

WOMEN'S



EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

Media Guide

Women's EHF Champions League
Season 2014/15
Group Matches

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A vibrant, close-up photograph of a crowd of people, likely at a sporting event. In the foreground, two women are cheering with their mouths wide open. The woman on the left has the flag of North Macedonia painted on her cheeks, and the woman on the right has the flag of Italy. Other people in the background also have flags painted on their faces, including the flag of Romania. The overall atmosphere is one of excitement and unity.

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Think



Foreword



Dear media representative,

Welcome to Group Matches of the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League 2014/15.

September 2014 saw the conclusion of Qualification Phase, which completed the line-up for the Group Matches of the 2014/15 WOMEN'S EHF Champions League. HC Leipzig of Germany and HC Podravka Vegeta of Croatia were the last two teams to complete groups A and B respectively. From 17 October to 23 November 2014, the six rounds of the Group Matches will play out in venues across Europe. I take this opportunity to welcome sixteen teams from 14 countries to the second phase of the competition and to congratulate them for having successfully earned their place in the 22nd season of this elite women's handball club competition.

As we move into the next exciting phase of the competition, the teams have a lot to play for. The sixteen teams now embark on their campaign to progress to the Main Round. A ticket to the Main Round will bring twelve teams closer to their dream of participating in the WOMEN'S EHF FINAL4; however, for the four teams that are ranked fourth on 23 November 2014, their campaign will end. With the wealth of experience across the four groups, we know that there is enough skill to take each team to the next round, but much will still depend on determination and luck; and as the teams take to the court, only they can decide how the matches will end.

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

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

Jean Brihault
EHF President



Season 2014/15

● Teams eliminated in the Qualification

● Teams of the Group Matches

● Venue of the Women's EHF FINAL4



Media information

Team line-ups and match reports

From the opening matches of the season, the complete team line-up has been available online at eurohandball.com and available to download as a PDF document.

The change has been made possible thanks to the introduction of a new online solution, which sees the EHF match delegate complete the final team line-up immediately after the technical meeting.

This development means that team line-ups are available for commentators and reporters hours before each match throws-off.

A further change means that a short time after each match, a completed match report will also be available online with details such as goal scorers and number of spectators.

Team line-ups and match reports can be viewed by clicking on a particular match on the eurohandball.com or ehfCL.com websites.

The online system is also under further development with the ultimate aim being to provide live scores and statistics from EHF competitions and available on the EHF website.

Media portal

All media representatives are invited to register for the EHF media portal on <http://members.ehf.eu>

The European Handball Federation's media portal is a one-stop-shop for media representatives offering all the EHF's media news such as press releases, event flash quotes directly after matches, press conference highlights, draw reactions and downloads of all relevant information including, but not limited to, media guides and event logos. Furthermore photographs that are free for editorial use will be available for download.

For major events such as the EHF EURO or the VELUX EHF FINAL4 match prep kits including historical information and head-to-head statistics will also be made available.

If you haven't registered yet, please send an email to media@eurohandball.com and we will provide you with the log-in details.

Accreditation for Group Matches

The written media and photographer's accreditation procedure in the Group Matches is entirely in the responsibility of the participating clubs.

TV and Radio accreditations are subjects to approval by EHF Marketing GmbH – please contact Miguel Mateo Marcellán.

Online information

ehfCL.com

ehfTV.com

[Regulations of the Women's EHF Champions League](#)

Twitter: [@ehfmedia](#), [@ehfcl](#)

Facebook: [ehf.champions.league](https://www.facebook.com/ehf.champions.league)

Official name

The official name of the competition is: Women's EHF Champions League. The full name of the competition should always be used.

Please note: If the season is required, it has to be positioned after "Champions League" e.g. Women's EHF Champions League 2013/14. The wording "Champions League" should be written with a capital letter at the beginning of each word, i.e. Champions League. The remaining letters should be in lower case. The word Champions does not have an apostrophe after the 's'.

EHF/M Media contacts

Media matters

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WOMEN'S EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2014/15

WOMEN'S

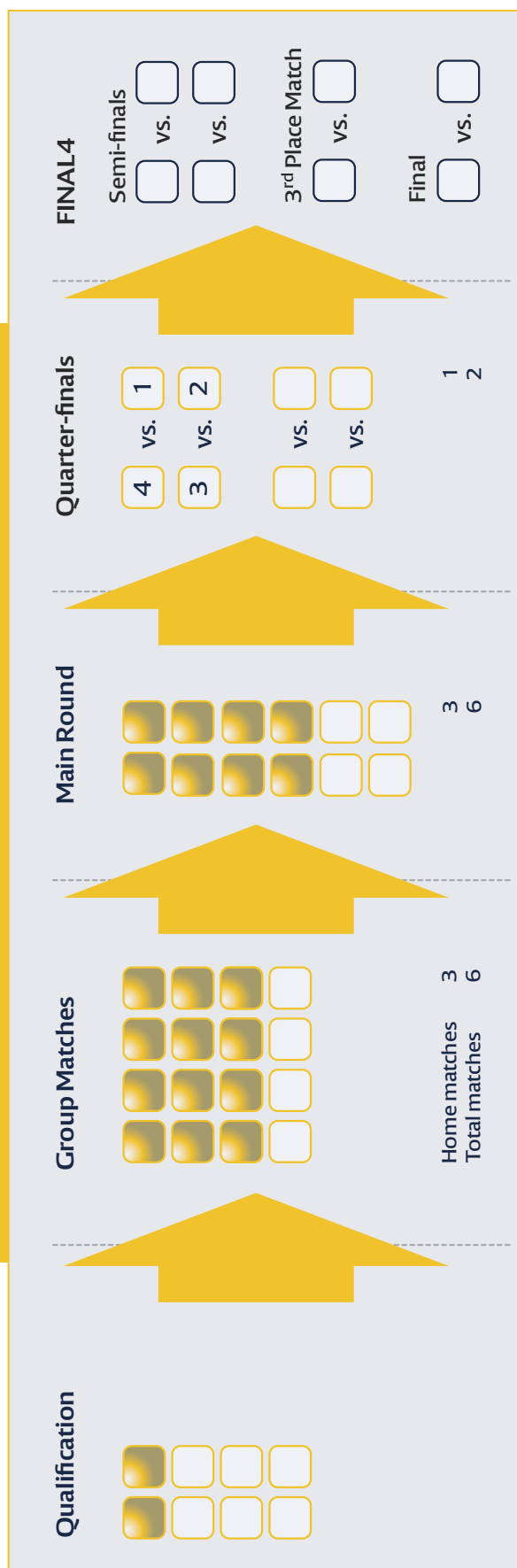


 NATION		Qualification Tournaments	Group Matches	Main Round	Quarterfinals	FINAL4
		Tournaments	4 groups with 4 teams	12 teams	8 teams	4 teams
		20./21.09.2014 tournaments <i>played in semi finals and finals</i>	17.-19.10.2014 (1) 24.-26.10.2014 (2) 31.10.-02.11.2014 (3) 07.-09.11.2014 (4) 14.-16.11.2014 (5) 21.-23.11.2014 (6)	30.01.-01.02.2015 (1) 06.-08.02.2015 (2) 13.-15.02.2015 (3) 27.02.-01.03.2015 (4) 06.-08.03.2015 (5) 13.-15.03.2015 (6)	03.-05.04.2015 first leg 10.-12.04.2015 second leg	09./10.05.2015 tournament
DRAWS:		26 June 2014 in Vienna	27 June 2014 in Vienna	no draw	no draw	14 April 2015
1	HUN 1		Györi Audi ETO KC	 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed team from each group	 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th placed team of the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League Main Round	 4 Winners of WOMEN'S EHF Champions League Quarterfinals
2	MNE 1		WHC Buducnost			
3	NOR 1		Larvik HK			
4	SLO 1		RK Krim Ljubljana			
5	DEN 1		Viborg HK			
6	ROU 1		HCM Baia Mare			
7	GER 1		Thüringer HC			
8	RUS 1		Dinamo-Sinara Volgograd			
9	MKD 1		WHC Vardar SCBT			
10	FRA 1		Metz Handball			
11	AUT 1		Hypo Niederösterreich			
12	CRO 1		RK Lokomotiva-Zagreb			
13	SWE 1		IK Sävehof			
14	POL 1		MKS Selgros Lublin			
15	HUN 2	FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria	 Winners of the 2 Qualification tournaments			
16	DEN 2	FC Midtjylland				
17	NOR 2	Byasen Trondheim				
18	GER 2	HC Leipzig				
19	CRO 2	HC Podravka Vegeta				
20	BLR 1	HC BNTU-BELAz Minsk				
21	NED 1	Sercodak/Dalfsen				
22	SRB 1	ZRK Radnicki Kragujevac				

2 groups with 4 teams

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

Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 playing system



Season 2014/15 playing dates

Qualification	Group Matches	Main Round	Quarter-finals	FINAL4
8 teams	17.-19.10.2014	30.01.-01.02.2015	first leg	09. / 10.05.2015
2 tournaments with semi-finals and finals	24.-26.10.2014	06.-08.02.2015	04.-05.04.2015	
20/21.09.2014	31.10.-02.11.2014	13.-15.02.2015	second leg	
	07.-09.11.2014	27.02.-01.03.2015	11.-12.04.2015	
	14.-16.11.2014	06.-08.03.2015		
	21.-23.11.2014	13.-15.03.2015		

New playing format from 2014/15

In an initiative to further develop and strengthen women's handball, the EHF has decided to update the playing system. After staging the premiere edition of the women's FINAL4 in the previous season, another change will be added as the quarter-final round will be introduced in the 2014/15 season.

Product development

The changes devised by the EHF Competitions Commission and agreed by the Women's Marketing Club Board will seek to make the competition more attractive not just to players and teams but also to fans, television stations and potential partners and sponsors. As well as structural changes there will also be developments in the standards around the competition such as playing arenas and the presentation of the Women's EHF Champions League product.

Additional round to be introduced

The new playing system has already seen the reduction of the number of qualification rounds from two to one and the creation of a new Main Round following the Group Matches, which will remain in the same format of four groups with four teams each.

From the Group Matches, three teams from each group will qualify for the new Main Round and the fourth ranked team will play in the Last 16 of the Cup Winners' Cup. Following the new Main Round quarter-finals will be played on a knock-out home and away basis with the four winners qualifying for the Women's EHF FINAL4.

Main Round

The Main Round will be played in two groups of six teams each. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranked teams of group A and B of the Group Matches go into the same group in the Main Round (Group 1 of the Main Round) and 1st, 2nd and 3rd ranked team of group C and D of the Group Matches go into the same group in the Main Round (Group 2).

The three teams coming from the same group take along their results (points and goals) from the matches against each other. Each team plays a home and an away match against those 3 teams qualifying from the parallel group.

Basically the Main Round of the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League shall be played in accordance with the schedule set out below.

Round 1: 1. A/C – 1. B/D and 2. A/C – 2. B/D and 3. A/C – 3. B/D
Round 2: 3. B/D – 1. A/C and 1. B/D – 2. A/C and 2. B/D – 3. A/C
Round 3: 1. A/C – 2. B/D and 2. A/C – 3. B/D and 3. A/C – 1. B/D
Round 4: 1. B/D – 1. A/C and 2. B/D – 2. A/C and 3. B/D – 3. A/C
Round 5: 1. A/C – 3. B/D and 2. A/C – 1. B/D and 3. A/C – 2. B/D
Round 6: 2. B/D – 1. A/C and 3. B/D – 2. A/C and 1. B/D – 3. A/C

In case of 2 teams of the same country play in the same group in the Main Round, the order of the matches in this group can be changed by the EHF.

The teams ranked 1 to 4 in each group after the completion of the Main Round qualify for the Quarterfinals.

Quarterfinals

The matches of the quarterfinals shall be played as first and second leg matches.

The matches of the quarterfinals are not drawn by lots, they result from the final standings of the Main Round.

4th placed team Group 2 vs. 1st placed team Group 1
4th placed team Group 1 vs. 1st placed team Group 2
3rd placed team Group 2 vs. 2nd placed team Group 1
3rd placed team Group 1 vs. 2nd placed team Group 2

There is no protection from teams of the same country. The winning teams of the Quarterfinals qualify for the WOMEN'S EHF FINAL4.

Women's EHF FINAL4 goes to Budapest until 2016



Following its successful premiere in Budapest last year, the Women's EHF FINAL4 will stay for another two years in the Hungarian capital the EHF Executive Committee confirmed on Thursday 18 September, on the eve of the EHF Congress in Dublin.

Hungarian side Györi Audi ETO KC won the competition in May 2014 in front of 10,000 frenetic fans and will now have the potential chance to defend their title on home soil, should they make it to the final weekend once again. The agreement which was reached with the Hungarian Handball Federation as organisers sees the event being played in Budapest's Papp Laszlo Sportarena in 2015 and 2016. Last year marked the first time that the Women's EHF Champions League culminated in a FINAL4 tournament. The men's counterpart, the VELUX EHF FINAL4, has been taking place in Cologne's 20,000-capacity LANXESS arena since 2010 with the current contract also running until the 2016 season.

More information at: www.ehfFINAL4.com

Media Accreditation for the Women's EHF FINAL4

The accreditation procedure of media representatives for the Women's EHF FINAL4 will start in March 2015.

Facts and figures of the group matches

14 nations, seven former champions and one new competition stage

14 national champions from all over Europe had been seeded directly for the Group Matches of the Women's EHF Champions League, and the last two open spots were taken by Podravka (Croatia) and Leipzig (Germany), the winners of the qualification tournaments. After the field of participants is completed, here are the most important facts and figures before the competition proper begins on 17 October.

0 debutants are among those 16 teams, which will compete in the group matches.

1 new competition stage will be launched this season, the quarter-final, for which the four best ranked teams from the two main round groups will qualify.

1 club of those 16 group matches participants has the full set of EHF European Cup competitions trophies in their cabinet: Viborg HK, winners of the Champions League three times as well as the EHF Cup and Cup Winners' Cup once each.

1 draw is all that is needed until the Women's EHF FINAL4 in Budapest, the draw for the final event itself. The 12 teams in the main round will not need to be drawn and the quarter-final pairings are composed by the final ranking of the main round.

2 nations are represented by two teams each, Germany and Croatia. HC Leipzig and Podravka Vegeta were the winners of the qualification tournaments on Sunday. All other nations are only represented by their national champions. The only nations with two teams last season were Germany (again with Thüringer HC and Leipzig) and Hungary.

2 former Women's EHF Champions League top scorers are on court in the 2014/15 season: Anita Görbicz (2014: 87 goals, 2012: 133) and Heidi Löke (2011: 99), both playing for defending champions Győr.

3 participants of the first Women's EHF FINAL4 are part of the 2014/15 group matches: Defending champions Győr (Hungary), finalists Budućnost (Montenegro) and third ranked team of Vardar (FYR Macedonia). Midtjylland (Denmark, fourth ranked in May) failed in the qualification tournament, losing their semi-final against Radnicki (Serbia).

3 teams will, for the first time, proceed to the main round

compared to two in previous years. Groups A and B will compose Group 1 of the main round, while groups C and D will compose Group 2. Teams will take the results of those matches against fellow qualifiers to the next stage.

7 former Women's EHF Champions League winners, representing 14 titles are part of the 2014/15 group stage: Hypo (1994, 1995, 1998, 2000), Podravka (1996), Krim (2001, 2003), Viborg (2006, 2009, 2010), Larvik (2011), Budućnost (2012) and Győr (2013, 2014)

8 consecutive times since the 2006/07 season, Győr have at least qualified for the semi-finals of the Women's EHF Champions League, twice (2013, 2014) the Hungarian champions finished atop the winners' podium.

10 nations represent the previous winners of the Women's EHF Champions League: Denmark (6 titles), Austria (4), Hungary (3), Slovenia (2), Norway, Montenegro, FYR Macedonia, Spain, Croatia and Russia (one title each).

13 clubs, which were part of the 2013/14 Women's EHF Champions League Group Matches, are back again: Győr, Budućnost, Vardar, Hypo, Podravka, Metz, Thüringer HC, Leipzig, Larvik, Lublin, Baia Mare, Lublin and Sävehof. Midtjylland, Bera Bera and FTC are not present. Zagreb, Dinamo and Viborg are "newcomers" despite being anything but debutants.

14 different nations are part of the group matches, the same number as in the previous season. The only change in terms of nations: Russia (Dinamo) is in and Spain is out.

22 times (every year since the Women's EHF Champions League started in 1993) Hypo Niederösterreich were and are again part of the competition. Budućnost play their 19th consecutive season in the top flight.

48 matches of the group phase will decide which 12 teams (three per group) will proceed to the main round.

116 matches (including qualification) will be played until the 2014/15 winner of the Women's EHF Champions League will be confirmed. Eight qualification matches already took place, followed by each 48 matches in group phase and main round, eight quarter-final matches and four matches at the EHF FINAL4 in Budapest next May.

Countries represented

Croatia	38 players
Germany	36
Russia	36
Sweden	26
France	25
Norway	24
Denmark	18
Poland	17
Slovenia	17
Montenegro	14
Romania	13
Hungary	12
Austria	11
Brazil	8
Serbia	8
FYR Macedonia	7
Netherlands	5
Belarus	4
Spain	3
Bulgaria	2
Czech Republic	2
Iceland	2
Slovakia	2
Ukraine	2
Azerbaijan	1
Chile	1
Tunisia	1

Teams by age average

Larvik	27,9
HCM Baia Mare	27,3
Györi Audi ETO KC	27,3
HC Lokomotiva Zagreb	26,2
WHC Vardar SCBT	26,2
MKS Selgros Lublin	25,3
Hypo Niederösterreich	25,2
RK Krim Mercator	24,1
Thüringer HC	23,9
Buducnost	23,9
Viborg HK A/S	22,7
HC Leipzig	21,7
HC Podravka Vegeta	21,7
Metz Handball	21,3
Dinamo-Sinara	20,8
IK Sävehof	20,6
CL average	23,9

Teams by height average

Buducnost	178,1
HCM Baia Mare	177,9
HC Leipzig	177,7
WHC Vardar SCBT	177,6
Györi Audi ETO KC	177,5
Larvik	177,3
RK Krim Mercator	177,2
Viborg HK A/S	177,0
Dinamo-Sinara	176,7
Metz Handball	176,6
HC Podravka Vegeta	175,7
MKS Selgros Lublin	175,7
Thüringer HC	175,4
HC Lokomotiva Zagreb	174,9
Hypo Niederösterreich	174,1
IK Sävehof	174,0
CL average	176,5

shortest vs tallest

Kristina Smiljanic	CRO	HC Lokomotiva	160	Szimonetta Planeta	HUN	Györi Audi ETO KC	198
Viktoriya Smolentseva	RUS	Dinamo-Sinara	160	Luisa Schulze	GER	HC Leipzig	192
Louise Sand	SWE	IK Sävehof	160	Franziska Mietzner	GER	Thüringer HC	192
Hanna Örtorp	SWE	IK Sävehof	162	Kristine Breistøl	NOR	Larvik	191
Antonia Oremovic	CRO	HC Podravka	163	Alina Wojtas	POL	Larvik	191
Sofie Heide Lund	NOR	Larvik	163	Gabriela Rotis-Nagy	AUT	Hypo NÖ	189
Ekaterina Fanina	RUS	Dinamo-Sinara	163	Jana Krause	GER	Thüringer HC	188
Viktoria Mauler	AUT	Hypo NÖ	164	Nikoline Skals Lundgreen	DEN	Viborg HK A/S	187
Edijana Dafe	SWE	IK Sävehof	164	Kseniya Milova	RUS	Dinamo-Sinara	187
Korina Karlovcan	CRO	HC Podravka	165	Marina Lambevskva	MKD	RK Krim Mercator	187
Valeria Kiprigina	RUS	Dinamo-Sinara	165	Misa Marincek	SLO	RK Krim Mercator	187

youngest vs oldest

Ivona Mrden	CRO	HC Podravka	15	Sergeja Stefanisin	SLO	RK Krim Mercator	40
Iva Papac	CRO	HC Podravka	15	Tonje Larsen	NOR	Larvik	39
Anna Lena Plate	GER	HC Leipzig	15	Claudia Bogdana	ROU	HCM Baia Mare	38
Korina Karlovcan	CRO	HC Podravka	16	Olga Sanko	RUS	Hypo NÖ	36
Ursa Urbancic	SLO	RK Krim Mercator	16	Chana Franciela Masson	BRA	Viborg HK A/S	35
Nikoline Skals Lundgreen	DEN	Viborg HK A/S	16	Inna Suslina	RUS	WHC Vardar SCBT	35
Hanna Örtorp	SWE	IK Sävehof	16	Isabel Blanco	NOR	Larvik	35
Johanna Schierbock	GER	HC Leipzig	16	Marina Lambevskva	MKD	RK Krim Mercator	34
Cecilie Dalmose Larsen	DEN	Viborg HK A/S	16	Tine Rustad Albertsen	NOR	Larvik	34
Julie Sias	FRA	Metz Handball	16	Ivana Jelcic	CRO	HC Lokomotiva	34
Linn Hansson	SWE	IK Sävehof	17	Begona Fernandez Molinos	ESP	WHC Vardar SCBT	34



See the action live and free

ehfTV

Extended women's coverage on ehfTV.com

All matches of new season live

Handball fans across Europe will not miss a single match in the new season of both elite European club competitions. All matches starting from Group Phase of the VELUX EHF Champions League and Group Matches of the Women's EHF Champions League will be broadcast live and free of charge on ehfTV.com and the videos of all matches will be also on demand (subject to geo-blocking restrictions).

