia was defeated by Spain in the 2011 World Championship qualification; though the team knew that this was not be an easy task, the 15 goal difference was tough for coach Strezovski to work through. But the Federation kept their faith in Strezovski and in return, he led the team to the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia.

Strezovski is the only coach in the women's competitions that is not linked to a club where the majority of his players are signed. Instead, he is a professor at the Faculty of Physical Education in Skopje.





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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	9th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	6th place
2006	Sweden	7th place
2004	Hungary	13th place
1996	Denmark	6th place
1994	Germany	5th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

The only team with a perfect performance in the qualification, Croatia secured their ticket to the EHF EURO 2012 by winning every match and attaining the full twelve points in Group 6.

## CROATIA IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Novi Sad.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	20:15	CRO v HUN
05.12.	18:15	ESP v CRO
07.12.	20:15	CRO v GER

## KEY PLAYERS



**Andrea Penezic**

In Brazil, back court player Andrea Penezic was at the forefront of the matches: the third-leading scorer, she was elected to the All-Star Team. The 27-year-old is the focal point of the Croatian game. If she missing, it proves critical to the team, this was witnessed after she suffered an injury in the Olympic quarter-final against

Spain in London. Penezic was born in Zagreb and started her career in her hometown club of Lokomotiva. Penezic also played for Krim Mercator in Ljubljana for two years. In her home country, she has been named 'handball player of the year' on three occasions. Penezic is a threat to any goalkeeper, but she always keeps her eye on her teammates, making it difficult for the opposing team to get her measure.



**Kristina Elez**

In addition to Andrea Penezic and Lidija Horvat, left-hander Kristina Elez is the most important player on the back court for the Croatian national team. She is extremely dangerous on the right back and has a large throwing repertoire. At 25, Elez has been signed to many clubs in her career. She started at Podravka Vegeta in

Koprivnica before moving to French champions Handball Metz in 2009. After a year at Krim Mercator in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Elez went back to Metz, before reuniting with some of her Croatian teammates by signing to Krim. Elez started the 2012/13 season at the Hungarian club, Erd.



## THE TEAM

Over the past few years, with the exception of Montenegro, the national team of Croatia has been the rising star of European women's handball and moreover, they are finally stepping out of the shadow of their successful men's team. The Croatians have made massive advances in recent years and are well on their way to the top. At the European Championships to date, the best result of the team was sixth place in 2008 in FYR Macedonia. Nevertheless, at the last two major tournaments, they proved themselves a force to be reckoned with: at the 2011 World Championship in Brazil, the team reached the quarter-final; then, for the first time ever, the team qualified for the Olympic Games in London, where they also advanced to the quarter-finals. It was at this point that they were taken out of the competition, in a very close match, against Spain. Many of the Croatian players come from the one of the two top clubs in the country: Koprivnica or Zagreb, but others earn their living in other Balkan foreign clubs such as Krim Mercator based in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

## THE COACH



**Vladimir Canjuga**

The rise of Croatian women's handball began with Vladimir Canjuga as he focused on developing the team. Having coached the men's youth and junior teams for many years, he made the switch to the women's national team two years ago. Canjuga has implemented his concepts with strong back court players and fast wing players - and thanks to the individual class of players trained in Croatia, he has managed to shorten the distance between the top world class teams. His tactics are based on a strong defence, which are aimed at bringing about many counter-attacks. If this does not work, then Canjuga will focus on goals from the back court. Canjuga has managed to move the Croatian women's team to centre stage. Prior to this assignment, his greatest successes were winning the gold medal in 2009 with the men's youth team and the bronze medal (2005) and the silver medal (2004) at Younger Age Category events.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	13th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	4th place
2006	Sweden	4th place
2004	Hungary	5th place
2002	Denmark	11th place
2000	Romania	9th place
1998	The Netherlands	6th place
1996	Denmark	4th place
1994	Germany	SILVER

## GETTING TO SERBIA

Following a strong performance, conceding only one defeat against Hungary, Germany topped Group 1 of the EHF EURO 2012 qualification phase by earning ten points.

## GERMANY IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Novi Sad.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	18:15	GER v ESP
05.12.	20:15	HUN v GER
07.12.	20:15	CRO v GER

## KEY PLAYERS



**Clara Woltering**

The charismatic player was educated by Andreas Thiel one of the greatest German goalkeepers of all time and widely known as “The Sorcerer”. After playing in Leverkusen for more than ten years, Clara moved to Buducnost Podgorica. Behind the magnificent Bojana Popovic, she was the key factor for the Montenegrin

top club to win the EHF Champions League for the first time. Additionally, in 2005, Woltering who was born in Münster, won the Challenge Cup. The 29-year-old, has gained much experience from her 138 appearances for the national team. The event in Serbia is her fifth appearance at the women’s EHF EURO, in addition to her five participations at World Championships and her debut at the Olympic Games.



**Stefanie Melbeck**

Stefanie Melbeck is the oldest, but still one of the most powerful German players. 35-year-old Melbeck made her first national team appearance in 1998. After a cruciate ligament injury in 2009, she managed to come back in even better shape. Currently, Melbeck plays for her home club of Buxtehuder SV, which ranked second in

the German Championship. The highlight in her long international career was winning the bronze medal at the World Championship in 1997. With 223 international matches under her belt, Melbeck has scored 483 goals for Germany and has enjoyed being part of four European Championships, three World Championships and the 2008 Olympic Games. Melbeck is also an expert on the beach – in 2000, she won the silver medal at the European Championship.



## THE TEAM

The history of women's handball in Germany is a collection of great moments: In the 1970's, the German women's national team was the yardstick with which all teams were measured - with three world championship titles (1971, 1975, 1978) and two Olympic medals (silver in 1976, bronze in 1980). 15 years later, gold was once again on the menu at the 1993 edition of the World Championship in Norway. A more recent highlight for the team came courtesy of its performance at the 2007 World Championship in France, where Germany took home the bronze medal. Clara Woltering, Stefanie Melbeck, Anja Althaus and Anne Müller are still part of the team. Germany has participated at all editions of the EHF EURO and has entered the semi-final on four occasions so far - three times walking away with 4th place, but in 1994 at the first EHF EURO the team won the silver medal on home soil.

At the EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark/Norway and the World Championship 2011 in Brazil, the team dropped out of the medal race in the Preliminary Round. After these two disappointing tournaments, the German national team is highly motivated to give a good performance in Serbia. Playing in Novi Sad, the current team is a balanced combination of youth and experience and reaching the Main Round is the short-term objective. In the preparation for the EHF EURO 2012, national team coach Heine Jensen will prepare his team with test matches against the national team from the Czech Republic and Romania.