The complete coverage of all matches means that only during the group stage of both competitions handball fans will be spoilt by 120 men's and 84 women's matches. Together with knock-out stages this is supposed to offer this season more than 244 handball matches on ehfTV.com.

ehfTV.com extends the coverage of the Women's CL

In the 2014/15 season, handball's leading live streaming platform ehfTV.com has prepared a surprise package for all fans of women's handball.

From the opening round of the Group Matches ehfTV will produce a new magazine compiling the most interesting scenes of the round.

Every Monday after a playing round "REWIND - The Women's Handball Show" will not only show the highlights of the games, but also interviews with players and selections of the top five goals and saves.

During the 26 minute long programme fans will also be introduced to a rookie of the round followed by best scenes of the three biggest stars of the round.



Important regulations

Scoring of the matches and ranking

General

All matches of the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League shall be played in 2 x 30 minutes with a half-time break of 10 minutes. The EHF reserves the right to extend the half-time break in special circumstances to 15 minutes.

The matches shall be scored as follows: a) win = 2 points b) draw = 1 point c) loss = 0 points

Teams' rankings are obtained by adding up the number of points won.

Group Matches and Main Round

If two or more teams have scored the same number of points, the ranking will be determined as follows:

During the matches of the group:

- a) higher goal difference in all matches;
- b) greater number of plus goals in all matches;

After completion of the group if two teams have scored the same number of points:

- a) number of points in matches of the two teams directly involved;
- b) goal difference in matches of the two teams directly involved;
- c) higher number of goals scored in the away match of the two teams directly involved;
- d) goal difference in all matches of the group;
- e) higher number of plus goals in all matches of the group;

After completion of the group if three or more teams have scored the same number of points:

- a) number of points in matches of all teams directly involved;
- b) goal difference in matches of all teams directly involved;
- c) higher number of plus goals in matches of all teams directly involved;
- d) goal difference in all matches of the group;
- e) higher number of plus goals in all matches of the group;
- f) higher ranking in Group Matches (Main Round only)
- g) greater number of points in Group Matches (Main Round only)

If the ranking of one of these teams is determined, the criteria are consecutively followed until the ranking of all teams is determined.

If no ranking can be determined, a decision shall be obtained by drawing lots. Lots shall be drawn by the EHF, if possible in the presence of team managers.



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Group A preview



SEIZMIC SHIFTS OCCURE IN LJUBLJANA AND AT VIENNA

Krim Mercator reached their 20th Slovenian championship as expected and considering their performances in the past seasons, one could conclude that this season's draw was favourable for them. But seismic shifts occurred in Ljubljana. Dire financial situation caused a massive exodus of players and new (old) coach Marta Bon had to patch up the squad as best as she could. Only right wing Tamara Mavsar remained in the outfield and every match will be a new experience for a totally new team. Bon also counts on line player and French international Amelie Goudjo and Macedonian left back Mirjeta Bajramoska. The two-times winners of the WEHFCL face a tough season and a steep learning curve among the best of Europe.

Dinamo-Sinara return to Europe's elite after a year's absence. The girls from Volgograd secured the Russian title in a narrow series with Lada Togliati and the coach Viktor Ryabykh is looking forward to at least repeat Dinamo's success from the 2010/11, when they reached the main round. Their main weapon should be right back Anna Kochetova who was in fine form in the last season. Her international teammates include line player Asma El Ghaoui (Tunisia) and right wing Anita Gace (Croatia), while the squad is rife with Russian talent. Due to distance from continental Europe Dinamo will have a certain home court advantage but at the same time this will be a hindrance in away games. Having in mind the changes at Krim, Dinamo should be the favourite of the group.

Walz replaces samba time in Lower Austria

Hypo Niederösterreich are Austria's perennial champions and domestically they have no real competition. After conquering Europe four times in the 90's (five times total), Hypo NÖ have been lately mostly stuck in the group stage and are gunning for a promotion. They still have a strong Brazilian presence in the squad with Mariana Costa and Francielle Gomes da Rocha, although they've lost the bulk of the "samba girls". The new coach Ferenc Kovács, who has strengthened the squad with young Austrian girls, is keen to make a mark and has set a goal of reaching the main round. It remains to be seen how far can one of the traditional outfits reach this season.

Leipzig have secured their CL spot on their home court by stunning Hungarian favourites FTC in the overtime of the decisive match of the qualification tournament (39:38). With Thüringer HC firmly established as Germany's No. 1, Leipzig will try to upset the favourites home and abroad with mainly home-grown talent. They've lost their biggest star Susann Müller to Győr and have had quite a few injury problems before the beginning of the group campaign. Coach Norman Rentsch has lost Isi Rösike with a broken finger, while Saskia Lang and Helena Hertlein have resumed training. Leipzig want to finish at least 3rd in the group and prolong their European season into 2015.

by Grega Sever

Group A head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group A opponents in the EC

RK Krim Mercator vs Dinamo-Sinara

12.01.2002	Volgograd AKVA vs RK Krim Neutro Roberts, EHF Champions League – Group D	22:24 (10:9)
16.02.2002	RK Krim Neutro Roberts vs Volgograd AKVA, EHF Champions League – Group D	22:21 (14:12)
13.01.2007	RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana vs H/K Dinamo Volgograd, EHF Champions League – Group A	41:33 (20:15)
10.02.2007	H/K Dinamo Volgograd vs RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana, EHF Champions League – Group A	29:34 (19:16)

RK Krim Mercator vs Hypo Niederösterreich

09.02.1997	Krim Electa Ljubljana vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – 1/4-final	21:26 (5:12)
16.02.1997	Hypo Niederösterreich vs Krim Electa Ljubljana, EHF Champions League – 1/4-final	34:21 (18:10)
29.01.2000	Krim Electa NR Ljubljana vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – Group B	27:28 (10:14)
27.02.2000	Hypo Niederösterreich vs Krim Electa NR Ljubljana, EHF Champions League – Group B	24:24 (12:13)
30.12.2004	Hypo Niederösterreich vs Krim Ljubljana, ECh for Club Teams – final	25:34 (13:18)
08.11.2009	RK Krim Mercator vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – Group B	35:24 (16:12)
15.01.2010	Hypo Niederösterreich vs RK Krim Mercator, EHF Champions League – Group B	28:26 (13:9)

RK Krim Mercator vs HC Leipzig

13.02.2010	RK Krim Mercator vs HC Leipzig, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	32:26 (12:15)
07.03.2010	HC Leipzig vs RK Krim Mercator, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	27:31 (14:20)
13.10.2013	HC Leipzig vs RK Krim Mercator, EHF Champions League – Group C	23:27 (10:13)
16.11.2013	RK Krim Mercator vs HC Leipzig, EHF Champions League – Group C	32:20 (15:8)

Dinamo-Sinara vs Hypo Niederösterreich

06.01.2001	Volgograd AKVA vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – Group A	29:18 (16:11)
10.02.2001	Hypo Niederösterreich vs Volgograd AKVA, EHF Champions League – Group A	23:19 (13:9)
22.04.2001	Hypo Niederösterreich vs AKVA Volgograd, ECh for Club Teams – final	27:24 (13:13)
21.01.2005	Hypo Niederösterreich vs Dinamo AQUA Volgograd, EHF Champions League – Group B	31:25 (14:14)
20.02.2005	Dinamo AQUA Volgograd vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – Group B	30:23 (13:12)
20.02.2010	HC Dinamo vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 2	27:21 (15:11)
19.03.2010	Hypo Niederösterreich vs HC Dinamo, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 2	28:26 (14:13)
10.03.2013	Dinamo Volgograd vs Hypo NÖ, Cup Winners' Cup – 1/4-final	22:31 (11:17)
16.03.2013	Hypo NÖ vs Dinamo Volgograd, Cup Winners' Cup – 1/4-final	25:31 (13:14)

Dinamo-Sinara vs HC Leipzig

30.01.2000	HC Leipzig vs Volgograd AKVA, EHF Champions League – Group C	27:21 (17:13)
27.02.2000	Volgograd AKVA vs HC Leipzig, EHF Champions League – Group C	28:19 (18:10)
13.04.2009	HC Leipzig vs HC Dinamo, EHF Cup – 1/2-final	25:15 (10:6)
18.04.2009	HC Dinamo vs HC Leipzig, EHF Cup – 1/2-finals	24:20 (10:10)
19.02.2011	Dinamo vs HC Leipzig, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 2	25:22 (12:7)
19.03.2011	HC Leipzig vs Dinamo, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 2	23:26 (13:12)

Hypo Niederösterreich vs HC Leipzig

19.02.1989	SC Leipzig vs Hypobank Südstadt, Champions Cup – 1/4-final	20:25 (11:15)
26.02.1989	Hypobank Südstadt vs SC Leipzig, Champions Cup – 1/4-final	28:22 (12:9)
29.12.2004	Hypo Niederösterreich vs HC Leipzig, ECh for Club Teams – Group A	30:29 (14:15)
23.10.2010	HC Leipzig vs Hypo Niederösterreich, EHF Champions League – Group B	23:28 (12:15)
20.11.2010	Hypo Niederösterreich vs HC Leipzig, EHF Champions League – Group B	20:23 (12:11)

GROUP A

RK Krim Mercator (SLO)



Playing hall

Arena Stožice

Vojkova Cesta 100
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Capacity: 6,000

Club Address:

RK Krim Mercator
Center Stožice
Vojkova Cesta 100
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Media contact:

Gašper Lončarič
+386 51 630 877
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Online information:

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: blue, red
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: purple, green

Dark

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

Ahead of what will be their 20th appearance in the Women's EHF Champions League, RK Krim Mercator have swapped their squad of stars for a collection of Slovenian talents and a limited number of international players. Two years after narrowly missing out on the EHF Champions League final, the two-time champions are now in the midst of a transitional period. Coach Marta Bon – also the coach of the Slovenia national team – is taking the club back to its roots with her focus on Slovenian players and only a few players from abroad.

13 stars from last season left the club, including nearly all the squad's key players – Jelena Grubisic, Linnea Torstenson, Andrea Penezic, Nina Wörz, Daniela De Oliveira Piedade and Carmen Martin Berenguer are now spread all over Europe; mainly in the south-east. Goalkeeper Sergeja Stefanisin and French international Amelie Goudjo are two of the experienced athletes that remain with Krim.

Krim's targets are now focused on continuing their reign of the domestic competitions and hoping, despite the transition, to qualify for the main round of the EHF Champions League. 'Step by step' is the new motto in the Slovenian capital, where the 30th anniversary of the all-time record national champions – under new president Goran Bojovic – has just been celebrated. Krim's new secretary general, Tina Kravanja, hopes the puzzle will fit together quickly.

"We've built a new team. That is why the first goals in our preliminary months were to connect the players, coaches and organisation with each other," she said.

For new team captain, Tamara Mavsar, the rebuilding process is the most important goal too. "This season, the team's primary goals are to hold on to both domestic titles: the Slovenian championship and Slovenian cup. In the Champions League we will focus game by game and try to continue to the main round."

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Slovenian champions

Newcomers:

Mirjeta Bajramoska (WHC Metalurg)
Polona Baric (RK Piran)
Lara Hrnec (ZRK Vegrad Velenje)
Marina Lambevskaja (Astrakhanochka)
Amelie Goudjo (Issy Paris Hand)
Gloria Pavlova (SKH Vasil Levski Novi Pazar)
Elizabeth Omoregie (HK T&S Shugar)
Melanie Mie Bak (Randers HK)
Alja Jankovic (ZRK Celje Celjske Mesnine)
Alja Koren (Erd)
Maja Lukovic (ZRK Crvena Zvezda)

Left the club:

Maja Zrnec (RK Celeia Zalec)
Neli Irman (HC Lokomotiva Zagreb)
Andjela Bulatovic (Rostov-Don)
Andrea Penezic (WHC Vardar SCBT)
Barbara Lazovic-Varlec (WHC Vardar SCBT)
Nina Wörz (Siofok KC – Galerius Furdo)
Daniela De Oliveira Piedade (Siofok KC – Galerius Furdo)
Jelena Grubisic (Györi Audi ETO KC)
Oana Andreea Manea (CSM Bucuresti)
Linnea Torstenson (CSM Bucuresti)
Patricia Maria Vizitiu (CSM Bucuresti)
Carmen Martin Berenguer (CSM Bucuresti)
Talida Tolnai (CSM Bucuresti)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 20
Winners (2): 2000/01, 2002/03
Runners-up (3): 1998/99, 2003/04, 2005/06
Semi-final (1): 2012/13
Quarter-final (4): 1996/97, 1997/98, 2004/05, 2006/07
Last 16 (1): 1995/96
Main Round (5): 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14
Group Matches (3): 1999/00, 2001/02, 2007/08

Other

Slovenian league: 20 titles (1995 – 2014)
Slovenian cup: 20 titles



RK Krim Mercator (SLO)

Biggest win:	36:12 (18:3) v Anagennisi Artas GRE (h), 25.01.1997
Biggest defeat:	35:18 (17:9) v Mar El Osito L'Eliana ESP (a), 16.11.1997
Longest winning run:	6 matches (04.01.2003 – 22.02.2003) 6 matches (08.01.2005 – 19.02.2005)
Longest unbeaten run:	7 matches (20.02.2000 – 10.02.2001)
Longest losing run:	5 matches (09.02.2014 – 15.03.2014)
Longest run without win:	6 matches (16.10.2011 – 12.02.2012) 41 v H/K Dinamo Volgograd RUS 41:33W (h), 13.01.2007
Most goals opponent:	40 v Buducnost MNE 36:40L (h), 04.03.2011
Most goals both teams:	76 v Buducnost MNE 36:40L (h), 04.03.2011
Fewest goals:	15 v Buducnost MNE 30:15L (a), 09.02.2014
Fewest goals opponent:	12 v Anagennisi Artas GRE 36:12W (h), 25.01.1997
Fewest goals both teams:	34 v ESBF Besancon FRA 19:15W (h), 02.01.1999

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 Krim Electa Ljubljana SLO	8	4	0	4	197:178	+19	8		1/4-finals
1997/98 Krim Electa Ljubljana SLO	8	4	0	4	210:218	-8	8		1/4-finals
1998/99 Krim Electa Ljubljana SLO	12	6	1	5	298:287	+11	13		Runner-up
1999/00 Krim Electa NR Ljubljana SLO	6	2	1	3	153:146	+7	5		3rd Gr. B
2000/01 RK Krim Neutro Roberts SLO	12	6	3	3	302:270	+32	15		Winner
2001/02 RK Krim Neutro Roberts SLO	6	3	0	3	148:151	-3	6		3rd Gr. D
2002/03 Krim ETA N. Roberts Ljubljana SLO	12	10	0	2	357:302	+55	20		Winner
2003/04 Krim Ljubljana Slovenia SLO	12	7	0	5	344:309	+35	14		Runner-up
2004/05 Krim Ljubljana SLO	8	7	0	1	222:185	+37	14		1/4-finals
2005/06 Krim Ljubljana Slovenia SLO	12	8	0	4	312:285	+27	16		Runner-up
2006/07 RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana SLO	8	5	0	3	245:231	+14	10		1/4-finals
2007/08 RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana SLO	6	2	1	3	175:180	-5	5		3rd Gr. B
2008/09 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	6	0	6	383:386	-3	12		4th MR Gr. 2
2009/10 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	7	1	4	364:334	+30	15		3rd MR Gr. 1
2010/11 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	6	0	6	364:356	+8	12		3rd MR Gr. 1
2011/12 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	4	2	6	290:312	-22	10		3rd MR Gr. 2
2012/13 RK Krim Mercator SLO	14	8	0	6	355:355	0	16		1/2-finals
2013/14 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	5	1	6	300:295	+5	11		4th MR Gr. 2
Total	184	100	10	74	5019:4780	+239	210		

RK Krim Mercator (SLO)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
	Liliya	Artsiukhovich	BLR	Left Back	21.8.1987	Minsk, BLR	180
13	Mirjeta	Bajramoska	MKD	Left Back	22.11.1984	Bitola, MKD	179
9	Melanie Mie	Bak	DEN	Centre Back	30.1.1994	Randers, DEN	172
23	Polona	Baric	SLO	Right Wing	15.5.1992	Izola, SLO	166
66	Ekaterina	Cechkova	SLO	Left Wing	3.11.1993	Seljo, RUS	173
11	Amelie	Goudjo	FRA	Line Player	19.4.1980	Nantua, FRA	173
22	Sanja	Gregorc	SLO	Line Player	14.8.1990	Ljubljana, SLO	178
10	Lara	Hrncic	SLO	Right Back	18.4.1993	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	185
21	Alja	Jankovic	SLO	Centre Back	10.9.1989	Ljubljana, SLO	170
3	Manca	Juric	SLO	Line Player	18.1.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	173
20	Alja	Koren	SLO	Right Wing	11.12.1990	Celje, SLO	185
91	Marina	Lambevskaja	MKD	Left Back	30.12.1979	Krasnodar, RUS	187
5	Maja	Lukovic	SRB	Right Wing	8.2.1989	Krusevac, SRB	171
16	Misa	Marincek	SLO	Goalkeeper	18.2.1985	Celje, SLO	187
8	Tamara	Mavsar	SLO	Left Wing	1.4.1991	Ljubljana, SLO	178
	Elizabeth	Omorie	BUL		29.12.1996		
28	Gloria	Pavlova	BUL	Left Back	28.9.1995	Shumen, BUL	180
83	Spela	Potisek	SLO	Right Wing	25.2.1993	Ljubljana, SLO	184
	Alexandra	Petruchina	RUS		9.5.1987	Astrakhan, RUS	170
12	Sergeja	Stefanisin	SLO	Goalkeeper	19.9.1974	Ljubljana, SLO	184
26	Ursa	Urbancic	SLO	Right Wing	4.6.1998	Ljubljana, SLO	168
7	Ana	Zrimsek	SLO	Right Back	17.8.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	180
18	Nina	Zulic	SLO	Centre Back	4.12.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	170




Marta Bon
coach

- former excellent left wing with Olimpija in the then Yugoslavian league and later with Krim in Slovenia
- her third stint as Krim coach, has taken them to the main round in the CL several times
- head coach of the Slovenia national team
- has a PhD in kinesiology, a professor at the Faculty of Sport in Ljubljana and a member of Ljubljana city council


Misa Marincek
goalkeeper

- this will be her 4th season in two spells with Krim.
- has also played with Ptuj, Zalec, Olimpija and Kärnten (AUT)
- returned to Krim for the 2013/14 season.
- looking to edge out Sergeja Stefanisin as number one goalkeeper


Tamara Mavsar
left wing

- born and bred in Ljubljana.
- made her CL debut at age 17
- in 2012/13 season she was nominated as one of the best up-and-coming players in the CL
- most experienced player for Krim by far and penalty taker for the team


Mirjeta Bajramoska
left back

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


Alja Jankovic
centre back

- has struggled to break through as a key player for Krim
- good playmaker – particularly strong in reading the defence.
- proper link between the coach and the players on the court.
- also a student of pharmacology


Amelie Goudjo
line player

- played and lost two consecutive European Cup finals (Cup Winners' Cup 2012/13 and Challenge Cup 2013/14) in the last two seasons with Issy Paris Hand
- true team player will have to fight for her spot with Sanja Gregorc.
- has plenty of international experience as part of the France national team.
- has won two silver medals with the France national team at the WCh (2009 and 2011)

WCh: S 2009, 2011


Alja Koren
right back

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


Maja Lukovic
right wing

- returning after an injury, but has potential to develop into a top level performer.
- this will be her maiden Women's EHF Champions League season.
- played the Challenge Cup 2011/12 with Crvena Zvezda (SRB)

GROUP A

Dinamo-Sinara Volgograd (RUS)



After a one-year absence from the Women's EHF Champions League, Russian champions Dinamo-Sinara are back with the intention of matching their previous performances in the competition and earning a reputation as a force in women's handball.