## THE COACH



Heine Jensen

*"It is important for us, to play not only one, but all the matches as well as possible. We have to develop to reach our long-term goals; these are the Olympic Games 2016 in Rio de Janeiro and the World Championship 2017 in Germany."*

In 2011, the German Handball Federation decided to choose an international coach for the first time. The Dane Heine Jensen took over the team and managed to qualify for the World Championship in Brazil - and despite the less than strong performance in South America, upon his return, he successfully led the team through Qualification Group 1 of the EHF EURO 2012 with only one loss in Hungary. At the age of 35 years, Jensen will be one of the youngest coaches at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia. After working in Denmark and Norway Jensen came to Germany in 2007. Only one year later, he took over HC Leipzig as head coach. In 2009 and 2010 he won the national championship, in 2009 he also reached the EHF Cup finals. Together with his assistant Maik Nowak, one of his predecessors in Leipzig, he works hard to help the German women's national team players to perform on a higher level.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	10th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	8th place
2006	Sweden	5th place
2004	Hungary	BRONZE
2002	Denmark	5th place
2000	Romania	GOLD
1998	The Netherlands	BRONZE
1996	Denmark	10th place
1994	Germany	4th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

Hungary ranked second in Qualification Group 1 after gaining ten points from their matches with Azerbaijan, Belarus and Germany.

## HUNGARY IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Novi Sad.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	20:15	CRO v HUN
05.12.	20:15	HUN v GER
07.12.	18:15	HUN v ESP

## KEY PLAYERS



Anita Görbicz

Today, she is considered one of best handball players of all time, as well as the biggest brand of Hungarian women's handball. She can boast two bronze medals from EHF EURO 2004 and the 2005 World Championship and a silver medal from the 2003 World Championship. She is an intelligent centre back and is

usually the top scorer of her team, not only because of her high success rate at taking penalty shots. She has already showed her talent as a teenager with her great technique, fantastic passes and unforgettable goals. She has played her entire professional career for Győr and has made it to the finals of the Champions League and European Cup on numerous occasions.



Mónika Kovaccsicz

At 29, right wing, Mónika Kovaccsicz is one of the more experienced players in the Hungarian squad. At 17 Kovaccsicz moved to the first division club Bekescsaba; it was while playing for Bekescsaba she was discovered by the top club and record champions Győr. After four seasons with the Hungarian top club,

Kovaccsicz, who has made over 110 appearances for the national team, spent a year with Ferencváros FTC Budapest before she received an offer from the top club Danish Viborg HK, where she played from 2008 to 2010. In the meantime, Kovaccsicz is once again playing for FTC Budapest. Kovaccsicz was selected for national team duty in 2004 and her biggest success to date is winning the bronze medal in 2005.



## THE TEAM

The Hungarian women's national handball team has deep seated roots and the significant results of the team can be traced back over several decades with a women's World Championship title in 1949 (Budapest, Hungary) and in 1965 (Germany). It can be said that the Hungarian women's national team still ranks among the top nations that not only participate in all senior European Championships, but finish always in the top ten. The last medal (bronze) taken by the team in 2005 at the World Championship in Russia brought the medal count of the team to seven. Among its glories, the team has also won three Olympic medals: silver medal in Sydney in 2000 and bronze medal in Montreal in 1976 and again at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. This is naturally in addition to European gold (2000) and two European bronze medals (1998 and 2004). In recent years, had the Hungarian national team has suffered setbacks - top players such as Katalin Palinger have ended their careers. The team also failed to qualify for the 2011 World Championship (play-off defeat to Germany) and the 2012 Olympic Games. However, a fresh wind was introduced to the team via new coach Karl-Erik Bøhn and the objective at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia is to move into the Main Round and, with a little luck, reach the semi-finals.

## THE COACH



**Karl-Erik Bøhn**

Sometimes coincidences determine the choice of a new coach: after Hungary had failed to qualify for the 2011 World Championship, the search was on to find the replacement for Eszter Matefi. By chance, the current world handball player of the year, Heidi Løke transferred to the Hungarian club Győr and with her came her partner Karl-Erik Bøhn who had previously trained Løke and the Women's EHF Champions League winners, Larvik HK. Bøhn was asked to take on this assignment and he said yes. Parallel to his new task with the national team, the 47-year-old was also coaching Løke and her new team Győr in the winter of 2011/12, but at the end of last season, he gave up that activity. From 1986 to 1993, Karl-Erik Bøhn was part of the Norwegian national team delegation and from 2005 to 2011 the coach of Larvik, with whom he won the European Cup Winners' Cup and the Norwegian Cup and Championship title several times.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	11th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	SILVER
2006	Sweden	9th place
2004	Hungary	8th place
2002	Denmark	13th place
1998	Netherlands	12th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

Four victories and two defeats in six games was enough to earn Spain eight points and thus the second spot in Group 7 behind Ukraine.

## SPAIN IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Novi Sad.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	18:15	GER v ESP
05.12.	18:15	ESP v CRO
07.12.	18:15	HUN v ESP

## KEY PLAYERS



**Marta Mangué**

When in recent years at major tournaments an All-Star Team was created, it was rarely without Marta Mangué. The 29-year-old is the thinker and director in the Spanish game; she is the instigator of all of the risky moves, and a threat to the majority of all goalkeepers, all the while being a source of inspiration to her teammates.

Mangué has been involved in winning all the Spanish medals. During the 2012 Olympic Games, she was voted the best centre back of the women's Olympic tournament; her performance that helped secure the first ever medal embossed with the five famous intertwined rings. Mangué was born in Gran Canaria and while playing for Ribarroja Cementos La Unión, she led the team to its very first title in the Spanish league.



**Silvia Navarro**

Though she is not the tallest goalkeeper in European handball, what 32-year-old Silvia Navarro lacks in centimetres she offsets with speed, sharp reflexes and experience. Born in Valencia, she played for the youth team of her local club of Mar Valencia with whom she stood in the 1998 final of the Champions League. In 2007,

she joined the then new Spanish top club Itxako Navarra. There she was rewarded with the 2010 EHF Cup title. In the 2012/13 season, Navarro has, for the first time, ventured abroad for a contract. Just like her colleague Marta Mangué, Navarro also played a key role in bringing medals back to Spain. At the 2011 World Championship, she saved a tremendous amount of goals and in the 2012 Olympic Tournament; she ranked as the second best goalkeeper of the Games.



## THE TEAM

EHF EURO 2008 was the starting point for the flight of the Spanish national team, which continues until now. In 2008, they celebrated a sensation by becoming European vice champions behind Norway – and since then, the team led by Jorge Dueñas has become established in the world rankings. In 2009, Spain entered a World Championship semi-final for the first time in the history of the country, but missed out on a medal in China. Two years later in Brazil, they seized the moment and won the bronze medal. Moreover, the team qualified for the Olympic Games in London, which also resulted in another sensational bronze medal achievement. And with this, the women's team had freed itself from the shadow of the previously much more successful men's team.

The national team thrives on the creativity of Marta Mangue as well as on the heavy defence and their outstanding goalkeeper, Silvia Navarro. However, it remains to be seen as to whether the strong right wing player, Carmen Martin, will return to the team following her torn cruciate ligament injury suffered during the Olympics. The European finance crisis has hit the Spanish women's club teams very hard and almost all internationals have departed for foreign clubs. It started with Marta Mangue, which saw the centre back moved to Serbia to play for Zajecar, to which other players such as Alsonso also moved; other players transferred to Romania, Slovenia and Hungary.

## THE COACH



Jorge Dueñas

Born in 1962, Jorge Dueñas, the coach from Vizcaya has been seated on the bench of the Spanish national team since October 2007. Duenas managed to mould many good individual players into a winning team. His concept is based on a powerful defence and a fast wing. Dueñas is the father of success in the Spanish women's handball; all the medals that the Spanish national team won at major tournaments have been during his tenure. Dueñas is not very vocal from the bench; he studies and analyzes the games and the opponents very intensely and places great emphasis on team unity. Dueñas leads by the motto: if you play successfully, you do not necessarily play the most attractive handball.





# FEDERATIA ROMÂNĂ DE HANDBALL



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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	BRONZE
2008	FYR Macedonia	5th place
2004	Hungary	7th place
2002	Denmark	7th place
2000	Romania	4th place
1998	Netherlands	11th place
1996	Denmark	5th place
1994	Germany	10th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

Five victories and one defeat secured Romania's ticket to the 10th edition of the Women's European Handball Championship. Romania reached the top of Group 2 based on their performance, which earned them ten valuable points.

## ROMANIA IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Vrșac.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	20:15	ROU v RUS
05.12.	20:15	ISL v ROU
07.12.	20:15	ROU v MNE

## KEY PLAYERS



**Paula Ungureanu**

It was certainly not easy for Paula Ungureanu, to follow the example of her predecessor, as Luminita Hutupan-Dinu is a legend in Romania.

Nevertheless, the goalkeeper is making great strides; and the only way to become a legend, is to learn from the best. Dinu is passing on her skills to Ungureanu in their national

team GK coaching sessions. Following the birth of her child, Paula Ungureanu (30) returned national team in October and played the Carpathian Cup; she is also back on the court for Oltchim Valcea. Born in Brasov, Ungureanu is the N°1 goalkeeper for the Romanian national team since 2009. Just in time for the EHF EURO in Serbia, Ungureanu is back to fitness and ready for the Final Tournament.



**Adriana Nechita**

Adriana Nechita (29) is a wing player known in Romania for her successes on and off the court. In addition to handball, 'Ada' is also a well-known television presenter, who is also known for her relationship with the famous footballer, Florin Costea. Nechita signed to Oltchim Valcea in 2000, and was involved in all the success of the national team.

However, due to a serious injury, she missed the World Championship in 2005, when Romania won the silver medal in St. Petersburg. Her biggest success is therefore the bronze medal won at the EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark and Norway as well as the making it to the Women's EHF Champions League final with Valcea in 2010.



## THE TEAM

It was their eighth participation at an EHF EURO, specifically, the 2010 event in Denmark and Norway, that the national team of Romania won its first European Championship medal. Despite losing out to Sweden in the semi-final, the team, led by the outstanding EHF EURO top scorer, Cristina Neagu secured the bronze medal in a hard fought match for third place against the hosts Denmark. Thanks to the excellent work of their young players, Romania had always been one of the greatest handball nations. Nevertheless, the team had to wait until 2005 before winning its first piece of precious metal; the team won the Silver medal at the World Championship in Russia. Recently the team had to cope with some setbacks: first, Neagu was out for a year following a serious shoulder injury, which was also attributed to the team failing to qualify for the quarter-finals of the 2011 World Championship in Brazil. The team then had to deal with its weak performance against France and Montenegro in the qualification tournaments for a ticket to the 2012 Olympic Games. Moreover, even after successfully qualifying for the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, Radu Voinea relinquished his position as national team coach. However, Romania thrives from the experience of its players, as most of the internationals play for the same club, record champions Oltchim Valcea. Nevertheless, because of injuries, retirements and instances of maternity leave, the team is currently in transition.

## THE COACH



**Gheorghe Tadici**

Gheorghe Tadici is back as coach of Romania! He is both the predecessor and the successor of Radu Voinea: until 2008, Tadici was the coach of the national team and at the same time he was also the head coach of Romanian top club Oltchim Valcea. Voinea, however, first took over the national team, and then became Tadici's successor at Valcea. Nevertheless, the rise and success of the national team is still connected with the name Gheorghe Tadici. The professor of sport spent more than 20 years as the coach of local club Zalau and he led the club to several national and international titles before taking his first assignment with the national team. In 2005, he led Romania to World Championship silver and to the semi-finals of the 2007 World Championship. In 2006, he took over as coach of Oltchim and led the team to victories in Romania and in Europe, including the Cup Winners' Cup.

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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	6th place
2004	Hungary	12th place**
2002	Denmark	6th place*
2000	Romania	7th place*

\* qualified as Yugoslavia

\*\* qualified as Serbia & Montenegro

## GETTING TO SERBIA

With five victories and one defeat against second placed team Russia, Montenegro won Qualification Group 3, taking Poland and Great Britain out of the competition.

## MONTENEGRO IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Vršac.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	18:05	MNE v ISL
05.12.	18:05	RUS v MNE
07.12.	20:15	ROU v MNE

## KEY PLAYERS



Ana Djokic

The line player Ana Djokic plays an important role in the Montenegrin national team. Due to her extensive international experience, she will steer the rejuvenated team at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia. Born in Serbia, Djokic was involved in all the great successes of Montenegro; in 2009, she was called to the national team.

The EHF EURO in Serbia will be her second appearance at a European Championship, Djokic was part of the delegation that won the Olympic silver in August 2012 and that qualified for a World Championship for the first time in 2011. At the start of the current club season, Ana Djokic ventured abroad once again, together with Montenegro goalkeeper, Sonja Barjaktarovic, she made the move to Russian club Rostov.



Milena Knezevic

The 22-year-old is one of the biggest young talents in Montenegro. The playmaker was part of the team that sensationally won the bronze medal at the 2010 Junior World Championship in Korea. Based on her performance at this event, Milena Knezevic was appointed to the All-Star Team. When Dragan Adzic, her coach

on the youth national team, also took over the women's national team of Montenegro, Knezevic experienced a smooth transition to the senior level. Like all of her national teammates, she has come up through the ranks of the club Budućnost Podgorica. At the Olympic Games, despite a severe neck injury, Knezevic struggled back to get back in the game and in the semi-finals and finals against Spain and Norway she managed to play a supporting role.