Dinamo have been busy during the off-season, adding a number of strong talents to their roster and making their squad the biggest in the Women's EHF Champions League competition in the process. The loss of international players such as Brazilian Mayssa Raquel De Pessoa and French Katty Piejos has been compensated for with the transfer of Croatian Anita Gace and the first ever Tunisian to play professionally in Russia, Asma El Ghaoui.

Though the additional players strengthen the club's roster, the squad is still mainly comprised of players that have come through Dinamo's highly successful youth development program.

Manager Eduard Akopian has a clear idea of the club's goals: "We have a young, strong team with great expectations ahead of the Champions League and our national championship. Our main aim is to gain a reputation and make our opponents realise we are a dangerous team."

Team captain Anna Kochetova is optimistic despite the fact that the team has been hit hard by injuries before the EHF Champions League has even begun, attributing her confidence to the structure of the squad.

"We have a great mix of experienced and young players, as well as a really positive atmosphere in our team. I believe the combination of our diverse squad with the experience of our coaches will help us achieve results," said Kochetova.

The Volgograd-based club topped the Russian Women's Super League for the sixth consecutive time last season. Along with their goals to succeed in the international competition, the team aim to defend their domestic title this year. The Russian champions will not face any of the teams widely considered main contenders for the FINAL4 in the group stage, having been drawn in a group with Krim, Hypo Niederösterreich and Leipzig.



Playing hall

Sporthall Dinamo Volgograd

Novorossiyskaya St. 2

4000131 Volgograd

Russia

Capacity: 3,000

Club Address:

Dinamo-Sinara Volgograd

Novorossiyskaya St. 2a, off. 5

4000131 Volgograd

Russia

Media contact:

Eduard Akopian

+7 905 333 33 13

edik.a@mail.ru

Online information:

Website: www.hk-dinamo.ru

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white

Player short: white

Goalkeeper shirt: black

Dark

Player shirt: blue

Player short: blue

Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Russian champions

Newcomers:

Ekaterina Fanina (Astrakhanochka)

Ekaterina Peche (Astrakhanochka)

Anita Gace (HC Lokomotiva Zagreb)

Asma El Ghaoui (HBC Nimes)

Left the club:

Elena Avdekova (Rostov-Don)

Alexandra Stepanova (Rostov-Don)

Valentina Goncharova (Astrakhanochka)

Katty Piejos (AS Cannes)

Ksenia Makeeva (HCM Baia Mare)

Mayssa Raquel De Pessoa (CSM Bucuresti)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/2015 season): 13

Semi-final (1): 1999/2000

Main Round (3): 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/2012

Group Matches (5): 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2012/13

Qualification (3): 2002/03, 2003/04, 2008/09

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2007/08, semi-final 2008/09

City Cup: semi-final 1997/98

Challenge Cup: Winners 1994/95

Russian league: 12 titles (1993, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Dinamo-Sinara Volgograd (RUS)



Biggest win:	30:15 (15:7) v Frederiksberg IF DEN (h), 20.01.2001
Biggest defeat:	41:20 (24:9) v Larvik NOR (a), 12.02.2011
Longest winning run:	3 matches (30.01.2005 – 20.02.2005) 3 matches (17.10.2010 – 07.11.2010)
Longest unbeaten run:	5 matches (29.04.2000 – 27.01.2001)
Longest losing run:	4 matches (13.01.2007 – 17.02.2007) 4 matches (14.11.2010 – 12.02.2011) 4 matches (28.10.2012 – 18.11.2012)
Longest run without win:	5 matches (08.01.2006 – 12.02.2006)
Most goals:	41 v Viborg HK DEN 41:33W (h), 24.10.2010
Most goals opponent:	41 v RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana SLO 41:33L (a), 13.01.2007 41 v Larvik NOR 41:20L (a), 12.02.2011
Most goals both teams:	74 v RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana SLO 41:33L (a), 13.01.2007 74 v Viborg HK DEN 41:33W (h), 24.10.2010
Fewest goals:	17 v Larvik HK NOR 18:17L (a), 08.11.2009
Fewest goals opponent:	15 v Frederiksberg IF DEN 30:15W (h), 20.01.2001
Fewest goals both teams:	35 v Larvik HK NOR 18:17L (a), 08.11.2009

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1999/00 Volgograd AKVA RUS	10	6	1	3	264:243	+21	13		1/2-finals
2000/01 Volgograd AKVA RUS	8	4	1	3	192:173	+19	9		1/4-finals
2001/02 Volgograd AKVA RUS	6	1	1	4	134:144	-10	3		4th Gr. D
2004/05 Dinamo AQUA Volgograd RUS	6	4	0	2	164:160	+4	8		3rd Gr. B
2005/06 Dinamo Volgograd RUS	6	1	2	3	148:156	-8	4		4th Gr. D
2006/07 H/K Dinamo Volgograd RUS	6	2	0	4	179:196	-17	4		4th Gr. A
2009/10 HC Dinamo RUS	12	4	2	6	313:306	+7	10		4th MR Gr. 2
2010/11 Dinamo RUS	12	5	0	7	332:366	-34	10		3rd MR Gr. 2
2011/12 Dinamo Volgograd RUS	6	3	0	3	170:160	+10	6		3rd Gr. D
2012/13 Dinamo Volgograd RUS	6	1	0	5	157:200	-43	2		3rd Gr. C
Total	78	31	7	40	2053:2104	-51	69		

Dinamo-Sinara Volgograd (RUS)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
10	Olga	Akopian	RUS	Left Back	4.3.1985	Volgograd, RUS	176
4	Daria	Belikova	RUS	Line Player	7.3.1997	Volgograd, RUS	181
2	Ekaterina	Chernova	RUS	Left Wing	18.1.1994	Toljatti, RUS	171
25	Tamara	Chopikyan	RUS	Left Wing	25.5.1993	Moskow, RUS	167
13	Nataliya	Danshina	RUS	Right Back	10.4.1992	Voljski, RUS	183
11	Daria	Dmitrieva	RUS	Centre Back	9.8.1995	Toljatti, RUS	178
66	Asma	El Ghaoui	TUN	Line Player	29.8.1991	Monastir, TUN	174
9	Ekaterina	Fanina	RUS	Left Wing	27.11.1989	Volgograd, RUS	163
7	Yaroslava	Frolova	RUS	Centre Back	18.5.1997	Volgograd, RUS	178
8	Anita	Gace	CRO	Right Wing	14.4.1983	Split, CRO	174
20	Valeriya	Ganicheva	RUS	Right Back	18.12.1996	Volgograd, RUS	180
5	Yulia	Golikova	RUS	Left Back	24.2.1997	Ufa, RUS	184
22	Valeria	Kiprigina	RUS	Left Wing	16.1.1996	Volgograd, RUS	165
6	Anna	Kochetova	RUS	Right Back	4.5.1987	Volgograd, RUS	180
30	Margarita	Kushnyr	RUS	Goalkeeper	5.6.1996	Rostov region, RUS	178
18	Yulia	Markova	RUS	Left Wing	10.8.1996	Volgograd, RUS	170
3	Kseniya	Milova	RUS	Left Back	6.1.1992	Moskow, RUS	187
32	Ekaterina	Nefedova	RUS	Right Back	5.12.1996	Yaroslavl, RUS	177
28	Ekaterina	Pecher	AZE	Centre Back	28.10.1982	Astrakhan, RUS	181
21	Evgeniya	Petrova	RUS	Line Player	10.8.1994	Toljatti, RUS	181
35	Kristina	Pyatkina	RUS	Goalkeeper	15.3.1997	Volgograd, RUS	177
1	Anna	Sedoykina	RUS	Goalkeeper	1.8.1984	Volgograd, RUS	183
24	Viktoriya	Smolentseva	RUS	Right Wing	25.10.1996	Volgograd, RUS	160
40	Elizaveta	Sobina	RUS	Line Player	7.12.1995	Krasnodar region, RUS	185
19	Anastasia	Starshova	RUS	Right Wing	26.3.1997	Volgograd, RUS	165
15	Anastasia	Suslova	RUS	Left Back	11.10.1996	Volgograd, RUS	182
12	Anastasia	Titovskaya	RUS	Goalkeeper	3.3.1996	Volgograd, RUS	181
29	Elena	Utkina	RUS	Goalkeeper	29.5.1990	Volgograd, RUS	181
14	Polina	Vedekhina	RUS	Left Back	6.1.1994	Volgograd, RUS	176
17	Valentina	Vernigorova	RUS	Centre Back	15.6.1997	Volgograd, RUS	184
	Maria	Duvakina	RUS		23.3.1998		




Victor Ryabykh
 coach

- has been at the helm of Dinamo since 2008 winning six Russian championships in a row
- worked at other Russian clubs as well as in Ukraine and Montenegro
- asked to become Russia national team coach but preferred to stay at Dinamo when forced to choose just one job
- coordinator of the Volgograd youth academy, which is the source for many national team players


Anna Sedoykina
 goalkeeper

- born and bred in Volgograd, joined Dinamo, then called Volgograd AKVA, in 2000 at the age of 16
- won 13 medals of the Russian league: six gold, five silver and two bronze medals
- one of the heroes of 2009 WCh in China. Early in the final game replaced the experienced Inna Suslina and produced a brilliant performance
- missed the 2013/14 season after giving birth to a daughter in September 2013

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008
 WCh: G 2009, EHF EURO: B 2008


Ekaterina Fanina
 left wing

- born in Volgograd, started her career at Dinamo
- after winning the EHF Cup in 2008, opted to move to Astrakhan where she played for six years
- came back to Dinamo in the summer of 2014 and integrated pretty well into the team
- has experience of playing for junior and senior Russian national teams

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008


Olga Akopian
 left back

- has been playing for Dinamo throughout her career
- after the London Olympics in 2012, married Eduard Akopian, the team manager of Dinamo, gave birth to the daughter Arina in May 2013
- at the beginning of 2014 successfully came back to handball
- took part in the 2014 Winter Olympic Torch Relay before the Games in Sochi

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008
 WCh: G 2007, G 2009, EHF EURO: S 2006, B 2008


Ekaterina Peche
 centre back

- born in Astrakhan, Russia
- holds a citizenship of Azerbaijan and regularly plays for its national team
- set for her first season in Volgograd after spending all of her career in her home town playing for Astrakhanochka
- two-time champion of Russia in beach handball


Asma El Ghaoui
 line player

- Tunisian is set for her debut season at Dinamo and Russian handball
- previously played for Nimes in France but never took part in any European Cup competitions
- in recent years, she has regularly played for the Tunisia national team. Took part in two WCh — in 2011 (18th place) and 2013 (17th place)

African Cup: G 2014


Anna Kochetova
 right back

- her mother used to be a handball player and then a coach. She brought Anna to the handball training when the girl was 7
- plays at the same position and with the same number 6 as her mother did
- missed the 2012/13 season and for half a year, travelled extensively all over the world with her husband. Eventually came back to Dinamo, after promising club bosses

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008


Anita Gace
 right wing

- started her first season in Volgograd and hopes to become an integral part of the team
- spent all her previous career at home in Croatia, changed four clubs Makarska, Osijek, Podravka and Lokomotiva
- won six gold medals in a row at the Croatian league (2006-11), all of them with Podravka
- played more than 100 games for the Croatia national team, took part in three major tournaments (2011 WCh, 2012 OG, 2012 EHF EURO)

GROUP A



Playing hall

BSFZ Südstadt

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

Club Address:

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

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Online information:

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT)

When Brazil won the Women's World Championship 2013 in Serbia, the samba fiesta was not confined to Belgrade. The little town Maria Enzersdorf at the outskirts of Vienna was also celebrating, as Hypo Niederösterreich was part of this success – many of the Brazilians and even coach Morten Soubak were with Hypo at the time. The Brazilian era at Hypo has now come to an end, with the departure of Soubak to focus on the Brazilian national team and six members of the world champion squad joining new clubs.

2012 World Handball Player of the Year Alexandra Do Nascimento and goalkeeper Barbara Arenhart transferred to Baia Mare, where they will face their former Hypo teammates Deonise Cavaleiro Fachinello, Fernanda Franca da Silva and Ana Paula Rodrigues, the three of whom now call CSM Bucuresti home, in the Romanian league. Rounding out the Brazilian troupe departing Hypo is Fabiana Carvalho Carneiro Diniz, who joined Nantes. Hypo's Brazilian connections are not completely lost however, with Mariana Costa transferring to the Austrian club. Austrian Marina Budecevic re-joins Hypo from domestic rivals: Wr.Neustadt.

Last season, Hypo took their 38th consecutive domestic title in style, along with participating in their 37th campaign in the European top flight (still called the Champions' Cup when their impressive run began). The club have been crowned Champions League winners a total of four times, but have not reached the final since 2008. Since then they have steadily participated, but have not qualified for the major matches – though they were victorious at the Cup Winners' Cup in 2013.

"Hypo Niederösterreich is in an intermediate phase, focused on forming a team with the best Austrian players. The team must be developed and should be able to compete in European competitions in future. The young players need to learn and also get a feeling what is necessary to succeed against the top European teams," explains manager Karl Heinz Grassmann, speaking on the club's new strategy.

Experienced team captain Gorica Acimovic says the team are motivated and ready for the EHF Champions League season. "This is a big challenge for all of us and we are looking forward to playing high-quality international games. All the players are motivated. Our experienced players rate this season's competition as their chance and our young generation take it as an opportunity for their big breakthrough."

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Austrian champions

Newcomers:

Marina Budecevic (McDonald's Wr.Neustadt)
Martina Goricanec (HC MGT BW Feldkirch)
Vivien Lerant (Siofok KC – Galerius Furdo)
Mariana Costa (Vendsyssel Handbold)
Maria Eugenia Musalem Araos (McDonald's Wr.Neustadt)

Left the club:

Alexandra Do Nascimento (HCM Baia Mare)
Barbara Arenhart (HCM Baia Mare)
Ana Paula Rodrigues (CSM Bucuresti)
Fernanda Franca da Silva (CSM Bucuresti)
Fabiana Carvalho Carneiro Diniz (Nantes LA HB)
Deonise Cavaleiro Fachinello (CSM Bucuresti)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 22
Winners (4): 1993/94, 1994/95, 1997/98, 1999/2000
Runners-up (2): 1995/96, 2007/08
Semi-final (5): 1996/97, 1998/99, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09
Quarter-final (1): 2005/06
Group Matches (9): 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14

Other

Cup Winners Cup: Winners 2012/13, Runners-up 2003/04

Austrian league: 38 titles (1977-2014)
Austrian cup: 27 titles

Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT)



Biggest win:	17:32 (07:17) v Bel. Olimpija Ljubljana SLO (a), 19.02.1995
Biggest defeat:	41:22 (21:11) v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN (a), 05.10.2013
Longest winning run:	14 matches (22.01.1994 – 26.03.1995)
Longest unbeaten run:	14 matches (22.01.1994 – 26.03.1995)
Longest losing run:	4 matches (20.11.2010 – 30.10.2011)
Longest run without win:	4 matches (20.11.2010 – 30.10.2011)
Most goals:	38 v HC Kometal Gjorce Petrov MKD 38:27W (h), 19.01.2007 38 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 38:28W (h), 14.03.2009
Most goals opponent:	41 v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN 41:22L (a), 05.10.2013
Most goals both teams:	71 v Randers HK DEN 39:32L (a), 30.11.2011
Fewest goals:	14 v Podravka Koprivnica CRO 17:14L (a), 29.04.1995 14 v Kometal Dj. P. Skopje MKD 21:14L (a), 01.03.1998
Fewest goals opponent:	12 v Kometal Dj. P. Skopje MKD 26:12W (h), 21.02.1998
Fewest goals both teams:	30 v Podravka Koprivnica CRO 17:13W (h), 04.05.1996

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1993/94 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	8	8	0	0	186:149	+37	16		Winner
1994/95 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	8	7	0	1	202:147	+55	14		Winner
1995/96 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	8	6	1	1	184:150	+34	13		Runner-up
1996/97 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	10	9	0	1	249:194	+55	18		1/2-finals
1997/98 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	12	9	0	3	275:241	+34	18		Winner
1998/99 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	10	8	0	2	277:234	+43	16		1/2-finals
1999/00 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	12	8	2	2	338:291	+47	18		Winner
2000/01 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	6	3	0	3	158:162	-4	6		3rd Gr. A
2001/02 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	6	3	0	3	171:159	+12	6		3rd Gr. C
2002/03 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	6	3	0	3	149:165	-16	6		3rd Gr. C
2003/04 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	6	3	0	3	159:166	-7	6		3rd Gr. C
2004/05 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	10	6	0	4	287:268	+19	12		1/2-finals
2005/06 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	8	5	0	3	225:211	+14	10		1/4-finals
2006/07 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	10	7	0	3	295:275	+20	14		1/2-finals
2007/08 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	16	13	0	3	498:435	+63	26		Runner-up
2008/09 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	14	11	0	3	421:366	+55	22		1/2-finals
2009/10 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	12	5	1	6	331:350	-19	10	2	3rd MR Gr. 2
2010/11 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	6	2	0	4	137:147	-10	4		3rd Gr. B
2011/12 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	6	2	0	4	167:187	-20	4		4th Gr. C
2012/13 Hypo NÖ AUT	6	3	0	3	156:153	+3	6		3rd Gr. A
2013/14 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	6	2	0	4	149:170	-21	4		3rd Gr. A
Total	186	123	4	59	5014:4620	+394	249	2	

2 = Point for Hypo Niederösterreich deducted by official decision

Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
77	Gorica	Acimovic	AUT	Left Back	28.2.1985	Banja Luka, BIH	186
5	Christina	Belik	AUT	Left Wing	30.4.1994		168
10	Marina	Budecevic	AUT	Right Back	25.11.1982	Sremska Mitrovica, SRB	177
88	Mariana	Costa	BRA	Right Wing	14.10.1992	Sao Paulo/SP, BRA	170
6	Mirela	Dedic	AUT	Left Wing	15.12.1991	Bruck an der Mur, AUT	169
18	Katharina	Doppler	AUT	Right Wing	10.12.1990		168
92	Francielle	Gomes da Rocha	BRA	Centre Back	10.6.1992	Alemanara, BRA	166
8	Martina	Goricanec	AUT	Right Back	19.9.1993	Feldkirch, AUT	180
27	Anna	Hajgato	HUN	Goalkeeper	27.4.1992	Budapest, HUN	170
22	Stefanie	Kaiser	AUT	Line Player	31.10.1992	Wiener Neustadt, AUT	181
7	Vivien	Lerant	HUN	Centre Back	5.8.1990	Siofok, HUN	176
20	Viktoria	Mauler	AUT	Left Wing	23.8.1993	Wien, AUT	164
13	Maria Eugenia	Musalem Araos	CHI	Centre Back	6.9.1983		168
33	Gabriela	Rotis-Nagy	AUT	Left Back	12.11.1980	Sfantu-Gherorghe , ROU	189
16	Olga	Sanko	RUS	Goalkeeper	28.2.1978	Rostov/Don, RUS	180
	Claudia	Wess	AUT		15.6.1995		