## THE TEAM

In Montenegro, 2012 was the year of women's handball: to start and for the first time in the history of the club, Buducnost Podgorica won the Women's EHF Champions League; then in another first, the national team qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games. In London, the national team of Montenegro caused a sensation after winning the silver medal after facing defeat at the hands of Norway in the final. For Montenegro, this was the first piece of Olympic precious metal since gaining independence in 2006. All these achievements are attributed in part to three players: Bojana Popovic, Katarina Bulatovic and Maja Savic. However, at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, the three are no longer in the squad: Bulatovic, subsequent to winning Olympic silver, being named as top scorer in London and completing her transfer to Oltchim Valcea, announced her retirement from the national team; Popovic, who won the Women's EHF Champions League six times, and Savic also officially ended their careers. Nevertheless, it is rumoured that at least Popovic with step out onto the court in her native Serbia (just like Nikola Karabatic, Popovic was also born in Niš). Without this trio, Montenegro might face difficulties building upon the success that began with the initial qualification for the EHF EURO 2010. But, in Denmark and Norway, the team ranked sixth and a year later, the team qualified for the World Championship and in the qualification for the EHF EURO 2012, the team seemed to have no problems against their long-time rival Russia.

## THE COACH



**Dragan Adzic**

At the age of 42, Dragan Adzic is "Mr. Women's Handball" in Montenegro and, based on his latest result of leading his national team to the silver medal at the 2012 Olympic Games, he is already a legend. His run of success started in 2010, when his women's junior team won the bronze medal at the World Championship in Korea, then he led Montenegro to an EHF EURO for the very first time in the history of the women's national team in 2010 and then to a World Championship in 2011. Despite missing the quarter-finals in Brazil, Montenegro qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games and spectacularly made their way to the finals over the course of the prestigious tournament. In addition to his national team assignment, Adzic has also tasted success on a club level; in May 2012, he led Buducnost Podgorica to their first ever Women's EHF Champions League victory and has coached Buducnost since 2010.

# HANDBALL UNION OF RUSSIA



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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010	Denmark and Norway	7th place
2008	FYR Macedonia	BRONZE
2006	Sweden	SILVER
2004	Hungary	4th place
2002	Denmark	4th place
2000	Romania	BRONZE
1998	Netherlands	9th place
1996	Denmark	7th place
1994	Germany	6th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

Four victories and two defeats were enough to secure second place in Qualification Group 3 behind Montenegro but still ahead of Poland and Great Britain.

## RUSSIA IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Vršac.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	20:15	ROU v RUS
05.12.	18:05	RUS v MNE
07.12.	18:05	RUS v ISL

## KEY PLAYERS



**Tatiana Khmyrova**

At the age of 22 years, Tatiana Khmyrova has over four years of experience in the Russian women's national team. Just like most of her counterparts, Khmyrova went through all the stages of the successful youth development programme.

In 2008, Tatiana and her teammates won the title at the Youth World Championship

and was named most valuable player at the same event. Khmyrova later went on to captain the junior women's national team that won the silver medal at the 2010 World Championship. At the age of 18, she made her first appearance for the national team. Her accolades to date consist of EHF EURO bronze medal (2008), World Championship gold medal (2009).



**Emiliya Turey**

For years Emiliya Turey was the only 'Legionnaire' that did not play for a Russian club but was still nominated to the national team by former coach Trefilov. Her debut in the national team came at the age of 18 after leading the Russian junior team to the World Championship gold medal. The left wing is an exceptionally strong player

producing spectacular goals, flight elements and throws from out of nowhere; this, in addition to her accuracy when taking penalty shots, makes Emiliya Turey a valuable asset for the Russian team. The 28-year-old was born in Astrakhan to Russian/Sierra Leone parentage. From her participations at major tournaments, Turey has earned three World Championship titles ('05, '07, '09), European Championship silver ('06) and Olympic silver ('08).



## THE TEAM

Alongside Norway, from 2001 to 2009, the national team of Russia was the dominant team in the world of women's handball. At their most successful, the team won four World Championship titles (2001, 2005, 2007 and 2009) and the Olympic silver medal at the 2008 event in Beijing. Nevertheless, at the European Championship, Russia could never secure a title; the biggest EHF EURO success came in at the 2006 event in Sweden when the team won the silver medal in the final against Norway. The tide turned on the team; at the last three major tournaments, Russia failed to attain their self-imposed goal of reaching the semi-finals and it is for this reason that the Handball Union of Russia terminated the extended contract of national coach Evgeny Trefilov, despite Trefilov being the man behind all of Russia's medal and title winning performances. At the EHF EURO 2010 Russia could only manage a disappointing seventh place and at the 2011 World Championship in Brazil (against France) and at the 2012 Olympic Games in London (against Korea), Russia was eliminated in the quarter-finals. Now the team has entered a phase of restoration and renewal – because the pool of talent is large, as evidence by the many successes of the youth and junior teams at European and international level. So, at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, Russia should not be ignored.

## THE COACH



**Vitaliy Krokhin**

Following the London 2012 Olympic Games and after nearly 13 years with the national team, the contract of Evgeny Trefilov as Russian women's team coach was not extended. The end of Trefilov's reign was signified after his team missed three straight semi-finals of major tournaments. On 10 October 2012, the federation announced their decision: Vitaliy Krokhin will coach the team at the Women's EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia.

Krokhin had been interim coach of the team at the Golden League Tournament in Denmark, where the Russians finished second. Krokhin is one of the most experienced Russian women's coaches. He started his professional playing career and later his coaching career in Krasnodar, leading the club SKIF to the titles in the Soviet championship and the IHF Cup.

In the mid-nineties, Krokhin moved to the Rostov women's club, prior to coaching several other teams. Many years ago, Krokhin helped form the team of Zvezda Zvenigorod and led the team from the second to the first league and in his first Super League season, Zvezda finished third. Later Krokhin was named as the assistant to new head coach Evgeny Trefilov. Together, they became the Russian champion, cup winner and took the title in the EHF Champions League. In the 2011/2012 season, Krokhin was on the coaching staff roster of Russian championship runners-up Rostov.

Furthermore, Krokhin was also Trefilov's assistant in the "golden years" of the Russian women's national team with two world championship titles and the Olympic silver medal in 2008. Now Krokhin is the head coach of the national team.

# HANDKNATTLEIKSSAMBAND ÍSLANDS



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## EURO PAST PERFORMANCE

2010 Denmark and Norway 15th place

## GETTING TO SERBIA

Following the withdrawal of the Netherlands, Iceland was awarded the remaining place in the championship. The Icelandic national team ranked third in Qualification Group 7 after facing Ukraine, Spain and Switzerland.

## ICELAND IN ACTION

Preliminary Round in Vršac.

Date	Time	Game
04.12.	18:05	MNE v ISL
05.12.	20:15	ISL v ROU
07.12.	18:05	RUS v ISL

## KEY PLAYERS



**Stella Sigurdardóttir**

Stella Sigurdardóttir is only 22 years old and within the team she ranks as one of the more important top performers. In the pre-season and preparatory matches, she is usually Iceland's top scorer. Despite playing a main role in the qualification of Iceland to the EHF EURO 2010, Sigurdardóttir could not take part in the Final Tournament in

Denmark and Norway due to injury. After being part of the Icelandic delegation that made it to the 2011 World Championship in Brazil, Sigurdardóttir is looking forward to taking part in her first European Championship matches. Sigurdardóttir is currently signed to Fram Reykjavík and with the team, in just six games for Fram, she scored 38 goals in the Cup Winners' Cup.



**Gudny Ásmundsdóttir**

Gudny Jenny Ásmundsdóttir (30), in her position as goalkeeper, is an invaluable asset to the Icelandic team. This was proven at the 2011 World Championship, where her performance was one of the reasons that the team advanced to the eighth-finals. For the sensational victory against Germany, Ásmundsdóttir was

rewarded with the best player accolade. As for most of her teammates, the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia is the third consecutive major tournament after the EHF EURO 2010 and the 2011 World Championship. On a club level, Ásmundsdóttir plays for the Icelandic top club Valur from the capital, Reykjavík, her hometown. With Valur, she has qualified numerous times for the women's European Cup competitions many times.



## THE TEAM

So they meet again... just like at the EHF EURO in Denmark and Norway, Iceland will face Russia and Montenegro, but instead of Croatia, Romania is Iceland's third competitor this time around. Two years ago, the women's national team from the volcanic island was the great outsider, now the team has gained more international experience. Though the EHF EURO 2010 was the first major international event (as expected, the team ranked 15th), the women's national team of Iceland still managed to qualify for the 2011 World Championship in Brazil. To the surprise of many experts and thanks to a memorable first round victory against Germany, Iceland made it to the eighth-finals of the World Championship. It was at this point that Russia, once again, put a stop to their campaign. In their qualification efforts, Iceland ranked third in Group 7 behind Spain and Ukraine, but due to the surprise withdrawal by the Netherlands to organise the event, Iceland became the happiest 15th participant, as they were the best third ranked team across the seven qualification groups. Firmly behind of the successful men's team, women's handball in Iceland has developed well. After years of failing to make it through the pre-qualification process for major international events, the national team has changed its course of action. Many Icelandic players are now under contract at foreign clubs, thus collating the necessary international experience needed to be part of an EHF EURO.

## THE COACH



**Agust Johannsson**

In March 2011, Agust Thor Johannsson (35) was unveiled as the new coach of Icelandic women's national team. He is the successor to Julius Jonasson; Jonasson was the first coach to lead the women's team to a European Championship, he resigned his position following the event. Upon taking the national team assignment, in a parallel function, Johannsson was also initially the coach of the Norwegian club team Levanger. Just three months after taking over the national team, he led the team to a sensational success in the play-off matches against Ukraine to qualify for the 2011 World Championship in Brazil, where Iceland moved past the preliminary matches and into the second round. Following Iceland's succession to the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, Johannsson coordinated an elaborate preparatory programme consisting of numerous test matches and tournaments in order to be ready for the Final Tournament in December.

# World Class Performances

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# EUROPEAN CHAMPION 2010

## REPRESENTATIVES



**Jean Brihault**  
EHF President



**Arne Elovssohn**  
EHF Vice President



**Leopold Kalin**  
Chairman CC



**Michael Wiederer**  
EHF Secretary General



**Jerzy Elias**  
Chairman MC



**Per Bertelsen**  
EXEC Member



**Helga Magnúsdóttir**  
EXEC Member



**Miguel Roca**  
IHF Vice President

## DELEGATES



**Carmen Manchado**  
CC Member



**Dragan Nachevski**  
CC Member



**Wolfgang Gremmel**  
COMPT Member



**Panos Antoniou**  
CoH Member



**Viktor Konopliastyi**  
CoH Member



**Nicolae Vizitiu**  
CoA Member



**Janka Stasova**  
ECC Member



**Edeltraut Berthold**  
DEL – AUT

### KEY

EXEC - Executive Committee • CC - Competitions Commission • MC - Methods Commission  
BC - Beach Handball Commission • CoH - Court of Handball • CoA - Court of Appeal • COMPT - Comptrollers  
ECC - EHF Court of Arbitration Council

## DELEGATES



**Henrik La Cour**  
DEL – DEN



**Mona Förström**  
DEL – FIN



**Monique Alsemgeest**  
DEL – NED



**Monika Hagen**  
DEL – SWE

## DELEGATES



**Svetlana Obucina**  
DEL – SRB



**Hans Holdhaus**  
EHF Anti Doping Unit

## ANTI-DOPING

## EHF EVENT MANAGEMENT



**Monika Flixeder**  
Event Coordinator



**Helmut Höritsch**  
Technical Coordinator



**Vesna Lazic**  
Hospitality Coordinator



**JJ Rowland**  
Media Coordinator

## EHF MEDIA

## EHF VENUE MANAGEMENT



**Hannes Müller**  
Belgrade



**Peter Sichelschmidt**  
Niš



**Marcos Bestilleiro**  
Novi Sad



**Doru Simion**  
Vršac

## REFEREES



**Andrei Gousko**  
BLR



**Siarhei Repkin**  
BLR



**Helena Crnojevic**  
CRO



**Emina Kostecki-Radic**  
CRO



**Jiri Opava**  
CZE



**Pavel Valek**  
CZE



**Malene K. Lythje**  
DEN



**Karina Christiansen**  
DEN



**Andreu Marin**  
ESP



**Ignacio Garcia**  
ESP



**Charlotte Bonaventura**  
FRA



**Julie Bonaventura**  
FRA

# EURO 2012 OFFICIALS

## REFEREES



**Peter Horvath**  
HUN



**Balazs Marton**  
HUN



**Zigmars Stolarovs**  
LAT



**Renars Licis**  
LAT



**Joanna Brehmer**  
POL



**Agnieszka  
Skowronek**  
POL



**Diana-Carmen  
Florescu**  
ROU



**Anamaria Duta**  
ROU



**Branka Maric**  
SRB



**Zorica Masic**  
SRB



**Peter Brunovsky**  
SVK



**Vladimir Canda**  
SVK

## EHF OFFICIALS - PRELIMINARY ROUND

### Venue Management

<b>Group A - Belgrade</b> NOR, UKR, SRB, SVK	<b>Group B - Niš</b> SWE, FRA, DEN, MKD	<b>Group C - Novi Sad</b> CRO, GER; HUN, ESP	<b>Group D - Vršac</b> ROU, MNE, RUS, ISL
Kalin (Representative) Manchado (Competitions) Alsemgeest (Refereeing) Antoniou (Site Operations) Müller (Venue Mg.) Brindzak (Media Mg.)	Magnusdottir (Represent.) Gremmel (Competitions) Förström (Refereeing) Vizitiu (Site Operations) Sichelschmidt (Venue Mg.) Anderes (Media Mg.)	Bertelsen (Representative) Stasova (Competitions) Hagen (Refereeing) Obucina (Site Operations) Bestilleiro (Venue Mg.) Pfeistlinger (Media Mg.)	Eliasz (Representative) Berthold (Competitions) La Cour (Refereeing) Konopliastyi (Site Ops.) Simion (Venue Mg.) Antevski (Media Mg.)