Ferenc Kovacs coach

- has been working for Hypo since 1998 as coach of Hypo II and from 2014/15 season the official head coach for the long-term Hypo development project
- born in Hungary and played for Ferencvaros, where he was coached by another former Hypo coach, Andras Nemeth
- interim coach of the Austria national team, which won the bronze medal at the WCh 1999
- assistant coach of Austria at the 2000 Olympic Games

WCh: B 1999 (as coach)



Olga Sanko goalkeeper

- played and won her so-far only CL final against Hypo when playing for Zvezda in 2007/08
- came to Hypo as a young player in 2005, then returned to her home country of Russia before joining the Austrians again in 2009
- mother of twins
- new number one goalkeeper after Barbara Arenhart transferred to Baia Mare

EC trophies: CL 2008



Viktoria Mauler left wing

- joined Hypo at the age of ten
- has been in the first team at Hypo since 2013
- shares the left wing position with Mirela Dedic
- both are in the squad of the Austria women's national team



Gorica Acimovic left back

- born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but is an Austrian citizen
- started her career at Hypo at the age of 18, played for Viborg, then Krim, before returning to Hypo in 2012
- apart from Sanko, Acimovic is the only current Hypo player to have won the CL
- married to Austrian handball national team player Vytautas Ziura

EC trophies: CL 2010, Cup Winners' Cup 2013



Francielle Gomes da Rocha centre back

- only Brazilian player remaining from the cooperation between the Brazilian Handball Confederation and Hypo
- arrived at Hypo in 2013 from Guarulhos
- injured for almost the entire pre-season period, but back on track for the start of the CL



Stefanie Kaiser line player

- successor of Brazilian World Champion Fabiana Carvalho Carneiro Diniz at the line player position
- joined the Hypo youth team at the age of 15
- played with Hypo's first team for three years
- part of the Austria team that won the bronze medal at the U19 EHF EURO 2011

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2013
U19 EURO: B 2012



Vivien Lerant right back

- was in the Hypo youth programme then spent a few seasons in her home country, Hungary, before returning to Austria this season
- played for Dunafer, Debrecen and Siofok between her time with Hypo
- started playing for Hypo when she was 14 years old
- one of the rare right-handed players in the right back position



Mariana Costa right wing

- missed the whole preparation period following an injury that occurred in July
- belonged to the Brazilian World Champion squad in Belgrade
- at Hypo she is the successor of fellow Brazilian and former World Handball Player of the Year, Alexandra Do Nascimento
- came to Austria from Brazil via Denmark, where she played for Vendsyssel Handbold

WCh: G 2013

GROUP A



Playing hall

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

Club address:

HC Leipzig
ARENA Leipzig
Am Sportforum 1
04105 Leipzig
Germany

Media contact:

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Online information:

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: yellow or violet
Goalkeeper shirt: red or black

Dark

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

HC Leipzig (GER)

Following the biggest transfer in the club's history – World Championship 2013 top scorer Susann Müller joining defending Women's EHF Champions League champions Győr – HC Leipzig chose not make big acquisitions over the summer, instead integrating a number of talents from their youth programme and other German clubs into their squad.

Developing the squad is the task of new coach, Norman Rentsch, who arrived from Leipzig's neighbour Sachsen Zwickau. Rentsch is assisted by German goalkeeping legend, Wieland Schmidt, the 1980 Olympic Champion with GDR. Rentsch is the first non-Danish born coach at Leipzig in ten years. He succeeds Thomas Örneborg, who was replaced by an interim duo in February before Rentsch arrived over the summer.

Despite having a new coach and some injured players – like Icelandic newcomer Thorgerdur Anna Atladottir – HC Leipzig qualified for the group matches of the Women's EHF Champions League again. Just like last season, the German runners-up came to the group phase through the qualification tournament. In the qualification tournament, Leipzig beat Minsk in the semi-final (as they did in the previous season) before facing FTC-Rail Cargo in a sensational final that ended in a penalty shoot-out.

HCL team captain Katja Schülke is confident ahead of the group matches, during which her team will face Hypo, Krim and Dinamo. "We have a strong team that should not be unsettled by any opponent. We have proven our strength against top teams like Győr and FTC. Our clear advantage is our will to fight and that we have a well-practised squad. We are ambitious enough to set our goal of making it to the main round," Schülke said.

For manager Kay-Sven Hähner one of the main objectives of the season, aside from fighting for the German championship and cup, has already been achieved by the team making it to the group phase. "Now we want to make the next step – to finish this stage among the three best-ranked teams and proceed to the main round," Hähner says.

In the 2013/14 season Leipzig did not qualify for the next stage following a series of long-term injuries.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: winner of qualification tournament Group 1, runners-up in Germany

Newcomers:

Kaya Diehl (HSG Bensheim/Auerbach)
Helena Hertlein (HSG Bensheim/Auerbach)
Thorgerdur Anna Atladottir (AL Flint Tonsberg)
Roxana Alina Ioneac (S.C.M. Craiova)
Nicole Roth
Nicole Lederer
Luisa Sturm
Nele Reimer (all HCL youth team)

Left the club:

Natalie Augsborg (Spreefüxxe Berlin)
Debbie Bont (SERCODAK Dalfsen)
Melanie Herrmann (Frisch Auf Göppingen)
Elisa Möschter (SV Union Halle-Neustadt)
Susann Müller (Győri Audi ETO KC)
Julia Plöger (Spreefüxxe Berlin)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 11
Main Round (2): 2009/10, 2010/11
Group Matches/Champions League (5): 1998/99, 1999/2000, 2002/03, 2006/07, 2013/14
Qualification (3): 2000/01, 2008/09, 2012/13

Other

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

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

German cup: 8 titles

HC Leipzig (GER)



Biggest win:	32:22 (11:11) v Podravka Vegeta Koprivnica CRO (h), 25.02.2007
Biggest defeat:	33:20 (15:10) v Buducnost Podgorica YUG (a), 15.11.1998
Longest winning run:	2 matches (06.02.1999 – 30.10.1999) 2 matches (30.01.2000 – 06.02.2000) 2 matches (25.02.2007 – 25.10.2009) 2 matches (09.01.2010 – 17.01.2010) 2 matches (09.10.2010 – 13.10.2010)
Longest unbeaten run:	3 matches (30.01.2000 – 19.02.2000) 3 matches (14.11.2009 – 17.01.2010)
Longest losing run:	8 matches (08.02.2003 – 17.02.2007)
Longest run without win:	8 matches (08.02.2003 – 17.02.2007)
Most goals:	35 v CB Elda Prestigio ESP 35:28W (h), 30.10.1999 35 v Viborg HK A/S DEN 35:37L (h), 11.02.2007 35 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 35:32W (h), 25.10.2009
Most goals opponent:	39 v Viborg HK A/S DEN 39:33L (a), 13.01.2007
Most goals both teams:	72 v Viborg HK A/S DEN 39:33L (a), 13.01.2007 72 v Viborg HK A/S DEN 35:37L (h), 11.02.2007
Fewest goals:	18 v Nordstrand 2000 Oslo NOR 26:18L (a), 23.02.2003
Fewest goals opponent:	19 v DVSC – Korvex HUN 19:20W (a), 07.11.2010
Fewest goals both teams:	39 v DVSC – Korvex HUN 19:20W (a), 07.11.2010

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1998/99 VfB Leipzig GER	6	1	1	4	140:170	-30	3		4th Gr. B
1999/00 HC Leipzig GER	6	3	1	2	162:157	+5	7		3rd Gr. C
2002/03 HC Leipzig GER	6	1	0	5	149:180	-31	2		4th Gr. B
2006/07 HC Leipzig GER	6	1	0	5	184:196	-12	2		4th Gr. C
2009/10 HC Leipzig GER	12	3	1	8	288:328	-40	7		4th MR Gr. 1
2010/11 HC Leipzig GER	12	4	0	8	280:306	-26	8		4th MR Gr. 2
2013/14 HC Leipzig GER	6	1	0	5	139:170	-31	2		4th Gr. C
Total:	54	14	3	37	1342:1507	-165	31		

HC Leipzig (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
7	Thorgerdur Anna	Atladdottir	ISL	Back	2.6.1992	Reykjavik, ISL	176
31	Christin	Conrad	GER	Wing	2.5.1995	Leipzig, GER	170
33	Wiebke	Detjen	GER	Goalkeeper	12.7.1996	Leipzig, GER	175
19	Kaya	Diehl	GER	Right Wing	1.7.1992	Frankfurt, GER	170
9	Helena	Hertlein	GER	Left Wing	14.7.1992	München, GER	172
17	Anne	Hubinger	GER	Right Back	31.7.1993	Ribnitz-Damgarten, GER	185
25	Roxana Alina	Ioneac	ROU	Back	31.1.1989	Craiova, ROU	182
14	Karolina	Kudlacz	POL	Back	17.1.1985	Wabrzezno, POL	178
18	Saskia	Lang	GER	Back	19.12.1986	Lörrach, GER	179
11	Nicole	Lederer	GER	Right Back	2.5.1995	Nürnberg, GER	178
5	Alexandra	Mazzucco	GER	Right Wing	29.1.1993	Lauf a.d. Pegnitz GER	175
8	Anne	Müller	GER	Line Player	5.7.1983	Bochum, GER	174
32	Lisa-Marie	Ostwald	GER	Back	11.8.1995	Leipzig, GER	178
35	Anna Lena	Plate	GER	Back	20.11.1998	Leipzig, GER	185
20	Nele	Reimer	GER	Back	9.9.1996	Leipzig, GER	184
34	Joanna	Rode	GER	Back	30.7.1997	Leipzig, GER	170
29	Isa-Sophia	Rösike	GER	Line Player	30.5.1994	Dessau, GER	176
22	Nicole	Roth	GER	Goalkeeper	8.5.1995	Nürnberg, GER	183
36	Johanna	Schierbock	GER	Back	17.12.1997	Leipzig, GER	180
12	Katja	Schülke	GER	Goalkeeper	18.3.1984	Frankfurt/Oder GER	178
13	Luisa	Schulze	GER	Line Player	14.9.1990	Altenburg, GER	192
28	Luisa	Sturm	GER	Line Player	8.2.1996	Leipzig, GER	175
26	Michelle	Urbicht	GER	Left Wing	6.1.1994	Cottbus, GER	172
3	Maura	Visser	NED	Back	1.6.1985	S-Gravenhage, NED	178




Norman Rentsch
coach

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


Katja Schülke
goalkeeper

- returned from maternity leave in the 2014/15 season – she gave birth to her first son in January 2014
- her biggest international success was reaching the 2009 EHF Cup final with HCL
- reached the milestone of 100 international matches for Germany in 2014
- team captain together with Karolina Kudlacz
- on her way to becoming a sports teacher


Michelle Urbricht
left wing

- young talent who came through the HCL youth programme
- replacement for German international Natalie Augsburg (now in Berlin)
- played for Leipzig since she was 15
- at the age of 20, she is the youngest of Leipzig's starting seven


Karolina Kudlacz
left back

- nine seasons already with Leipzig, despite offers from top international clubs
- team captain at HCL and for the Poland national team
- in her business life she is psychologist in Leipzig
- together with Schülke, the last remaining member of the HCL teams that won the German championship in 2010 and 2011
- led Poland to the WCh 2013 Semi-final


Maura Visser
centre back

- last of the Dutch players remaining with HCL since Debbie Bont left the club to return to the Netherlands
- played in Denmark with Horsens and Vejle before she joined HCL in 2011
- her biggest international success was fifth position at the WCh 2005 with the Netherlands
- can also play left back
- four-time Dutch champion with Den Haag


Anne Müller
line player

- in Leipzig since 2010
- studied IT and is a software developer in her business life
- previously played for Bayer Leverkusen, where she was part of the Challenge Cup winning squad in 2005
- part of the German team at the 2008 Olympic Games and at the WCh 2007, when the team placed third

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2005
WCh: B 2007


Anne Hubinger
right back

- arrived in 2011 at the age of 18 from Bandits Magdeburg
- youngest player of the German team at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia
- has to replace Susann Müller, who transferred to Győr
- one of her hobbies is crocheting


Alexandra Mazzucco
right wing

- progressed through all of the German youth and junior national teams
- studying sports management
- likes skiing in her free time
- arrived at Leipzig at the age of 18

Group B preview



GROUP OF LIFE SET TO LIGHT UP CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

When two or more strong teams are pitted against each other in the preliminary group stage of a competition, that section is almost invariably called the group of death. The cliché could without doubt apply to the Women's EHF Champions League Group B including 2012 winners and 2014 runners-up Budućnost Podgorica, last term's semi-finalists WHC SCBT Vardar, German powerhouse Thüringer and Croatian giants Podravka Vegeta.

Rarely have four teams of such strength and stature been drawn together at an early stage of Europe's premier club competition and hence a group of life would probably be a more appropriate way to describe this section set to produce 12 spectacular matches.

Having reached the semi-finals in their debut season, an expensively assembled Vardar outfit have further boosted their ranks by signing Andrea Penezic and Barbara Lazovic from Slovenian rivals Krim Mercator. Anja Althaus joined from Thüringer HC and will face her former club, while Russians Alena Ikhneva and Olga Chernoivanenko arrived from Lada Togliatti as high-flying Macedonian champions Vardar aim to go a step or two further in their second season in Europe's top flight.

Return of lost daughter to shift balance

Having won the elusive trophy with Györi Audi ETO last season, Montenegrin prodigy Katarina Bulatovic returned to Budućnost Podgorica and her homecoming will have made the Adriatic republic's title holders one of the favourites not just to advance to the Main Round but to at least emulate last season's achievement.

Led by national team coach Dragan Adzic, Budućnost defied the odds to reach the final where they were stopped by a dominant Györ, with Bulatovic at the heart of the Hungarian side's triumph. Podravka and Thüringer will in all likelihood be locked in a battle to finish third and thus advance from this incredibly tough preliminary pool under the competition's new format, but both sides have proved in the past that they are capable of exceeding expectations.

Last season, Thüringer defied the odds to reach the Main Round from a tough group phase, having advanced to the last eight alongside Györ at the expense of more fancied Hypo Niederösterreich. Podravka, the competition's 1996 winners, have a long and illustrious history of reaching the latter stages of the competition and although their present outfit is one yet to mature and shine on the big stage, playing under no pressure might bring the best out of a young and talented team.

by Zoran Milosavljevic

Group B head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group B opponents in the EC

Buducnost vs Thüringer HC

02.10.2011	Thüringer HC vs Buducnost, EHF Champions League – Group A	23:27 (9:13)
06.11.2011	Buducnost vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Group A	35:25 (20:10)
28.10.2012	Thüringer HC vs Buducnost, EHF Champions League – Group D	24:20 (10:10)
04.11.2012	Buducnost vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Group D	23:15 (11:8)

Buducnost vs WHC Vardar SCBT

03.05.2014	WHC Vardar SCBT vs Buducnost, EHF Champions League MVM EHF FINAL4 – 1/2-final	20:22 AET (6:11, 16:16)
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Buducnost vs HC Podravka Vegeta

02.10.2005	Podravka Vegeta, Koprivnica vs ZRK Buducnost MONET, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 2	28:22 (13:10)
09.10.2005	ZRK Buducnost MONET vs Podravka Vegeta, Koprivnica, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 2	24:18 (10:8)

Thüringer HC vs WHC Vardar SCBT

02.02.2014	WHC Vardar SCBT vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	31:25 (16:13)
08.03.2014	Thüringer HC vs WHC Vardar SCBT, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	24:24 (12:15)

WHC Vardar SCBT vs HC Podravka Vegeta

19.10.2013	WHC Vardar SCBT vs HC Podravka Vegeta, EHF Champions League – Group D	39:26 (18:7)
03.11.2013	HC Podravka Vegeta vs WHC Vardar SCBT, EHF Champions League – Group D	17:35 (10:16)

No previous encounters in European competitions

Thüringer HC vs HC Podravka Vegeta

GROUP B



Budućnost (MNE)

Budućnost will participate in the Women's EHF Champions League for the 19th time this season. The Montenegrin champions have reached the semi-finals of the competition eight times, including their one successful campaign when they were crowned champions in 2012. The team qualified for the first ever Women's EHF FINAL4 in May 2014, travelling to Budapest where they were defeated by Győr in the final. With the FINAL4 event being held in Budapest until 2016, head coach Dragan Adzic has once again declared the Hungarian capital the team's ultimate goal.

Team manager and handball legend Bojana Popovic says qualifying for Budapest should not be the end of their dreams. "We have a team that is more experienced following a strong season and participation in the FINAL4. The FINAL4 gave us something new and experience we did not have before. This year we have high ambitions again – our wish is to repeat the final of last season, but with a different ending!"

"The most important thing in a long season is to keep all our athletes free from severe injuries, because everyone is valuable. I don't think it will be too difficult to achieve our goal. We expect a beautiful and exciting season," concludes Popovic.

Budućnost's squad was bolstered by the return of three-time EHF Champions League winner Katarina Bulatovic from Győr. Bulatovic was key to the success of both Budućnost and Montenegro in 2012, when the teams won the EHF Champions League and EHF EURO 2012 respectively. Five players have left Budućnost, but the transfer of Bulatovic goes a long way in making up for the losses.

For team captain, Clara Woltering, another FINAL4 in Budapest remains the team's main goal, but there are more immediate challenges ahead.

"The upcoming Champions League season will be really interesting. It is a big challenge with many potential obstacles for every team. The new system is tougher than before, as it is only after the quarter-finals that you know whether you are part of the FINAL4 or not. The 2014 FINAL4 was a successful premiere and every team wants to be there," Woltering said.