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Central Tournament Management</b>	<b>Competitions Delegation</b>	<b>Office Management</b>	<b>Media Management</b>
Brihault, Elovsson, Wiederer, Roca Gp A: Kalin Gp B: Magnusdottir Gp C: Bertelsen Gp D: Eliasz	Elovsson Kalin Wiederer Flixeder	Kalin Manchado Nachevski Simion	Flixeder Müller Sichelschmidt Bestilleiro Simion	Rowland Brindzak Anderes Pfeistlinger Antevski

### Local Tournament Management

<b>Belgrade</b>	<b>Niš</b>	<b>Novi Sad</b>	<b>Vršac</b>
Kalin Manchado Alsemgeest Antoniou Müller	Magnusdottir Gremmel Förström Vizitiu Sichelschmidt	Bertelsen Stasova Hagen Obucina Bestilleiro	Eliasz Berthold La Cour Konoplyastyi Simion

### Disciplinary Commission – First Instance

<b>Belgrade</b>	<b>Niš</b>	<b>Novi Sad</b>	<b>Vršac</b>
Antoniou/Konopliastyi - Chair Member - nom. by Chair Member - nom. by Chair Müller	Antoniou/Konopliastyi - Chair Member - nom. by Chair Member - nom. by Chair Sichelschmidt	Antoniou/Konopliastyi - Chair Member - nom. by Chair Member - nom. by Chair Bestilleiro	Antoniou/Konopliastyi - Chair Member - nom. by Chair Member - nom. by Chair Simion

### Second Instance – Jury

Stasova/Vizitiu – Chair Member – nominated by Central Tournament Management Member – nominated by Central Tournament Management Flixeder
---

# TASK ASSIGNMENT

## EHF OFFICIALS - MAIN ROUND

Group I - Belgrade	
NOR, UKR, SRB, SVK	SWE, FRA, DEN, MKD

Kalin (Representative)	Förström (Refereeing)
Magnusdottir (Represent.)	Vizitiu (Site Operations)
Manchado (Competitions)	Müller (Venue Mg.)
Gremmel (Competitions)	Sichelschmidt (Venue Mg.)
Alsemgeest (Refereeing)	Anderes (Media Mg.)

Group II - Novi Sad	
CRO, GER, HUN, ESP	ROU, MNE, RUS, ISL

Eliasz (Representative)	Obucina (Site Operations)
Bertelsen (Representative)	Bestilleiro (Venue Mg.)
Stasova (Competitions)	Simion (Venue Mg.)
Berthold (Competitions)	Brinzdak (Media Mg.)
Hagen (Refereeing)	Pfeistlinger (Media Mg.)
Konopliastyi (Site Ops.)	

Representation	Central Tournament Management	Competitions Delegation	Office Management	Media Management
Brihault, Elovsson, Wiederer, Roca	Elovsson Kalin	Kalin Manchado	Flixeder Müller	Rowland Brinzdak
Group I: Kalin, Magnusdottir	Wiederer Flixeder	Nachevski Simion	Sichelschmidt Bestilleiro Simion	Anderes Pfeistlinger
Group II: Eliasz, Bertelsen, Elovsson				

## Local Tournament Management

Belgrade
Kalin
Manchado
Förström
Müller/Sichelschmidt

Novi Sad
Eliasz
Berthold
Hagen
Bestilleiro/Simion

## Disciplinary Commission – First Instance

Belgrade
Konopliastyi/Vizitiu – Chair
Member - nominated by chair
Member - nominated by chair
Müller/Sichelschmidt

Novi Sad
Konopliastyi/Vizitiu – Chair
Member - nominated by chair
Member - nominated by chair
Bestilleiro/Simion

## Second Instance – Jury

Stasova/Vizitiu – Chair
Member – nominated by Central Tournament Management
Member – nominated by Central Tournament Management
Flixeder

The EHF works closely with the EHF EURO 2012 Organising Committee to provide a comprehensive service to all media representatives before and during the championship. Should you require any information or assistance at any time, please do not hesitate to contact the EHF or OC media teams, who will be more than happy to assist you.

## **EHF EURO 2012 Media Team (Organising Committee)**

Ivan Radosevic, Head of Media

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Mobile: 00 381 64 626 04 04

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Vršac – Millennium Hall	Zoran Milicev	<a href="mailto:pressvs@euro2012serbia.com">pressvs@euro2012serbia.com</a>	+ 381 64 69 00 004
Novi Sad – Spens Hall	Dragana Jankovic	<a href="mailto:pressns@euro2012serbia.com">pressns@euro2012serbia.com</a>	+ 381 63 70 55 872

## **Media Management**

JJ Rowland, Media Coordinator: [rowland@eurohandball.com](mailto:rowland@eurohandball.com), office tel. +43 1 80151 167

Vladislav Brindzak, Media Supervisor (Belgrade)

Benedikt Anderes, Media Supervisor (Niš/Novi Sad)

Günter Pfeistlinger, Media Supervisor (Novi Sad)

Goran Antevski, Media Supervisor (Vršac)

Event mobile phone numbers will be sent by email to all media representatives prior to the start of the championship.

## **Accreditation**

Media representatives can collect their accreditations in the Preliminary Round playing arenas from 3 December 2012 between 09:00 – 23:00 hrs. Media centres are located directly in the arenas, where all other documents/information can be collected. Please take photo ID with you in order to collect your accreditation. For pre-event accreditation enquiries contact: Thomas Schöneich, EHF Media and Communications, email: [schoeneich@eurohandball.com](mailto:schoeneich@eurohandball.com), office tel. +43 1 80151 164.

## **Official Website/EHF Media Twitter**

The official championship website will offer a complete media service from a team of professional journalists and photographers based in each of the venues. Information will include post-match quotes; player, team and match statistics; live scores and video streaming of every match from the event. The website can be found at [www.ehf-euro.com](http://www.ehf-euro.com). For the latest updates from the European Handball Federation and the EHF EURO follow the official Twitter channel of the EHF Media and Communications Department @EHFMedia.

## **Official Championship Media Events**

Opening Press Conference: 16:00 hrs on Tuesday, 4 December 2012 in the press conference room of the Kombank Arena, Belgrade.

EHF Media Day: Friday, 14 December 2012 from 14:00 hrs to 16:30 hrs in the Kombank Arena. An opportunity to interview players and coaches from all four semi-final teams.

Closing Press Conference: 13:00 hrs on Sunday 16 December 2012 in the Kombank Arena, Belgrade, press conference room. This will be followed by the draw for the 2013 Women's World Championship: Play-Off Europe and the EHF brunch.

# TV HOST BROADCASTER



## EHF EURO 2012 TV HOST BROADCASTER: RTS

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Stage: Preliminary Round, Main Round

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Stage: Preliminary Round, Main Round, Finals

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Stage: Preliminary Round, Main Round, Finals

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Team line-up 10 minutes prior to the throw-off (individual player presentation at the Final Weekend).

Both the message and the spirit of the championship underline the decisive role of Fair Play and sportsmanlike conduct in top level handball. This should be expressed at various occasions (e.g. Technical Meetings, Officials' Conference, etc.) and should be implemented by measures and procedures in the arenas.

## **Team line-up 10 minute procedure prior to the throw off**

Please be aware that the matches have to start exactly on time (clock with exact time provided by the OC/TV Host Broadcaster is required)!

- The deciding of ends will be carried-out by the referees during the warm-up on the playing court.
- Before entering the playing court for the official team line-up, the teams have to follow both the referee's and floor manager's instructions for gathering at the meeting point (10-minutes prior to the throw-off in the pre-defined corner of the hall) for the official line-up procedure. Following this signal of the referees, there is no further possibility of leaving the playing court area.
- A "mascot child" assigned by the SRB OC to each team before the match will be a part of the team line-up. The child will wear a T-shirt with a 'Fair Play' slogan conceived by the EHF (T-shirts to be provided by the EHF) and carry the National Flag of his/her team.
- The pre-match procedure will begin with the playing of music (prior to the start of walking on the playing court). The LOC Floor Manager in agreement with the EHF Supervisor will indicate when the pre-match procedure starts and when the player's escorts, flag presenting children, referees, team mascots and teams should enter the playing court.
- At the start of the 10 minute pre-match procedure a 'player's escorts' corridor of 24 children will be formed indicating the teams'/players' line-up path to the centre of the court.
- At approx. – 09:30 (depending on the duration of the 'official championship music' the European Championship flag will be presented by four "flag presenting" children.
- Then the team line-up of team A is started by referee A entering the playing court, followed by the child of team A, the captain and the other players of team A (walking through the corridor of player escorts and 'shake hands' (high-five) with the children on either side simultaneously with both hands). The same holds good for team B that passes by team A in the centre of the court carrying out the 'shake hands' (high-five) before taking their line-up position.
- When the line-up is completed and both teams are in the arena, the children build the link - left and right to the referees - to the respective teams.

# PRE-MATCH PROCEDURE

The run down/time-line of the 10-minute pre-match procedure has been defined as follows (compare EHF ECh Guide) with small adaptations due to the agreed-upon length of the national anthems played:

- 10:30 Fair Play Announcement by Team Captains in native language (on screens) \*
- 09:45 Flag mascots, referees, teams ready at the entry meeting point  
Player escorts form a tunnel
- 09:30 Start of the ECh flag presentation by four flag presenting children (marching in the same way as the players through the player's escorts corridor, turn at the centre heading the judges' table and stop 5 metres in front of the judges' table with the children in front kneeling down)
- 09:00 Line-up of team A
- 08:30 Line-up of team B
- 08:00 Introduction of team A – players and officials
- 06:30 Introduction of team B – players and officials
- 05:00 Introduction of the referees, EHF officials

*Start of the TV-transmission:*  
Graphics: location, teams, logos, flags, ranking group A+B

(Please note these timings are subject to change – should these be changed you will be informed in due time).

## Important National anthems start on time due to TV transmission

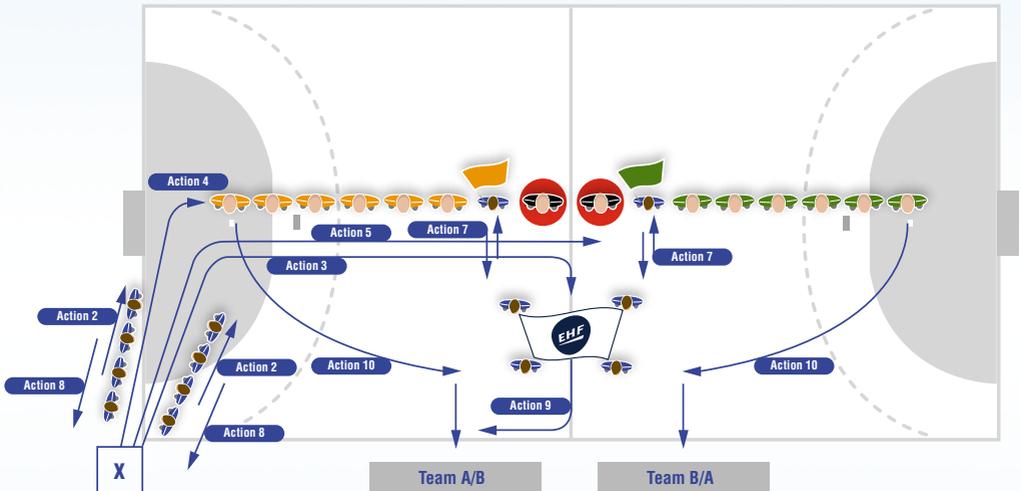
- |        |   |                             |
|--------|---|-----------------------------|
| -04:00 | National anthem of team A<br>(mascot team A steps forward, turns 90 degrees to his/her team presenting the national flag of team A) | presentation players, coach |
| -02:45 | National anthem of team B<br>(mascot team B steps forward, turns 90 degrees to his/her team presenting the national flag of team B) | presentation players, coach |
| -01:30 | Final match preparations of the teams   | presentation referees       |
| -00:00 | Throw-off / Order by EHF Supervisor   | score and clock             |

\* Prior to each match the following 'Fair-Play' text will be announced in the native language of the teams via video screens with subtitles in English:

*Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Spectators,  
In the spirit of fairness and with respect to all athletes, officials and referees we kindly ask you, the spectators,  
to support your team in a fair manner and to create a positive atmosphere for handball.*

## Players' Clothing

1. The team official in charge shall make sure in due time prior to the match that all sleeve advertising is fixed properly on both sleeves on the shirts of all players.
2. During the team line-up the entire team must wear identical clothing, either shirts and shorts or tracksuits (except goalkeepers)
3. The players' names shall be displayed in Latin letters on the backs of the shirts, above the players' numbers in clearly legible letters. The area on the back of the shirts above the number is reserved and must not be used for advertising purposes.