Playing hall

S.C. Morača
Str. Ivana Milutinovića b.b.
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
Capacity: 5,000

Club Address:

Budućnost
Ivana Milutinovića B.B.
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro

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zrkbuducnost@t-com.me / milos_ps@yahoo.com

Online information:

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Montenegrin champions

Newcomer:

Katarina Bulatovic (Györi Audi ETO)

Left the club:

Elena Gjeorgjievska (HCM Baia Mare)
Irina Nikitina (HC Astrakhanocka)
Katarina Jezic (HC Lokomotiva Zagreb)
Marija Mugosa (Valur)
Olivera Vukcevic (ZORK Jagodina)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 19
Winners (1): 2011/12
Runners-up (1): 2013/14
Semi-final (6): 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2010/11
Main Round (1): 2012/13
Quarter-final (2): 2002/03, 2003/04
Last 16 (1): 1995/96
Group Matches (6): 1996/97, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2009/10

Other

Cup Winners Cup: Winners 2005/06, 2009/10

Montenegrin league: 26 titles
(1985, 1989, 1990, 1992-2014)
Montenegrin cup: 19 titles

Buducnost (MNE)



Biggest win:	30:15 (13:6) v RK Krim Mercator SLO (h), 09.02.2014
Biggest defeat:	36:21 (18:11) v Viborg HK DEN (a), 19.01.1997
Longest winning run:	8 matches (04.02.2012 – 08.04.2012)
Longest unbeaten run:	10 matches (03.11.2013 – 03.05.2014)
Longest losing run:	7 matches (21.02.2004 – 30.01.2005)
Longest run without win:	7 matches (21.02.2004 – 30.01.2005)
Most goals:	40 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 36:40W (a), 04.03.2011
Most goals opponent:	40 v Mar El Osito L'Eliana ESP 26:40L (h), 05.04.1998
Most goals both teams:	76 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 36:40W (a), 04.03.2011
Fewest goals:	16 v Dunafer SE HUN 16:18L (h), 06.02.2005 16 v Larvik NOR 28:16L (a), 16.03.2013
Fewest goals opponent:	15 v Thüringer HC GER 23:15W (h), 04.11.2012 15 v FC Midtjylland DEN 22:15W (h), 03.11.2013 15 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 30:15W (h), 09.02.2014
Fewest goals both teams:	34 v Dunafer SE HUN 16:18L (h), 06.02.2005

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 Buducnost Podgorica YUG	6	2	2	2	130:143	-13	6		3rd Gr. A
1997/98 Buducnost Podgorica YUG	10	5	1	4	292:305	-13	11		1/2-finals
1998/99 Buducnost Podgorica YUG	10	8	1	1	297:238	+59	17		1/2-finals
1999/00 Buducnost Podgorica YUG	10	5	2	3	287:274	+13	12		1/2-finals
2000/01 Bud. Brillant Podgorica YUG	10	5	3	2	265:246	+19	13		1/2-finals
2001/02 Bud. Brillant Podgorica YUG	10	5	2	3	297:277	+20	12		1/2-finals
2002/03 RK Buducnost MONET YUG	8	4	0	4	215:216	-1	8		1/4-finals
2003/04 RK Buducnost MONET SCG	8	4	0	4	209:219	-10	8		1/4-finals
2004/05 ZRK Buducnost MONET SCG	6	1	0	5	141:165	-24	2		4th Gr. A
2005/06 ZRK Buducnost MONET SCG	6	3	0	3	150:154	-4	6		3rd Gr. C
2006/07 ZRK Buducnost T-Mobile MNE	6	0	0	6	141:174	-33	0		4th Gr. B
2007/08 Buducnost T-Mobile MNE	6	1	1	4	153:189	-36	3		3rd Gr. D
2008/09 Buducnost T-Mobile MNE	12	6	2	4	317:326	-9	14		3rd MR Gr. 2
2009/10 Buducnost T-Mobile MNE	6	2	1	3	138:155	-17	5		3rd Gr. D
2010/11 'Buducnost' MNE	14	10	0	4	417:360	+57	20		1/2-finals
2011/12 Buducnost MNE	16	14	0	2	453:385	+68	28		Winner
2012/13 Buducnost MNE	12	5	1	6	265:273	-8	11		3rd MR Gr. 1
2013/14 Buducnost MNE	14	8	3	3	349:298	+51	19		Runner-up
Total	170	88	19	63	4516:4397	+119	195		

Buducnost (MNE)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
32	Katarina	Bulatovic	MNE	Right Back	15.11.1984	Kragujevac, SRB	186
39	Nina	Bulatovic	MNE	Right Wing	9.12.1996	Cetinje, MNE	171
89	Kinga	Byzdra	POL	Back	9.1.1989	Pulawy, POL	182
72	Dragana	Cvijic	SRB	Line Player	15.3.1990	Beograd, SRB	184
20	Camilla	Dalby	DEN	Right Back	15.5.1988	Randers, DEN	178
80	Jelena	Despotovic	MNE	Left Back	30.4.1994	Podgorica, MNE	180
90	Milena	Knezevic	MNE	Back	12.3.1990	Podgorica, MNE	176
92	Suzana	Lazovic	MNE	Line Player	28.1.1992	Podgorica, MNE	177
77	Majda	Mehmedovic	MNE	Left Wing	25.5.1990	Bar, MNE	170
8	Cristina	Neagu	ROU	Left Back	26.8.1988	Bucharest, ROU	180
88	Biljana	Pavicevic	MNE	Left Wing	12.5.1988	Podgorica, MNE	169
2	Radmila	Petrovic	MNE	Right Wing	19.4.1988	Niksic, MNE	175
30	Marina	Rajcic	MNE	Goalkeeper	24.8.1993	Podgorica, MNE	175
66	Ema	Ramusovic	MNE	Line Player	28.11.1996	Berane, MNE	185
16	Clara	Woltering	GER	Goalkeeper	2.3.1983	Münster, GER	178
43	Marta	Zderic	CRO	Goalkeeper	20.4.1990	Metkovic, CRO	184





Dragan Adzic coach

- retired due to injury in 1998
- almost a decade was an assistant to many coaches in Buducnost
- became head coach in 2010
- in 2012 won the CL in May with Buducnost and EHF EURO in December with Montenegro
- met his wife Timea after she came to the club as an interpreter to former coach, Hungarian Gyula Zsiga

EC trophies: CL 2012, Cup Winners' Cup 2010
OG: S 2012, EHF EURO: G 2012



Clara Woltering goalkeeper

- set for a fourth season at Buducnost and third as the captain
- first saw handball at the age of 5, when she went to watch her older sisters and impressed their coach
- very superstitious in the past, for a long time she banned her parents from watching her play, thinking it was bad luck and at one stage wore a cap during matches to bring her luck
- voted for the 2013/14 CL All-Star Team as the best goalkeeper

EC trophies: CL 2012, Challenge Cup 2005
WCh: B 2007



Majda Mehmedovic left wing

- her mother played handball as a goalkeeper
- started handball in Bar at the age of 12 with her brother Musa and immediately loved it
- it took her two years to get into the first team after being signed by Buducnost
- voted for the 2013/14 CL All-Star Team as the best left wing

EC trophies: CL 2012, Cup Winners' Cup 2010
OG: S 2012, EHF EURO: G 2012



Milena Knezevic left back

- started playing handball with her sister Dragana, her brother Ivan is a professional soccer player
- at 2012 EHF EURO first in assists (29) and shared second place in scoring with Anita Görbicz (41 goals)
- two-time Montenegrin player of the year
- voted second best young player of the CL in 2012

EC trophies: CL 2012, Cup Winners' Cup 2010
OG: S 2012, EHF EURO: G 2012



Cristina Neagu centre back

- named the World Handball Player of the Year after leading Romania to bronze medals at the EHF EURO 2010
- top scorer (53 goals) and All-Star Team member of the EHF EURO 2010
- missed nearly two of the last four years, after a shoulder injury and a torn ligament in her knee
- lost two EHF Champions League finalist, one with Oltchim (2013) and one with Buducnost (2014)

EHF EURO: B 2010



Dragana Cvijic line player

- started handball at the age of 10, first as goalkeeper, but being very tall for her age, Dragana's first coach put her at left back
- in 2007 at Crvena Zvezda she switched to a line player
- joined Buducnost in 2011 just in time to help them on the way to the CL title
- Serbian national team player voted the best line player of the WCh 2013

EC trophies: CL 2012
WCh: S 2013



Katarina Bulatovic right back

- Serbia-born shooter arrived to Buducnost in 2014 after one-year stints with Oltchim and Győr
- made it to the CL final for the first time in 2007 with Slagelse
- won the CL title with three different clubs - Slagelse, Buducnost and Győr
- key player in Montenegro's biggest achievements, when she was the top scorer at both the London Olympics and EHF EURO in 2012

EC trophies: CL 2007, 2012, 2014, Cup Winners' Cup 2010
OG: S 2012, EHF EURO: G 2012



Radmila Petrovic right wing

- started training handball at 12, in her home town of Nikšić, where she played for five years as a right back
- when transferred to Buducnost in 2005, she was moved to the wing
- strong alternative to Jovanka Radicevic in Montenegro national team
- in 2014 she won her 100th cap with Montenegro

EC trophies: CL 2012, Cup Winners' Cup 2010
OG: S 2012, EHF EURO: G 2012

GROUP B

Thüringer HC (GER)



Playing hall

Wiedigsburghalle Nordhausen

August-Bebel-Platz 6
99734 Nordhausen
Germany
Capacity: 2,218

Club Address:

Thüringer HC
Mittelhäuser Str. 21
99089 Erfurt
Germany

Media contact:

Bernd Hohnstein
+49 179 4649 389
hohnstein@thueringer-hc.de

Online information:

Website: www.thueringer-hc.de
Facebook: [ThueringerHC](https://www.facebook.com/ThueringerHC)
Twitter: [@ThueringerHC](https://twitter.com/ThueringerHC)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

One more goal and they would have made history – Thüringer HC had a chance to score the winning goal in the last attack of their crucial main round duel against Vardar last season; a goal that would see them become the first ever German team to reach a Women's EHF Champions League Semi-final. But the match ended in a great anti-climax: a draw. Still, Herbert Müller's team already have the honour of being the first German team to win a main round match in this competition.

Following the most successful international season in their club's history, the THC squad lost three of their most important players: Alexandrina Cabral Barbosa – who was awarded best Bundesliga player of the 2013/14 season – transferred to CJF Fleury Loiret Handball; defence ace and German international, Anja Althaus, grabbed the chance to fight for her third EHF Champions League trophy (after two in Viborg) with Vardar; and goalkeeper Maike März retired. Besides some players from the club's youth programme, the only transfer this season was Ukrainian international Yuliya Snopova, arriving from Craiova in Romania.

The loss of three top stars is not the only problem for THC – additionally, Austrian wing Sonja Frey and Dutch Martine Smeets had to undergo surgery before the start of the season. The biggest responsibility will therefore be put on the shoulders of two players: team captain Kerstin Wohlbold and Slovak international Lydia Jakubisova, neither of whom could take part in the main round of the previous season as both were out with ruptures of their cruciate ligaments.

The return of these key players has helped make THC happy again, as did the Federal State Government of Thuringia's decision to increase the capacity of the Bad Langensalza arena from a capacity of 1,100 to 1,700 spectators.

Team manager Maik Schenk feels proud to be part of the EHF Champions League again after their fourth straight title in Germany (in 2013/14 they were the first team to remain unbeaten for an entire season), but knows their group is difficult.

"Unfortunately we are never lucky with the draw, so now we are again looking forward to facing the top teams in Europe and aiming for some points. We hope to benefit from the new playing system, keeping in mind that after the group phase we will definitely continue on an international level regardless of our final ranking," Schenk explained.

"This group is nearly impenetrable, but still we are optimistic and full of fighting spirit," says team captain Kerstin Wohlbold. "We have proved in the previous season that even in away matches we can be on eye level with top teams. Our aim is to win at home and to gain some away points. Of course we will really enjoy facing Vardar and our former player Anja Althaus again."

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: German champions

Newcomers:

Meike Schmelzer (1. FSV Mainz 05)
Yuliya Snopova (SCM Craiova)
Josephine Keßler
Victoria Gramma
Katharina Mack
Larissa Platen (all from THC youth team)

Left the club:

Anja Althaus (HC Vardar Skopje)
Alexandrina Barbosa (CJF Fleury Loiret Handball)
Maike März (end of career)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 4
Main Round (1): 2013/14
Group Matches (2): 2011/12, 2012/13

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: semi-final 2012/13
Challenge Cup: runners-up 2008/09

German league: 4 titles (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
German cup: 2 titles

Thüringer HC (GER)



Biggest win:	34:25 (17:11) v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT (h), 17.11.2013
Biggest defeat:	35:25 (20:10) v Buducnost MNE (a), 06.11.2011
Longest winning run:	3 matches (08.02.2014 – 02.03.2014)
Longest unbeaten run:	4 matches (08.02.2014 – 08.03.2014)
Longest losing run:	5 matches (02.10.2011 – 06.11.2011)
Longest run without win:	6 matches (02.10.2011 – 13.11.2011)
Most goals:	36 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 36:29W (h), 06.10.2013
Most goals opponent:	35 v Buducnost MNE 35:25L (a), 06.11.2011
Most goals both teams:	65 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 36:29W (h), 06.10.2013
Fewest goals:	15 v Buducnost MNE 23:15L (a), 04.11.2012
Fewest goals opponent:	20 v Buducnost MNE 24:20W (h), 28.10.2012
Fewest goals both teams:	38 v Buducnost MNE 23:15L (a), 04.11.2012

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2011/12 Thüringer HC GER	6	0	1	5	139:163	-24	1		4th Gr. A
2012/13 Thüringer HC GER	6	3	0	3	146:153	-7	6		3rd Gr. D
2013/14 Thüringer HC GER	12	5	1	6	316:321	-5	11		3rd MR Gr. 1
Total	24	8	2	14	601:637	-36	18		

Thüringer HC (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
23	Marieke	Blase	GER	Left Wing	6.1.1994	Oldenburg, GER	178
12	Dinah	Eckerle	GER	Goalkeeper	16.10.1995	Leonberg, GER	174
19	Katrin	Engel	AUT	Right Wing	2.5.1984	Mistelbach, AUT	173
5	Sonja	Frey	AUT	Left Wing	22.4.1993	Wien, AUT	169
7	Franziska	Fuhrmann	GER	Line Player	23.1.1989	Erfurt, GER	177
10	Victoria	Gamma	GER	Line Player	14.4.1997	Erfurt, GER	168
30	Svenja	Huber	GER	Right Wing	23.10.1985	Mannheim, GER	168
28	Lydia	Jakubisova	SVK	Right Wing	14.10.1981	Bojnice, SVK	168
9	Josephine	Kessler	GER	Left Back	14.10.1996	Erfurt, GER	170
1	Jana	Krause	GER	Goalkeeper	10.6.1987	München, GER	188
18	Iveta	Luzumova	CZE	Centre Back	3.4.1989	Pisek, CZE	175
11	Katharina	Mack	GER	Left Wing	14.10.1996	Giessen, GER	169
26	Franziska	Mietzner	GER	Left Back	20.12.1988	Bad Saarow, GER	192
3	Nadja	Nadgornaja	GER	Left Back	22.9.1988	Kiew, GER	184
15	Larissa	Platen	GER	Right Back	14.10.1996	Giessen, GER	173
17	Petra	Popluharova	SVK	Left Back	23.8.1988	Partizanske, SVK	176
13	Meike	Schmelzer	GER	Line Player	19.7.1993	Wiesbaden, GER	178
8	Martine	Smeets	NED	Left Wing	5.5.1990	Geesteren, NED	172
14	Danick	Snelder	NED	Line Player	22.5.1990	Pijnacker, NED	178
25	Yuliya	Snopova	UKR	Right Back	30.11.1985	Kherson, UKR	183
31	Kerstin	Wohlbold	GER	Centre Back	11.1.1984	Friedrichshafen, GER	170





Herbert Müller coach

- born in Romania, his previous coaching experience includes Romanian side Brasov
- also the head coach of the Austria national team
- since he started coaching, his assistant has always been his brother, Helfried
- led Nürnberg to their first-ever CL qualification, then won four straight German titles with Thüringer.
- former mathematics lecturer

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2004



Jana Krause goalkeeper

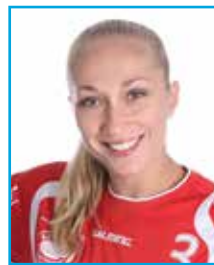
- new number one goalkeeper following the retirement of Maike März
- started her career in Munich, in Nürnberg she was coached by Müller
- number three goalkeeper in the Germany national team.
- played for four years in Buxtehude before she joined THC in 2013
- studies international management



Sonja Frey left wing

- also coached by Müller in the Austria national team
- signed for THC when she was only 19
- MVP at the U19 EHF EURO in 2011
- started her career at WAT Fünfhaus and Fivers in Vienna
- also works as a physiotherapist

U19 EURO: B 2011



Nadja Nadgornaja left back

- born in Minsk, her father is Ukrainian and her mother Belarusian
- swimmer before she started playing handball
- awarded best player of the German Bundesliga in the 2012/13 season
- her Swedish boyfriend, Anton Mansson, just transferred to Swiss CL participant Kadetten
- All Star Team of the 2008 U20 WCh

Junior WCh: G 2008



Kerstin Wohlbald centre back

- back after a nine-month injury break (rupture of the cruciate ligament)
- in her business life a teacher at a primary school
- won the German championship six times in Nürnberg and THC – always with Müller as her coach
- one of her hobbies is snowboarding
- the 'extended arm' of Herbert Müller on the court



Danick Snelder line player

- part of the Dutch national team
- new number one line player at THC after Anja Althaus transferred to Vardar
- All Star Team at the U19 EHF EURO 2009 in Hungary.
- four German championship titles with THC
- best Dutch line player in the 2009/10 season, when playing for Hellas in Den Haag



Yuliya Snopova right back

- member of the Ukraine national team
- arrived from SCM Craiova in Romania as the last of the newcomers to THC, right before the first match of the 2013/15 season
- brought to THC to replace Alexandrina Cabral Barbosa, who transferred to France, on the right back position
- already played in five different countries: Ukraine, France, Turkey, Slovakia and Romania, her first EC appearance at the age of 17 in Lviv, Ukraine



Lydia Jakubisova right wing

- one of the most experienced players at THC
- hit hard by two severe knee injuries in the last three years
- awarded Slovak handball player of the year in 2012
- will play her first ever EHF EURO in December with Slovakia
- can also play on the right back position

GROUP B



WHC Vardar SCBT (MKD)

When WHC Vardar SCBT qualified for the FINAL4 in Budapest last season, it was the first time since 2007/08 that a team playing in their first ever Women's EHF Champions League had progressed so far in the competition. When it happened six years ago, the team in question, Yevgeni Trefilov's Zvezda Zvenigorod, won the title.

Vardar were exceptional in the tight race for the 2014 FINAL4 in Budapest, which ultimately saw them defeated in extra-time of the semi-final against their local rivals, Buducnost. Now Vardar – who were anything but a debut team in terms of their squad even last season – have further bolstered their roster, bringing in several experienced players. German defence ace Anja Althaus, Croatian shooter Andrea Penezic and Russian duo Alena Ikhneva and Olga Chernoiivanenko have all joined the Macedonian champions.

Vardar will not only count on their strengthened squad, but also on a new fortress: with a capacity of 5,500 and a name honouring a revolutionist, Jane Sandanski Arena is their new home. Jane Sandanski Arena will serve as the common home for the men's and women's Vardar sides, both of which are aiming to reach the FINAL4 of their respective EHF Champions Leagues.

After gaining one year of experience and fine-tuning the structure of the team, Vardar is aiming high again. It is their clear goal to make it to Budapest – and their confidence has already been boosted by their major pre-season success. The Macedonian side won the high-class PwC Handball Fiesta – the clash of the European champions – in Győr.

Current World Handball Player of the Year, Serbian shooter and Vardar's team captain, Andrea Lekic, expects the strong group to put on a show. "Our opening match against Buducnost will be a real handball clash. They have the best defence and thanks to signing Bulatovic, they are a true candidate for winning the Champions League. Thüringer HC will not allow anyone to get the points until the last minute, and they can keep the speed high for 60 minutes."