## Shake Hands

The teams will shake hands with each other once again and line up at the end of the match. This will be carried out in an informal way.

## Best Player's Award

After the approval given by the EHF Venue Representative the LOC Floor Manager informs the Speaker about the voting of the Electoral Commission for the official announcement in the hall. The procedure of handing over of the award is carried out by the EHF Representative in cooperation with a nominated LOC Representative in the centre of the playing court (compare 'Fair Play Procedures').

## Flash Zone / Mixed Zone

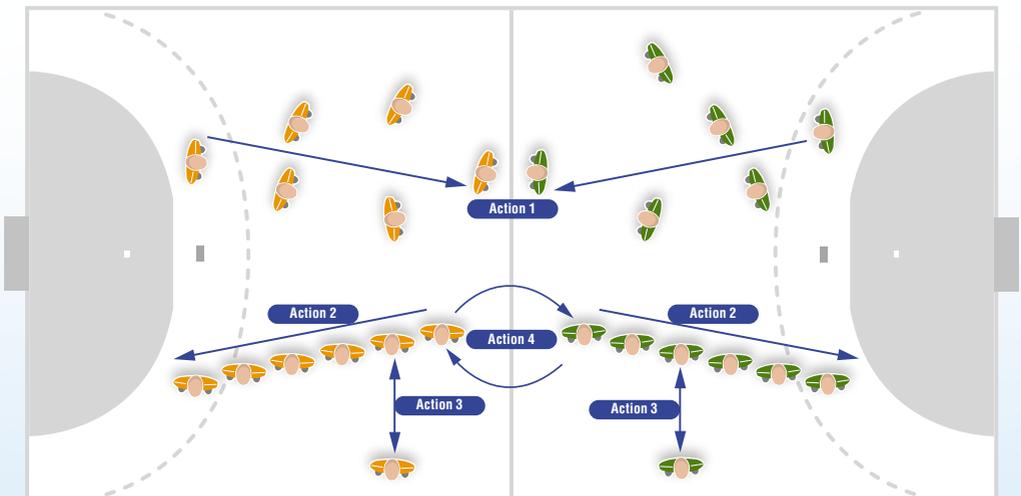
Players are available for TV flash interviews for the TV stations, which have bought the rights from the countries which have played in the match, in the marked 'flash zone'.

Other interviews of players or coaches for TV or writing press shall take place in the marked 'mixed zone' only.

## Post Match Press Conference

15 minutes after the end of each match an official press conference will be carried out in the press centre of the playing hall. The head coach of the team together with one key player selected by the EHF (respectively announced by the team) MUST take part in the post-match press conference accompanied by an interpreter, if necessary (team guide, delegation member etc.). The head coach shall be accompanied by two key players in semi-final and final for the post-match press conference. The entire EHF EURO 2012 winning team shall be available for media and promotion purposes.

Details will be coordinated by the EHF Media Official and the OC Chief-of-Press and communicated to all parties involved.



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## Basic Idea

The use of an “Official Squad” of each delegation allows the participating nations to replace three players throughout the entire tournament. The point of time can be chosen freely. This option eases the pressure for the participants especially in the case of injury.

In addition to this, the listing of a final squad prior to the commencement of the championship is in the interest of the work of the media and press, as well as all those involved in promotion and public relation activities.

## Technical Terms

- Official Squad: Total number of players (maximum 28) announced by the National Federations as their basis group for selecting the team participating in a European Championship.
- Official Delegation: Players (maximum 16) and Officials (maximum 6) announced at the Technical Meeting for participation in the respective competition.

## System and Procedure

1. An Official Squad with a total number of 28 (or less) players, including the assignment of player numbers, must be announced by **31 October 2012, 12:00 midday** by all participating delegations. The contingent of 28 players is the official/final squad of players of each participating nation. A maximum of 16 players from the original 28 will be announced at the first technical meeting one day before the start of the Championship.
2. **A maximum of 3 players can be replaced** by three new players from the original contingent of 28 (or less) during the entire competition. The date of the replacement can be chosen freely by the delegation (everyday replacement option). Each **replacement shall be available at the EHF office by 14:00 hrs. on the day prior to the respective match day**. The following procedure applies:
  - The EHF shall be informed in writing (using the official form for replacements, presenting the paper officially signed and stamped) about the details of the replacing players - this should reflect the information on the original “Official Squad” list.
  - The passports of the new players have to be presented by the team guide, team official, etc. to an EHF official in the EHF championship office in original or by fax. In case of a fax copy of the passport is presented by the deadlines stipulated, the original passport shall be presented subsequently to the EHF delegates of the respective match, 1 hour prior to the throw-off at the latest (alternatively if the replacement is taking place on a day of a Technical Meeting at the Technical Meeting on the respective day).
  - After the replacements are confirmed by the EHF (final acceptance to be granted only after the original passport has been presented), the new players will be put on the official match report of the next playing day, the replaced players will be removed and all parties involved (media, statistics) are informed accordingly.

Players allowed per match: All players announced at the Technical Meeting (max. 16).

Officials allowed per match: 4 out of max. 6 officials announced at the Tech. Meeting.

## Further Specification

- Even if less than 28 players are entered by the deadline announced by the EHF this team is the final squad. As a consequence all players eligible to participate in the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia are known as of the date stipulated.
- A player being replaced by another player after the preliminary round can be used again during the final weekend under the condition of a replacement referred to in point 2.
- In case that a player under suspension (certain period of time or number of matches) is replaced after the Preliminary Round or Main Round, the new player is only eligible to participate after the suspension has been completed.
- Additional costs arising from the replacement or the additional announcement of players shall be borne by the participating nation, apart from the costs of local transport – including the transport from and to the arrival airport, which is provided by the OC.

## Additional Announcement – Procedure and Handling

In the case a participating nation nominates 15 players or less out of the total squad, the respective nation is entitled to announce one additional player from the contingent registered in the official squad.

- Such additional announcements shall be forwarded to the EHF in writing (using the official form for additional announcements, presenting the paper officially signed and stamped) by 11:00 hrs. on each match day at the latest to the EHF championship office.
- The passport has to be presented (by team guide, team official, etc.) to an EHF official accordingly in the EHF championship office in original or by fax. In case of a fax copy of the passport is presented by the deadline stipulated, the original passport shall be presented subsequently to the EHF delegates of the respective match, 1 hour prior to the throw-off at the latest.
- After the additional announcement is accepted (final acceptance to be granted only after the original passport has been presented) by the respective EHF official, the player will be put on the official match report of the respective day and all parties involved (media, statistics) are informed accordingly.

# INSERTS





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