Playing hall

Jane Sandanski
Skopje
FYR Macedonia
Capacity: 5,500

Club Address:

WHC Vardar SCBT
Preseka 55/10
1000 Skopje
FYR Macedonia

Media contact:

Ivana Stojanovska
+389 71 247 218
contact@zrkvardar.com

Online information:

Website: www.zrkvardar.mk
Facebook: [ZRK-Vardar-SCBT](https://www.facebook.com/ZRK-Vardar-SCBT)
Twitter: [@zrkvardar](https://twitter.com/zrkvardar)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Macedonian champion

Newcomers:

Anja Althaus (Thüringer HC)
Alena Ikhneva
Olga Chernoiivanenko (both Lada Togliatti)
Barbara Lazovic
Andrea Penezic (both RK Krim Merkator)
Sara Mitova
Simona Stojanovska
Dragana Petkovska (all Vardar youth)

Left the club:

Ana Djokic
Biljana Crvenkoska
Nigina Saidova
Dragana Ristova (all end of career)
Ekaterina Kostjukova (Erd)
Marija Steriova (Ipress Center Vac)
Marina Dmitrovic (Ankara Yenimahalle BSK)
Marija Lojpur (Szeged)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 2
Semi-final (1): 2013/14 (third rank at MVM EHF FINAL4)

Other

EHF Cup: Last 16: 2012/13

Macedonian league: 2 titles (2013, 2014)

Macedonian cup: 2 titles



WHC Vardar SCBT (MKD)

Biggest win:	17:35 (10:16) v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO (a), 03.11.2013
Biggest defeat:	20:22 (06:11, 16:16) v Buducnost MNE (a), 03.05.2014
Longest winning run:	5 matches (19.10.2013 – 02.02.2014)
Longest unbeaten run:	9 matches (06.10.2013 – 15.02.2014)
Longest losing run:	1 match (02.03.2014) 1 match (03.05.2014)
Longest run without win:	2 matches (02.03.2014 – 08.03.2014)
Most goals:	39 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 39:26W (h), 19.10.2013
Most goals opponent:	31 v FC Midtjylland DEN 34:31W (a), 04.05.2014
Most goals both teams:	65 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 39:26W (h), 19.10.2013 65 v FC Midtjylland DEN 34:31W (a), 04.05.2014
Fewest goals:	20 v Buducnost MNE 20:22L (a), 03.05.2014
Fewest goals opponent:	17 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 17:35W (a), 03.11.2013
Fewest goals both teams:	42 v Balonmano Bera Bera ESP 19:23W (a), 06.10.2013 42 v IK Sävehof SWE 24:18W (h), 16.03.2014 42 v Buducnost MNE 20:22L (a), 03.05.2014

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2013/14 WHC Vardar SCBT MKD	14	9	3	2	393:333		+60	21	Third Place
Total	14	9	3	2	393:333		+60	21	

WHC Vardar SCBT (MKD)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
20	Anja	Althaus	GER	Line Player	3.9.1982	Magdeburg, GER	175
25	Olga	Chernoivanenko	RUS	Right Wing	17.4.1989	Samarsk, RUS	175
17	Siraba	Dembele	FRA	Left Wing	28.6.1986	Dreux, FRA	172
18	Begona	Fernandez Molinos	ESP	Line Player	22.3.1980	Vigo, ESP	180
30	Alena	Ikhneva	RUS	Left Back	30.7.1995	Orenburg, RUS	183
71	Tatiana	Khmyrova	RUS	Right Back	6.2.1990	Volgograd, RUS	178
22	Andrea	Klikovac	MNE	Right Back	5.5.1991	Podgorica, MNE	175
15	Barbara	Lazovic-Varlec	SLO	Right Back	4.1.1988	Brezice, SLO	183
77	Andrea	Lekic	SRB	Centre Back	6.9.1987	Beograd, SRB	178
12	Amandine	Leynaud	FRA	Goalkeeper	2.5.1986	Aubenas, FRA	178
10	Sara	Mitova	MKD	Left Back	5.10.1996	Skopje, MKD	172
14	Julija	Nikolic	MKD	Centre Back	20.4.1983	Ternovka, UKR	178
23	Andrea	Penezic	CRO	Left Back	13.11.1985	Zagreb, CRO	186
1	Dragana	Petkovska	MKD	Goalkeeper	12.6.1996	Skopje, MKD	174
7	Allison Marie	Pineau	FRA	Centre Back	2.5.1989	Chartres, FRA	180
4	Jovanka	Radicevic	MNE	Right Wing	23.10.1986	Podgorica, MNE	170
5	Simona	Stojanovska	MKD	Centre Back	20.3.1997	Skopje, MKD	175
31	Inna	Suslina	RUS	Goalkeeper	5.1.1979	Tashkent, RUS	184
19	Maja	Zebic	CRO	Left Wing	30.5.1982	Split, CRO	178





Indira Kastratovic coach

- in her second coaching season led Vardar to their historical third place at the first women's FINAL4
- her greatest success as a player achieved with Kometal, for whom she played twice in the CL final, winning the title in 2002
- in 1997 she was the top scorer of the WCh with 71 goals as part of the Macedonian team
- in 2006 she retired as a player and concentrated her attention on coaching youth players

EC trophies: CL 2002 (as player)



Inna Suslina goalkeeper

- former Russia national team player graduated from the University RGPU Rostov Don as a teacher
- Vardar is her second stint outside of Russia – she previously spent four seasons with GOG in Denmark
- has twice been voted in All-Star teams – at the EHF EURO 2006 and the WCh 2009
- as team captain led the team to the bronze medal at the first edition of the FINAL4 in 2014

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2002
OG: S 2004, WCh: G 2001, 2007, 2009, EHF EURO: S 2006, B 2008



Siraba Dembele left wing

- French left wing signed with Vardar ahead of last season and played an important role in the team in 2013/14, scoring 35 goals
- Vardar is the seventh team in her career – she previously played for five different French teams and spent one season with Danish club Randers
- captain of the France national team
- extended her contract with Vardar until 2016

WCh: S 2009, 2011, EHF EURO B 2006



Andrea Penezic left back

- in the summer of 2014 signed a 1+1 year contract
- shares court time with Allison Pineau
- leading player for Krim Mercator; raised the Slovenian title and cup four times
- best left back in the All-Star Team at the WCh 2011
- played also for Lokomotiva and Podravka
- Croatian player of the year six consecutive times



Andrea Lekic centre back

- competed in karate and reached blue belt before moving on to ball sports including volleyball, basketball, football and tennis
- voted the 2013 World Handball Player of the Year
- All-Star Team at the EHF EURO 2012.
- organises her own handball camp every other year

EC trophies: CL 2013
WCh: S 2013



Anja Althaus line player

- first German player to play in FYR Macedonia.
- switched from being a designer in advertising to a hairdresser, and is known as stylist to her teammates in both her club and national team
- two EHF Champions League titles with Viborg (2009, 2010)
- one of the most famous German players with over 200 caps for Germany and more than 500 goals

EC trophies: CL 2009, 2010
WCh: B 2007, Junior WCh: B 2001



Tatiana Khmyrova right back

- it only took one season for 'Tata' to conquer the hearts of fans in Skopje
- made her debut for the Russia national team in FYR Macedonia at the EHF EURO 2008, eventually claiming the bronze medal
- played eight seasons for her first team, Dinamo Volgograd, winning three Russian championship titles
- can play all three back positions

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008
WCh: G 2009, EURO: B 2008, Youth WCh: G 2008



Jovanka Radicevic right wing

- as the daughter of a handball player, started playing handball at the age of 12
- best right wing at the EHF EURO 2012 when she won the championship with Montenegro
- in 2013 she won the CL title with Győr.
- with Buducnost, she won seven championships and cup titles in Montenegro (2005-2011), two regional league titles (2010, 2011) and two titles in the Cup Winners' Cup (2006, 2010)

EC trophies: CL 2013, Cup Winners' Cup 2006, 2010
OG: S 2012, EURO: G 2012

GROUP B

HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO)



Playing hall

Sport Hall Fran Galović

Zeljka Selinger bb
48000 Koprivnica
Croatia
Capacity: 2,500

Club address:

HC Podravka Vegeta
Zeljka Selinger 3A
48000 Koprivnica
Croatia

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Online information:

Website: www.rk-podravka.hr
Facebook: [RkPodravka](https://www.facebook.com/RkPodravka)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Betting on who will win the Croatian domestic leagues is not usually too difficult; for many years the men's team from Zagreb and the women's team from Koprivnica have dominated, surrendering the Croatian championship title only rarely.

While Zagreb's men continued their unbeaten run in the 2013/14 season, HC Podravka Vegeta lost both Croatian trophies – and so had to go through the Women's EHF Champions League Qualification Tournament. Despite the setback, the experienced club were successful in this phase and finally had something to celebrate as they won the right to continue to the next stage of the competition.

Surprisingly, it was not the two favourite Scandinavian teams, Byasen Trondheim and FC Midtjylland (participant of the first ever Women's EHF FINAL4 in May), that faced each other in the final of the qualification tournament, but the two Balkan sides: Radnicki Kragujevac (host) and Podravka. Cheered on by new club president, Olivija Jakupc, the Croatian league runners-up clinched their berth for the group phase with a 28:24 win.

Though their top player, Vesna Milanovic Litre, joined defending Women's EHF Champions League champions Győr, coach Goran Mrđen can count on a strong squad this season, with players such as Miranda Tatari returning from Astrakhan and Kristina Elez arriving from Rostov-Don (both Russia).

Podravka hope for a clear improvement on last season; their goals include taking back the Croatian trophies from Lokomotiva, and ranking higher in both the multi-national WHRL league and the EHF Champions League. They also aim to still be part of the EHF Champions League competition come springtime 2015.

Team captain Miranda Tatari is satisfied Podravka have achieved their first goal by qualifying for the group phase. "In my opinion we are playing in the strongest group, which means it will not be easy for us, but we'll give our best to achieve a good result. Good luck to everyone!"

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions

League 2014/15 season: Winner of qualification tournament Group 2, Croatian runners-up.

Newcomers:

Miranda Tatari (Astrakhanochka)
Kristina Elez (Rostov-Don)
Ana Niksic (Ipress Center-Vac)
Dragica Dzono (Nantes LA HB)

Left the club:

Vesna Milanovic Litre (Győri Audi ETO KC)
Tina Gavranic (Volda HC)
Dina Havic (HC Lokomotiva Zagreb)
Iva Pongrac (ZRK Koka Varazdin)
Anita Poljak (Zelina)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 21
Winners (1): 1995/96
Runners-up (1): 1994/95
Semi-finals (1): 1997/98
Quarter-finals (1): 1996/97
Main Round (3): 2000/01, 2001/02, 2008/09
Group Phase/Champions League (11): 1993/94, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2002/03, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14
Qualification (2): 2003/04, 2005/06

Other

Cup Winners Cup: Runners-up: 2004/05,
Semi-finals: 2007/08
EHF Cup: Finals 2000/01, 2005/06

Croatian league: 20 titles
Croatian cup: 19 titles

HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO)



Biggest win:	35:20 (21:9) v GAS Anagennisi Artas GRE (h), 19.02.2000
Biggest defeat:	17:35 (10:16) v WHC Vardar SCBT MKD (h), 03.11.2013
Longest winning run:	6 matches (09.11.1997 – 01.02.1998)
Longest unbeaten run:	6 matches (09.11.1997 – 01.02.1998)
Longest losing run:	8 matches (15.11.2009 – 13.11.2010)
Longest run without win:	8 matches (15.11.2009 – 13.11.2010)
Most goals:	41 v Zvezda RUS 41:28W (h), 21.11.2010
Most goals opponent:	40 v Györi Audi ETO HUN 33:40W (h), 13.01.2008
Most goals both teams:	73 v Györi Audi ETO HUN 33:40W (h), 13.01.2008
Fewest goals:	13 v HYPO Niederösterreich AUT 17:13L (a), 04.05.1996
Fewest goals opponent:	14 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 17:14W (h), 29.04.1995
Fewest goals both teams:	30 v HYPO Niederösterreich AUT 17:13L (a), 04.05.1996

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1993/94 Podravka Koprivnica CRO	6	2	0	4	123:138	-15	4		4th Gr. A
1994/95 Podravka Koprivnica CRO	8	4	2	2	183:167	+16	10		Runner-up
1995/96 Podravka Koprivnica CRO	8	6	0	2	191:163	+28	12		Winner
1996/97 Podravka Koprivnica CRO	8	5	1	2	208:187	+21	11		1/4-finals
1997/98 Podravka Koprivnica CRO	10	7	0	3	254:220	+34	14		1/2-finals
1998/99 Podravka Koprivnica CRO	6	3	0	3	148:152	-4	6		3rd Gr. A
1999/00 Podravka Dolcela CRO	6	3	0	3	144:144	0	6		3rd Gr. D
2002/03 Podravka Vegeta Koprivnica CRO	6	2	1	3	163:168	-5	5		3rd Gr. A
2006/07 Podravka Vegeta Koprivnica CRO	6	2	0	4	171:197	-26	4		3rd Gr. C
2007/08 HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	6	2	0	4	173:182	-9	4		3rd Gr. A
2008/09 HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	12	6	0	6	347:349	-2	12		3rd MR Gr. 1
2009/10 HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	6	2	0	4	172:192	-20	4		4th Gr. A
2010/11 HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	6	1	0	5	168:180	-12	2		4th Gr. D
2011/12 HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	6	1	2	3	146:161	-15	4		4th Gr. B
2012/13 HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	6	3	0	3	136:143	-7	6		3rd Gr. B
2013/14 HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	6	1	0	5	128:178	-50	2		3rd Gr. D
Total:	112	50	6	56	2855:2921	-66	106		

HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
14	Ivana	Dragisic	CRO	Right Back	29.3.1994	Bjelovar, CRO	177
9	Dragica	Dzono	CRO	Line Player	24.5.1987	Mostar, BIH	184
41	Kristina	Elez	CRO	Left Back	22.5.1987	Split, CRO	179
1	Antonia	Jukic	CRO	Goalkeeper	9.5.1992	Split, CRO	172
12	Ivana	Kapitanovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	17.9.1994	Split, CRO	183
5	Korina	Karlovcan	CRO	Left Wing	18.10.1998	Zagreb, CRO	165
18	Ana Marija	Maljak	CRO	Right Wing	5.11.1996	Koprivnica, CRO	169
16	Mirjana	Milenkovic	MNE	Goalkeeper	14.3.1985	Krusevac, SRB	183
11	Ivona	Mrden	CRO	Centre Back	29.12.1998	Zagreb, CRO	176
10	Ekatarina	Nemaskalo	CRO	Left Wing	31.7.1989	Brovari, UKR	167
3	Ana	Niksic	CRO	Right Back	29.6.1989	Jakarta, IDN	169
17	Antonia	Oremovic	CRO	Left Wing	31.1.1997	Bjelovar, CRO	163
13	Iva	Papac	CRO	Left Back	21.11.1998	Zagreb, CRO	176
6	Sara	Senvald	CRO	Line Player	14.3.1996	Koprivnica, CRO	185
29	Miranda	Tatari	CRO	Centre Back	20.9.1983	Koprivnica, CRO	175
25	Jelena	Trifunovic	SRB	Left Back	4.8.1991	Kraljevo, SRB	180
15	Marijeta	Vidak	CRO	Left Back	14.8.1992	Virovitica, CRO	179
8	Jelena	Zivkovic	SRB	Right Back	6.7.1991	Zrenjanin, SRB	182




Goran Mrden
coach

- returned to Podravka in the summer 2013 after an absence of 10 years when he coached Virovitica and Sv. Ivan Zelina
- in his premier season as coach for Podravka the club achieved second place in the domestic league and reached the group matches of the CL
- currently the Croatian women's junior national team coach


Mirjana Milenkovic
goalkeeper

- stepped up after Croatia national team keepers Ivana Jelcic and Marta Zderic left
- part of the Serbia and Montenegro national team that won silver at the 2005 Mediterranean Games
- her impressive form in Buducnost (2007-2009) earned her a place in the Montenegro national team
- in one CL match against FTC in 2007 she saved six penalty shots for Buducnost


Ekatarina Nemaskalo
left wing

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


Kristina Elez
left back

- one of the best Croatia national team players and Podravka's biggest signing of the summer
- played for Krim, Metz, Erd and Rostov-Don
- before deciding to try playing abroad she played six seasons for Podravka, scoring 52 goals in her last season
- capable of playing in each back position in attack and is an important part of the team's defence


Miranda Tatari
centre back

- most important player of the team and a true leader on the court
- spent her entire career in Koprivnica, except for 2013/14 when she accepted Astrakhanochka's offer
- team's engine in both directions – a big shooter who is also one half of a strong defensive partnership with Kristina Elez
- vital part of the Croatia national team that qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games for the first time


Dragica Dzono
line player

- has to replace one of their best players last season, Vesna Milanovic Litre, who joined Hungarian Győr
- Podravka decided to bring her to Koprivnica after she had a few solid seasons in Zelina's jersey
- won several caps for the Croatia national team
- her fellow line player for the season will be young Croatia national team member Andrea Covic


Jelena Zivkovic
right back

- began playing handball in Zrenjanin, Serbia
- played for Ferencvaros and Buducnost in the past
- scored 44 goals in the Cup Winner's Cup while playing for Hungarian side Ferencvaros
- demonstrated her potential by scoring 22 goals in her premier season with Podravka in 2013/14


Ana Niksic
right wing

- born in Jakarta, Indonesia
- replaced Golubic and Gace, who left the club in the last few years
- at the beginning of her career, she played for Podravka's biggest rivals, Lokomotiva Zagreb
- also gained experience in Hungary, playing in Szekesfehervar and Vac
- the 2014/15 season is her first in the CL

Group C preview



NEW TOP TEAM IN EUROPE VERSUS OLD ONE

The top of Group C of the Women's EHF Champions League seems to become a duel between the new top team of Europe, Györi Audi ETO KC and the old one, Viborg HK. While Györi Audi ETO KC represent the current top of European women's handball, having the Women's EHF Champions League the past two years, another team in Group C, Viborg HK represent tradition. While Györ have won the Champions League the past two years, Viborg have to go as far back as 2006, 2009 and 2010 to find their three triumphs in the tournament.

In Group C of the group phase this season, the first place may very well be decided between these two teams, with the ruling champions as favourites. Two big question marks can be put at Györ this season. How will they do without pregnant goalkeeper Katrine Lunde, and how will they compensate for the loss of right back Katarina Bulatovic who has left for Buducnost?

Jelena Grubisic has arrived from RK Krim Mercator to fill in for Lunde in goal, while Susann Müller has been signed from HC Leipzig as replacement for Bulatovic, and the big question is, of course, if those two can fill in the gaps after two so crucial players. If they can, Györ are probably not only to be rated as favourites in Group C, but maybe also to win the tournament for the third time in succession.

With seven new signings compared to five players having left, the team does at least appear even broader than last season, and apart from Grubisic and Müller, back court players Anna Sen from Rostov-Don and Macarena Aguilar from Randers are particularly interesting newcomers.

Viborg with small but strong squad

Saying goodbye to eight players and only signing three has obviously narrowed Viborg's squad down considerably ahead of their comeback to the Champions League. However, players like Marit Malm Frafjord and Mouna Chebbah did not play much last season due to injury, and therefore the loss of those may not be all that bad, especially considering the fact that the newcomers, goalkeeper Rikke Poulsen as well as line players Mette Gravholt and Silje Thomsen all have high quality.

Having the experienced back court player Rikke Skov and left wing Maria Fisker back from injury also boosts Viborg's chances.

Croatian Champions League debutants HC Lokomotiva Zagreb will be an interesting new face in this group, while it will be interesting to see how Swedish champions IK Sävehof will compensate for the loss of key players such as Line Blohm, Jamina Roberts, Hanna Fogelström and Frida Tegstedt. Last season, Sävehof impressed Handball Europe by making it to the main round and doing well there. This year, they may have to fight with Lokomotiva for the third place in Group C.

by Peter Bruun

Group C head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group C opponents in the EC

Györi Audi ETO KC vs Viborg HK A/S

09.05.1999	Györi Graboplast ETO vs Viborg HK, EHF Cup – final	24:21 (10:11)
15.05.1999	Viborg HK vs Györi Graboplast ETO, EHF Cup – final	28:21 (13:11)
16.05.2004	Györi Graboplast ETO vs Viborg HK A/S, EHF Cup – final	27:27 (13:13)
23.05.2004	Viborg HK A/S vs Györi Graboplast ETO, EHF Cup – final	37:21 (19:10)
09.05.2009	Viborg HK vs Györi Audi ETO KC, EHF Champions League – final	24:26 (14:15)
16.05.2009	Györi Audi ETO KC vs Viborg HK, EHF Champions League – final	23:26 (10:14)

Viborg HK A/S vs HC Lokomotiva Zagreb

23.01.1994	Viborg HK vs Lokomotiva Zagreb, EHF Cup – 1/4-final	22:19 (11:10)
30.01.1994	Lokomotiva Zagreb vs Viborg HK, EHF Cup – 1/4-final	21:19 (11:9)

Viborg HK A/S vs IK Sävehof

10.10.2010	IK Sävehof vs Viborg HK, EHF Champions League – Group A	24:37 (13:19)
14.11.2010	Viborg HK vs IK Sävehof, EHF Champions League – Group A	37:33 (23:16)
05.02.2012	IK Sävehof vs Viborg HK, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	28:29 (11:15)
11.02.2012	Viborg HK vs IK Sävehof, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	37:26 (17:14)

No previous encounters in European competitions

Györi Audi ETO KC vs HC Lokomotiva Zagreb
Györi Audi ETO KC vs IK Sävehof
HC Lokomotiva Zagreb vs IK Sävehof

GROUP C



Playing hall

Szechenyi Istvan Egyetem Sportcsarnok
Egyetem ter 1
9027 Győr
Hungary
Capacity: 2,000

Club Address:

Győri Audi ETO KC
Kiskutliget
92027 Győr
Hungary

Media contact:

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szilagyi.andrea@gyorietokc.hu

Online information:

Website: www.gyorietokc.hu
Facebook: [Győri-Audi-ETO-KC](https://www.facebook.com/Gyori-Audi-ETO-KC)
Twitter: [@GyoriaudiETO](https://twitter.com/GyoriaudiETO)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Győri Audi ETO KC (HUN)

After several unsuccessful attempts in the preceding years Győri Audi ETO KC struck gold twice in succession – in 2013, the last season of the old playing system, they were on top of the podium, and in 2014 they defended their title as first ever winner of the Women's EHF FINAL4 competition format in Budapest.

The eleven-time Hungarian champions beat Larvik in the finals of the 2012/13 season, then in May 2014 defeated Buducnost in the final to the delight of thousands of fans in the Papp Laszlo Budapest Sportarena. Now with the EHF decision to hold the Women's EHF FINAL4 until 2016 at the same venue, Győr hope to make it to Budapest to play the main event on home soil again.

The squad of the defending champions underwent major changes in the lead up to the 2014/15 season. Goalkeeper Katrine Lunde Haraldsen is pregnant and has been replaced by Croatian international Jelena Grubisic.

Right back Katarina Bulatovic (three-times EHF Champions League winner with three different clubs – Slagelse FH, Buducnost and Győr) returned home to Buducnost and was replaced by German Susann Müller, top scorer of the World Championship 2013 in Serbia. Additionally Győr widened their squad through the inclusion of top talents like Russian Anna Sen. In total, five players left and seven newcomers arrived in the 'motor city'.

Győr also expects a very special boost this season – before their last match of the group stage against IK Sävehof, the newly built Audi Arena should open its gates and some weeks later will host matches of the Women's EHF EURO 2014. In addition to a new venue, Győr welcome a new, but well-known manager in former Győr and Hungarian national team goalkeeper Katalin Palinger.

Last season's top scorer and Győr team captain, Anita Görbicz, is looking forward to another great season, but remains humble. "It is a very good feeling to start as winners again, but we also know that everybody wants to beat us. The team has seven new players, which means we have to get to know each other first. The new players are really motivated, as are all the others. We don't want to think about the end of the season now; most important are the three opponents in the group phase. The road ahead of us is long, and we should always focus only on the next step," Görbicz said.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Hungarian champions

Newcomers:

Jelena Grubisic (RK Krim Mercator)
Macarena Aguilar Diaz (Randers HK)
Vesna Milanovic Litre (HC Podravka Vegeta)
Anna Sen (Rostov-Don)
Susann Müller (HC Leipzig)
Szimonetta Planeta (returning from loan to Veszprém Barabas Dunatakarok KC)
Kyra Csapo (Dunaujvaros)

Left the club:

Katarina Bulatovic (Buducnost)
Victoria Redei-Soos (FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria)
Dora Hornyak (Ipress Center-Vac)
Szederke Sirian (DVSC-Forum Debrecen)
Raphaëlle Tervel (end of career)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 12
Winners (2): 2012/13, 2013/14
Runners-up (2): 2008/09, 2011/12
Semi-final (4): 2006/07, 2007/08, 2009/10, 2010/11
Group Matches (2): 2000/01, 2005/06
Qualification (1): 2004/05

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2005/06, Semi-final 2002/03
EHF Cup: Runners-up 1998/99, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2004/05

Hungarian league: 11 titles (1957, 1959, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
Hungarian cup: 11 titles

Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)



Biggest win:	41:22 (21:11) v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT (h), 05.10.2013
Biggest defeat:	39:28 (20:12) v Spartak Kiev UKR (a), 17.02.2001
Longest winning run:	13 matches (13.10.2012 – 06.04.2013)
Longest unbeaten run:	16 matches (05.05.2013 – 04.05.2014)
Longest losing run:	3 matches (11.02.2001 – 07.01.2006)
Longest run without win:	4 matches (28.01.2001 – 07.01.2006) 4 matches (20.03.2011 – 02.10.2011)
Most goals:	41 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 41:22W (h), 05.10.2013
Most goals opponent:	39 v Spartak Kiev UKR 39:28L (a), 17.02.2001
Most goals both teams:	73 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 33:40W (a), 13.01.2008
Fewest goals:	18 v Larvik NOR 18:24L (h), 20.03.2011
Fewest goals opponent:	14 v SD Itxako ESP 14:20W (a), 14.11.2009
Fewest goals both teams:	34 v SD Itxako ESP 14:20W (a), 14.11.2009

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2000/01 Györi Graboplast ETO HUN	6	1	2	3	156:168		-12	4	4th Gr. D
2005/06 Györi ETO Kezilabda Club HUN	6	3	0	3	154:169		-15	6	3rd Gr. D
2006/07 Györi Audi ETO KC HUN	10	6	0	4	291:267		+24	12	1/2-finals
2007/08 Györi Audi ETO HUN	14	11	0	3	415:366		+49	22	1/2-finals
2008/09 Györi Audi ETO KC HUN	16	11	1	4	454:415		+39	23	Runner-up
2009/10 Györi AUDI ETO KC HUN	14	8	2	4	355:337		+18	18	1/2-finals
2010/11 Györi AUDI ETO KC HUN	14	10	1	3	387:334		+53	21	1/2-finals
2011/12 Györi AUDI ETO KC HUN	16	10	1	5	472:422		+50	21	Runner-up
2012/13 Györi Audi ETO KC HUN	16	15	0	1	435:346		+89	30	Winner
2013/14 Györi Audi ETO KC HUN	14	12	2	0	408:337		+71	26	Winner
Total	126	87	9	30	3527:3161		+366	183	

Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
15	Macarena	Aguilar Diaz	ESP	Centre Back	12.3.1985	Bolanos Calatrava, ESP	170
18	Eduarda Idalina	Amorim Taleska	BRA	Left Back	23.9.1986	Blumenau, BRA	186
31	Agnes	Boczko-Hornyak	HUN	Back	2.9.1982	Mateszalka, HUN	180
33	Bernadett	Bognar-Bodi	HUN	Right Wing	9.3.1986	Szeged, HUN	175
13	Anita	Görbicz	HUN	Centre Back	13.5.1983	Veszprem, HUN	173
1	Jelena	Grubisic	CRO	Goalkeeper	20.1.1987	Zagreb, CRO	181
12	Orsolya	Herr	HUN	Goalkeeper	23.11.1984	Tatabánya, HUN	176
11	Dorina	Korsos	HUN	Right Wing	3.9.1995	Kecskemét, HUN	168
14	Aniko	Kovacsics	HUN	Centre Back	29.8.1991	Nagyatad, HUN	170
5	Heidi	Loke	NOR	Line Player	12.12.1982	Tonsberg, NOR	177
30	Vesna	Milanovic Litre	CRO	Line Player	30.5.1986	Sinj, CRO	180
10	Susann	Müller	GER	Right Back	26.5.1988	Saalfeld-Saale, GER	186
22	Adrienn	Orban	HUN	Right Wing	1.10.1986	Győr, HUN	168
21	Szimonetta	Planeta	HUN	Right Back	12.12.1993	Kazincbarcika, HUN	198
8	Anna	Sen	RUS	Back	3.12.1990	Krasnodar, RUS	185
24	Ivett	Szepesi	HUN	Left Wing	4.2.1986	Pincehely, HUN	167
16	Alexa	Weninger	HUN	Goalkeeper	25.6.1997	Győr, HUN	177





Ambros Martin coach

- born in Lanzarote, Canary Islands
- joined Győr in 2012
- previously coached top Spanish side Estrella Itxako for seven years, winning the EHF Cup in 2009
- also eliminating Győr in the semi-final on the way to the CL final in 2010/11 during that spell
- in his first season with Győr he won their first European trophy

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014, EHF Cup 2009



Jelena Grubisic goalkeeper

- played with Lokomotiva for eight seasons and five seasons for Krim
- had her European Cup debut (Cup Winner's Cup 2002/03) when she was 15 with Lokomotiva.
- joined Győr shortly before the 2014/15 season to replace pregnant Katrine Lunde
- her national team debut was at the World Championship 2007.



Ivett Szepesi left wing

- 7 goals in the group match against Cluj in 2012/13 is her record high in the CL
- in the past played for Dunafer, Tolnau, Tamasi and Siófok in the Hungarian league
- made her switch to the champions just in time for their first European trophy in 2013

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014



Eduarda Amorim left back

- Brazilian international arrived in Europe in 2006
- first joining Kometal Skopje in FYR Macedonia
- transferred to Győr in 2009
- passed the 300 goals milestone in the European top flight in the 2013/14 season

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014

WCh: G 2013, Pan-American Games: G 2003, 2007, 2011



Anita Görbicz centre back

- twice the CL top scorer (133 goals in 2011/12 and 87 in 2013/14)
- World Handball Player of Year (2005)
- voted the best centre back at three WCh in a row (2003, 2005, 2007)
- voted for the 2013/14 All-Star team as the best centre back

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014

WCh: S 2003, B 2005, EHF EURO: B 2004, 2012



Heidi Löke line player

- World Handball Player of Year (2011)
- famous daughter in a big handball family as both of her siblings are professional players and all of them are line players
- in 2011 she took the title with Larvik as the CL top scorer, and in 2012 she only narrowly missed it with Győr only to achieve it one year later
- member of the All-Star teams at the London Olympics, 2011 WCh and EHF EURO 2010 and 2012

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2013, 2014

OG: G 2012, WCh: G 2011, EHF EURO: G 2008, 2010, S 2012



Susann Müller right back

- after a spell in Krim she returned back to her handball roots to Leipzig for the 2013/14 season
- also played in Denmark for Aarhus and Randers
- big shoes to fill for the second season in a row as one of her predecessors on the right back position in Leipzig was Grit Jurack, one year later in Győr it was void after Katarina Bulatovic left
- top scorer (62 goals) and All-Star Team right back at the WCh 2013

Junior WCh: G 2008



Adrienn Orban right wing

- started her professional career at Váci NKSE
- returned to her childhood club Győr in 2009
- first international match in 2009
- after the starter at her position Jovanka Radičević left for Vardar in 2013 she enjoys more playing time

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014

GROUP C



Playing hall

Viborg Stadionhal

Tingvej 5
8800 Viborg
Denmark
Capacity: 2,800

Club Address:

Viborg HK
Tingvej 7, 2. sal
8800 Viborg
Denmark

Media contact:

Inger Fog
+45 22 70 0904
inger@vhk.dk

Online information:

Website: www.vhk.dk
Facebook: [ViborgHK](https://www.facebook.com/ViborgHK)
Twitter: [@ViborgHK](https://twitter.com/ViborgHK)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: black, white or orange

Dark

Player shirt: green
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: black, white or orange

Viborg HK A/S (DEN)

Viborg HK A/S may have been absent from the finals since their last title in 2010, but they are also the only current participant in the Women's EHF Champions League club to have won all three EHF European Cup competitions. They have stood on the EHF Champions League winners' podium three times, and last year, after four years without winning the Danish league, Viborg HK took the domestic championship again.

2006, 2009 and 2010 were the years Viborg contributed to Denmark's collection of EHF Champions League titles. The Danes completed their selection of silverware with their Cup Winners' Cup title in 2013/14, having already won several EHF Cup titles prior to their EHF Champions League triumphs. As last season's FINAL4 participant FC Midtjylland failed in the qualification stage, Viborg are the only Danish club in the Women's EHF Champions League group phase. Following early elimination in this stage in every season from 2010/11 to 2013/14, and even a qualification stage elimination last season, Christian Dalmose's squad remains humble – hoping at first to proceed to the main round “and then anything can happen”.

Some big names from their previous squad, such as Olympic, World and EHF EURO Champion Marit Malm Frafjord, French goalkeeper Cleopatre Darleux and Swedish defensive specialist Linnea Torstenson, have left Viborg. Danish number one Rikke Vestergaard Poulsen from Vejen was signed to fill the gap left by Darleux between the posts. Additionally Danish international Mette Bjorholm Gravholt joined the club, arriving from Holstebro.

Team captain Isabelle Guldén expects tough clashes: “Győr are the best opponent we could draw. They won the Champions League last season, and they have signed several top players, so I expect them as favourites to be on top again, even though they are probably a bit weaker having lost Katrine Lunde due to her pregnancy. I don't know much about Zagreb, so it's hard to estimate their strength. We have to see them play to really be able to assess them, but I suppose they are a good team. Sävehof are a strong side, even though they have had some changes in their squad and lost some profiles. I have tremendous respect for what they did last year. It will be quite a special experience to meet them since I played for Sävehof from when I was seven years old up until I came to Viborg HK.”

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Danish champions

Newcomers:

Rikke Vestergaard Poulsen (Vejen EH)
Mette Bjorholm Gravholt (Team Tvis Holstebro)
Sille Guldbaek Thomsen (Vejen EH)

Left the club:

Cleopatre Darleux (OGC Nice)
Anne Kjersti Suvdal (Oppsal)
Amanda Kurtovic (Oppsal)
Marit Malm Frafjord (Larvik HK)
Linnea Torstenson (CSM Bucuresti)
Sabine Pedersen (FC Midtjylland)
Mouna Chebbah (Nimes)
Signe Hald (Tarm-Foersum GF)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 19
Winners (3): 2005/06, 2008/09, 2009/10
Runners-up (2): 1996/97, 2000/01
Semi-finals (1): 2002/03
Quarter-finals (3): 1997/98, 2004/05, 2006/07
Last 16 (1): 1994/95
Main Round (1): 2007/08
Group Matches (6): 1995/96, 1999/00, 2001/02, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13
Qualification (1): 2013/14

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 1993/94, 1998/99, 2003/04
Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2011/12

Danish league: 13 titles (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010)
Danish cup winners: 8 titles

Viborg HK A/S (DEN)



Biggest win:	34:16 (18:7) v Jomsa Rimini ITA (h), 16.11.1997
Biggest defeat:	32:20 (14:8) v HERZ – FTC Budapest HUN (a), 23.02.2003
	31:19 (13:7) v Larvik HK NOR (a), 20.01.2007
Longest winning run:	5 matches (03.01.2009 – 14.02.2009)
Longest unbeaten run:	5 matches (03.01.2009 – 14.02.2009)
	5 matches (28.02.2009 – 18.04.2009)
	5 matches (14.11.2009 – 13.02.2010)
Longest losing run:	7 matches (13.11.2011 – 18.11.2012)
Longest run without win:	7 matches (13.11.2011 – 18.11.2012)
Most goals:	42 v 1. FC Nürnberg Handball GER 28:42W (h), 03.01.2009
Most goals opponent:	41 v Dinamo RUS 41:33L (a), 24.10.2010
Most goals both teams:	74 v Dinamo RUS 41:33L (a), 24.10.2010
Fewest goals:	15 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 15:16L (h), 04.01.1998
Fewest goals opponent:	10 v Granicar Djordjevac CRO 27:10W (h), 05.01.1997
Fewest goals both teams:	31 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 15:16L (h), 04.01.1998

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1995/96 Viborg HK DEN	6	2	0	4	140:141	-1	4		3rd Gr. B
1996/97 Viborg HK DEN	12	8	1	3	302:270	+32	17		Runner-up
1997/98 Viborg HK DEN	8	4	1	3	198:187	+11	9		1/4-finals
1999/00 Viborg HK DEN	6	2	1	3	138:149	-11	5		4th Gr. A
2000/01 Viborg HK A/S DEN	12	8	1	3	310:282	+28	17		Runner-up
2001/02 Viborg HK A/S DEN	6	2	0	4	163:178	-15	4		4th Gr. C
2002/03 Viborg HK A/S DEN	10	5	1	4	281:266	+15	11		1/2-finals
2004/05 Viborg HK A/S DEN	8	5	0	3	226:194	+32	10		1/4-finals
2005/06 Viborg HK A/S DEN	12	8	0	4	336:313	+23	16		Winner
2006/07 Viborg HK A/S DEN	8	4	1	3	253:252	+1	9		1/4-finals
2007/08 Viborg HK A/S DEN	12	6	1	5	375:348	+27	13		3rd MR Gr. 2
2008/09 Viborg HK DEN	16	12	1	3	526:439	+87	25		Winner
2009/10 Viborg HK DEN	16	11	1	4	474:414	+60	23		Winner
2010/11 Viborg HK DEN	6	3	0	3	192:193	-1	6		3rd Gr. A
2011/12 Viborg HK DEN	6	2	2	2	161:161	0	6		3rd Gr. B
2012/13 Viborg HK DEN	6	0	0	6	143:163	-20	0		4th Gr. D
Total	150	82	11	57	4218:3950	+268	175		

Viborg HK A/S (DEN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
15	Sarah Sörensen	Andreassen	DEN	Left Wing	28.4.1996	Favrskov, DEN	177
16	Signe Esther	Brun	DEN	Goalkeeper	29.4.1997	Slagelse, DEN	182
27	Louise Katharina	Burgaard	DEN	Right Back	17.10.1992	Esbjerg, DEN	178
11	Sanja	Damnjanovic	SRB	Left Back	25.5.1987	Beograd, SRB	181
25	Maria	Fisker	DEN	Left Wing	3.10.1990	Favrskov, DEN	170
6	Mette Bjorholm	Gravholt	DEN	Line Player	12.12.1984	Egtved, DEN	172
9	Isabelle	Gulldén	SWE	Centre Back	29.6.1989	Sävedalen, SWE	178
24	Astrid	Jakobsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	20.1.1996	Holbæk, DEN	175
29	Cecilie Dalmose	Larsen	DEN	Left Back	12.12.1997	Koebenhavn, DEN	182
3	Nikoline Skals	Lundgreen	DEN	Right Back	7.1.1998	Faaborg-Midtfyn, DEN	187
19	Louise Knak	Lyksborg	DEN	Right Wing	17.1.1988	Hillerød, DEN	168
1	Chana Franciela	Masson De Souza	BRA	Goalkeeper	18.12.1978	Capinzal, BRA	182
4	Helena Egelund	Mikkelsen	DEN	Right Back	24.6.1996	Viborg, DEN	174
28	Sarah Dalsgaard	Paulsen	DEN	Centre Back	27.8.1997	Hedensted, DEN	173
12	Rikke Vestergaard	Poulsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	20.4.1986	Vinderup, DEN	177
2	Rikke Erhardsen	Skov	DEN	Left Back	7.9.1980	Viborg, DEN	181
10	Sille Guldbaek	Thomsen	DEN	Line Player	18.2.1992	Koge, DEN	170
18	Mette Soerensen	Thyrsted	DEN	Centre Back	10.2.1996	Favrskov, DEN	178





Christian Dalmose coach

- former excellent playmaker of Copenhagen-based clubs Ajax and Virum in the Danish league
- As a coach, took Aalborg DH to the CL semi-final in 2005/06.
- Became temporary coach in Viborg in spring 2013, hired as permanent coach prior to the 2013/14 season
- Reclaimed the Danish championship for Viborg in his first season as head coach (2013/14)

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2014



Chana Franciela Masson De Souza goalkeeper

- experienced Brazilian goalkeeper known for her temper and extremely fast reactions
- has played in Spain and Germany, and has also represented FCK Handbold and Randers HK in Denmark
- she joined Viborg from Randers in the summer of 2013
- played a big part in Viborg winning the Danish championship in 2013/14

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2014



Maria Fisker left wing

- fast and has a scoring percentage well above 80%
- started playing handball when she was five
- joined Viborg in 2006 from third league club Vissing Hadsten
- transferred to Randers HK in 2009, returned to Viborg in 2011
- studying to be a nurse

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2010, Cup Winners' Cup 2014
WCh: B 2013



Sanja Damnjanovic left back

- played for a number of clubs in Serbia, also for Krim and Podravka
- came to Viborg in 2013, haunted by several injuries while with Viborg
- named in the All-star team at the EHF EURO 2012 and WCh 2013 – both played in Serbia
- awarded Handball Player of the Year in Serbia for the 2013/14 season

WCh: S 2013



Isabelle Gullden centre back

- Fast, flexible and creative playmaker, good at breaking through defence and a reliable penalty shooter
- started playing handball at seven years old for IK Sävehof
- won the Swedish championship four times in succession with Sävehof (2007 to 2011)
- joined Viborg in 2011 – not only her first foreign adventure, but her first club other than Sävehof

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2014
EURO: S 2010



Mette Bjorholm Gravholt line player

- joined Viborg in the summer 2014
- previously spent four years (2010-14) with league rivals Team Tvis Holstebro
- celebrates her birthday with the Denmark national team almost every year either at an EHF EURO or a WCh
- also works as a school teacher

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013
WCh: B 2013



Louise Katharina Burgaard right back

- made her first appearances in the Danish league at 17 with KIF Vejle.
- debuted in the Denmark national team at 19 and later became a regular in the squad
- joined Viborg from Team Tvis Holstebro (summer 2013)
- won her first senior Danish titles with Viborg – Danish cup and Danish championship 2013/14

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2014
WCh: B 2013



Louise Knak Lyksborg right wing

- fast and technically skilled, developed a lot after joining Viborg (summer 2012)
- before Viborg, she spent two years with German club HC Leipzig
- broke through in the Denmark national team at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, where she got a lot of court time
- previously played for FCK Handbold in the Danish league with Anja Andersen as her coach

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2009, 2014

GROUP C

**Playing hall****Partillebohallen**

Gamla Kronvägen 56
43300 Partille
Sweden
Capacity: 2,000

Club Address:

IK Sävehof
Box 201
43324 Partille
Sweden

Media contact:

Rüdiger Osterloh
+46 736 84 57 55
rudiger@savehof.se

Online information:

Website: www.savehof.se
Facebook: [Savehof](#)
Twitter: [IK_Savehof](#)

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

IK Sävehof (SWE)

IK Sävehof were one of the biggest surprises of the Women's EHF Champions League 2013/14 season. First, they qualified for the main round for the first time in their club's history, then they proved their strength on home ground by taking one point each from future semi-finalists Vardar and FC Midtjylland.

But when you perform well, other teams take notice – Sävehof lost four national team players to other teams before the start of this season, including one of their top stars Jamina Roberts, now at Holstebro in Denmark, and wing Hanna Fogelström, who transferred to French side Toulon.

As a result of the losses, coach Henrik Signell, who is in charge of Sävehof for his third season, had to add fresh blood to his nearly all Swedish (Icelandic Birna Berg Haraldsdottir is the only player from abroad) squad again. Three players from the successful youth team have been brought up to join the senior squad.

Though they lost some key players, Sävehof, who have been Swedish champions every year since 2009, want to taste success again and are aiming for the main round. In the group matches they will face defending champions Győr, three-time EHF Champions League winners Viborg and Croatian champions Zagreb.

Signell, who also acts as team manager, is confident they can stand the heat.

"We are glad to have qualified for the Champions League again. I think we did well last season, and we hope we can continue to perform at that level. We have lost four national team players and of course it's hard to replace them, but we still have quality in our team. Our group phase opponents will be hard to beat, but we will try to continue as we did last year," said Signell.

Team captain Ida Oden shares those hopes: "It will be an exciting season again and even though we have lost many good players, we know we can beat every team if we perform well."

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Swedish champions**Newcomers:**

Julia Eriksson (Karra HF)
Elin Enhöring (Team Eslov)
Sofia Tegstedt (BK Heid)
Linnea Petterson (youth team)
Johanna Forsberg (youth team)
Joanna Lindvall-Haggren (youth team)

Left the club:

Jamina Roberts (Team Tvis Holstebro)
Linn Blohm (Team Tvis Holstebro)
Frida Tegstedt (BVG Fuchse Berlin)
Hanna Fogelström (Toulon)
Amanda Sundberg (Fredrikstad)

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

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 7
Main Round (1): 2013/14
Group Matches (3): 2007/08, 2010/11, 2012/13
Qualification (2): 2006/07, 2011/12

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Last 16: 2011/12

Swedish league: 10 titles (1993, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

IK Sävehof (SWE)



Biggest win:	30:23 (14:13) v HC Leipzig GER (h), 03.11.2013
Biggest defeat:	24:37 (13:19) v Viborg HK DEN (h), 10.10.2010
Longest winning run:	3 matches (12.10.2013 – 03.11.2013)
Longest unbeaten run:	4 matches (12.10.2013 – 10.11.2013)
Longest losing run:	12 matches (12.01.2008 – 11.11.2012)
Longest run without win:	14 matches (18.11.2007 – 11.11.2012)
Most goals:	36 v 1. FC Nürnberg GER 36:34W (h), 11.11.2007
Most goals opponent:	39 v Larvik NOR 39:31L (a), 13.10.2012
Most goals both teams:	70 v 1. FC Nürnberg GER 36:34W (h), 11.11.2007 70 v Viborg HK DEN 37:33L (a), 14.11.2010 70 v Larvik NOR 39:31L (a), 13.10.2012
Fewest goals:	18 v WHC Vardar SCBT MKD 24:18L (a), 16.03.2014
Fewest goals opponent:	23 v HC Leipzig GER 30:23W (h), 03.11.2013
Fewest goals both teams:	42 v WHC Vardar SCBT MKD 24:18L (a), 16.03.2014

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2007/08 IK Sävehof SWE	6	1	1	4	172:191		-19	3	4th Gr. B
2010/11 IK Sävehof SWE	6	0	0	6	163:212		-49	0	4th Gr. A
2012/13 IK Sävehof SWE	6	1	0	5	174:192		-18	2	4th Gr. C
2013/14 IK Sävehof SWE	12	3	3	6	318:339		-21	9	4th MR Gr. 1
Total	30	5	4	21	827:934		-107	14	

IK Sävehof (SWE)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
15	Jenny	Alm	SWE	Left Back	10.4.1989	Uddevalla, SWE	183
1	Johanna	Bundsen	SWE	Goalkeeper	3.6.1991	Uddevalla, SWE	183
11	Edijana	Dafe	SWE	Left Wing	27.5.1990	Göteborg, SWE	164
17	Linnea	Efraimsson	SWE	Right Wing	30.8.1995	Ulricehamn, SWE	167
20	Mimmi	Eliasson	SWE	Centre Back	3.1.1997	Göteborg, SWE	178
8	Elin	Enhöring	SWE	Line Player	13.3.1990	Uddevalla, SWE	176
27	Hanna	Eriksson	SWE	Goalkeeper	23.2.1996	Ludvika, SWE	176
9	Julia	Eriksson	SWE	Left Back	7.7.1994	Göteborg, SWE	181
7	Johanna	Forsberg	SWE	Line Player	16.10.1995	Göteborg, SWE	177
16	Jennifer	Hama	SWE	Goalkeeper	16.10.1995	Göteborg, SWE	174
18	Linn	Hansson	SWE	Left Wing	18.9.1997	Göteborg, SWE	169
2	Birna Berg	Haraldsdottir	ISL	Right Back	21.6.1993	Reykjavik, ISL	183
12	Filippa	Idehn	SWE	Goalkeeper	15.8.1990	Jönköping, SWE	183
13	Elin	Karlsson	SWE	Centre Back	4.1.1989	Göteborg, SWE	180
22	Thess	Krönell	SWE	Line Player	30.5.1996	Umeå, SWE	177
23	Louise	Lilja	SWE	Line Player	21.8.1996	Göteborg, SWE	170
5	Joanna	Lindvall-Haggren	SWE	Right Wing	28.6.1994	Göteborg, SWE	175
6	Ida	Oden	SWE	Centre Back	14.4.1987	Borås, SWE	172
24	Hanna	Örtorp	SWE	Left Back	20.12.1997	Göteborg, SWE	162
25	Tilda	Olsson	SWE	Left Back	15.3.1996	Mölnådal, SWE	176
14	Linnea	Pettersson	SWE	Centre Back	28.7.1995	Kiruna, SWE	178
21	Linnea	Särebörn	SWE	Centre Back	3.1.1996	Vänersborg, SWE	169
4	Louise	Sand	SWE	Left Wing	27.12.1992	Göteborg, SWE	160
26	Maria	Sundin	SWE	Left Back	13.1.1996	Göteborg, SWE	165
3	Sofia	Tegstedt	SWE	Line Player	3.1.1991	Göteborg, SWE	177
10	Jenny	Wikensten	SWE	Right Wing	1.8.1988	Göteborg, SWE	169




Henrik Signell
coach

- became the head coach in 2012
- played eight years for the club during his active days which also included one match for Sweden's national team
- after his active career was in charge of the male junior team in Sävahof and later assistant coach for the men's league team
- in between he has also been assistant coach for Finland's female national team


Filippa Idehn
goalkeeper

- one out of extremely few goalkeepers at top level who plays in shorts
- started with handball as a 12-year-old
- for the first two years of her career she was a backcourt player, but as both goalkeepers in her team were ill for a training session, she took over the new position and has kept it ever since


Louise Sand
left wing

- Loui has been crazy about playing ball all her life and for her confirmation she only wanted a ball as present
- with her 160 cm she is not among the tallest on a court, but she more than compensates for that through her outstanding technique
- joined Sävahof in 2009 after spells with Kärna and Önnareds
- Sweden national team member since 2012


Jenny Alm
left back

- started playing handball at five years old for Kroppskultur in Uddevalla.
- Joined Sävahof three years ago (2011)
- part of the Sweden national team
- increased responsibility with the departure of national team player Jamina Roberts
- also works with marketing for Sävahof and its handball school in local schools


Elin Karlsson
centre back

- had a foreign adventure at a very young age, even before she was 18, she went to Frederikshavn in Denmark to play for their U18 team
- joined Sävahof in 2012 from BK Heid
- in 2011 participated at the Vasaloppett (90 km cross-country skiing race) two days before a league match (three goals)
- dreams of climbing Kilimanjaro


Johanna Forsberg
line player

- suddenly moved up in the team after Linn Blohm and Frida Tegstedt left the club ahead of this season
- only 19 years old and is expected to be part of the first team
- debuted in the EHF Champions League last season, but did not get much court time
- nominated for the Sweden U20 national team this year


Ida Oden
right back

- one of the most versatile female handball players, not only in Sävahof, but in Swedish handball in general
- although her basic position is the right back, she also functions very well as centre back and as left back
- international debut for Sweden in 2012
- came to Sävahof in 2004 from Borås HK
- works at an IT company


Jenny Wikensten
right wing

- moving up as replacement for former first-choice right wing Hanna Fogelström
- was reluctant to extend her contract with the club after last season, but the increased responsibility made her stay
- has won eight Swedish championships with Sävahof
- also works as a school teacher

GROUP C



Playing hall

Dom Sportova hall 2

Trg Kresimira Cosica 11

10000 Zagreb

Croatia

Capacity: 2,000

Club Address:

Lokomotiva Zagreb

Crnatkova 18

10000 Zagreb

Croatia

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Online information:

Website: www.rklomotiva.hrFacebook: [RKLokomotivaZagreb](https://www.facebook.com/RKLokomotivaZagreb)Twitter: [@RK_LokomotivaZG](https://twitter.com/RK_LokomotivaZG)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white

Player short: blue

Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: blue

Player short: blue

Goalkeeper shirt: green

HC Lokomotiva Zagreb (CRO)

Since the Croatian championship was introduced the men's competition has always belonged to RK Zagreb, and with two exceptions (when the title went to Zagreb in both 1992 and 2004), former EHF Champions League winner Podravka have always been the women's champions.

HC Lokomotiva Zagreb have been in hot pursuit of the title for ten years, and last season, after changing the coach from Nenad Sostaric to legendary Irfan Smajlagic in March, Lokomotiva Zagreb finished on top of the league and raised the trophy for the third time. In contrast with their coach, who has previously worked with men's side Bosna Sarajevo, Lokomotiva have no EHF Champions League experience. Twice – in 2004 and 2013 – they were eliminated in the qualification stage.

Now, they are finally one of Europe's top 16 women's handball teams. Klaudija Bubalo, manager of Lokomotiva, is looking forward the new challenge: "This is our first season in the Women's EHF Champions League. It is an honour to play in such a big competition with the best European teams. We want to present ourselves in the best possible way. Objectively, we appear to be the underdogs of our group, but even this can be positive for us, because other teams don't know us."

During the off-season Lokomotiva signed five new players, but lost one of their stars, as Croatian international Anita Gace joined Russian champions Dinamo-Sinara. As they prepare for their first participation in the group phase, the Croats are facing high hurdles: defending champions Györ, three-time champions Viborg and Swedish champions Sävehof.

"In the Women's EHF Champions League there is no weak team," says Bubalo, adding: "We are in a group with two-time winners Györ. They deserve respect, but I think we can compete with them thanks to our good defence. But Györ have a huge budget on top of their high-quality players, as do Viborg. The Danish champions can also count on a very good team, which plays as fast as long-term Swedish champions Sävehof do. For us the most important thing is to focus on our defence."

Lokomotiva's team captain Sonja Basic also praises the upcoming opponents.

"Györ are the best team in Europe and they have a few new players, but they are not invincible. Sävehof constantly demonstrate their strength in attack, but they are weaker in defence. Viborg do not have the team structure as in the previous years, but they are still good. So we have to concentrate on our game; as Klaudija Bubalo said, defence is the key. With good defence we can keep up with everyone. In home matches we have to give all we can to satisfy our fans and supporters."

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Croatian champions

Newcomers:

Katarina Jezic (Buducnost)

Michaela Hrbkova (DHC Sokol Poruba)

Neli Irman (RK Krim Mercator)

Ivana Lovric (ZRK Samobor)

Dina Havic (HC Podravka Vegeta)

Left the club:

Dubravka Bukovina (RK Zelina)

Anita Gace (Dinamo-Sinara)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/2015 season): 2

Qualification (1): 2004/05

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: runners-up 1995/96, 1997/98

Challenge Cup: semi-final 2011/12

EHF Cup: Last 16 2006/07

Croatian league: 2 titles (2004, 2014)

Croatian cup: 4 titles

HC Lokomotiva Zagreb (CRO)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
29	Sonja	Basic	CRO	Centre Back	26.11.1987	Zagreb, CRO	180
25	Aneta	Benko	CRO	Right Wing	29.7.1985	Zagreb, CRO	174
4	Ivana	Bozovic	MNE	Left Back	28.1.1991	Podgorica, MNE	178
3	Tea	Grubisic	CRO	Left Wing	3.12.1985	Zagreb, CRO	169
31	Dina	Havic	CRO	Left Back	13.11.1987	Rijeka, CRO	183
23	Lidija	Horvat	CRO	Right Back	5.5.1982	Zagreb, CRO	184
10	Michaela	Hrbkova	CZE	Right Back	14.7.1987	Olomouc, CZE	170
19	Neli	Irman	SLO	Right Wing	7.4.1986	Celje, SLO	172
18	Natasa	Jankovic	CRO	Right Wing	27.8.1991	Zagreb, CRO	169
16	Ivana	Jelcic	CRO	Goalkeeper	16.3.1980	Mostar, CRO	179
7	Katarina	Jezic	CRO	Line Player	19.12.1992	Rijeka, CRO	173
77	Ena	Konta	CRO	Right Wing	10.1.1994	Rijeka, CRO	168
14	Maja	Koznjak	CRO	Centre Back	16.4.1985	Virovitica, CRO	172
8	Ivana	Lovric	CRO	Centre Back	1.9.1984	Zagreb, CRO	174
26	Iva	Milanovic Litre	CRO	Right Back	6.8.1988	Sinj, CRO	184
33	Marija	Milic	CRO	Left Back	25.9.1992	Zagreb, CRO	178
5	Petra	Ostarjas	CRO	Left Back	25.2.1991	Varazdin, CRO	175
17	Sanja	Rajovic	SRB	Line Player	18.5.1981	Arandjelovac, SRB	174
1	Marina	Razum	CRO	Goalkeeper	25.2.1992	Zagreb, CRO	181
2	Kristina	Smiljanic	CRO	Left Wing	25.12.1991	Zagreb, CRO	160




Irfan Smajlagic
 coach

- biggest name in the club, thanks to the reputation that still stands from his career as a right wing
- has coached the Croatia junior teams and was Lino Cervar's assistant at the Men's WCh 2003 (gold) and the 2004 Olympic Games (gold)
- gained club coaching experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina with Bosna Sarajevo and HC Zamet
- 2014/15 is his first season with Lokomotiva and also his first women's handball club experience

OG: B 1988, G 1996, EURO: B 1994, WCh: S 1995 (as player)


Ivana Jelcic
 goalkeeper

- extensive experience in the CL from seven years played with Podravka
- injured soon after her move to Zagreb in the 2013/14 season
- as a long-time member of the Croatia national team with 192 international matches under her belt she is sure to play an important role in Lokomotiva
- together with goalkeeper coach Zdenko Zorko, she will be a valuable mentor for young Croatian goalkeeper, Marina Razum, this season


Tea Grubisic
 left wing

- valuable team player every club needs – reliable when it comes to scoring goals and is an important part of the team's defence
- has experience playing in the CL from her days with Podravka
- one of Samobor's most valuable players when they contested the 2012/13 Challenge Cup final
- this season could well be the golden year of her career


Sonja Basic
 left back

- versatile player, able to play any position in either attack or defence
- returned to Lokomotiva, her first club, in the 2013/14 season after two years spent with Metalurg
- has solid support in the form of her father, legendary Yugoslavia and Metaloplastika Sabac goalkeeper, Mirko Basic, as well as her friend and supporter, Olympic and World Champion in the women's discus throw, Sandra Perkovic


Ivana Lovric
 centre back

- Lokomotiva's fastest player and will therefore be in charge of keeping the rhythm of the game at the highest level possible
- returned to the club after seasons with Metz, DVSC-Korvex and Samobor
- reached the 2012/13 Challenge Cup final with Samobor and gained the CL experience with Metz
- also part of the Croatia beach handball team


Sanja Rajovic
 line player

- Lokomotiva's current star, proving extremely valuable in both attack and defence for the club
- Serbian international who was born in Arandjelovac – the same city as the 2013/14 VELUX EHF CL top scorer Momir Ilic
- Lokomotiva is her first non-Serbian club following years playing with Kikinda, Knjaz Milos and Zajecar
- decided to stay with Zagreb after they ended ten-years of Podravka's dominance in the league

WCh: S 2013


Lidija Horvat
 right back

- tall left hander has a quality shot and is a member of the Croatia national team
- has been plagued by injuries throughout her career
- Lokomotiva's most experienced player behind Jelcic, with several years playing in the CL for Podravka, Romanian Brasov and Buducnost
- returned to Zagreb, where she was born and spent much of her childhood, before the 2013/14 season


Aneta Benko
 right wing

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

Group D preview



ROMANIAN POWERHOUSE AND AMBITIOUS NORWEGIAN TEAM

Reinforced HCM Baia Mare and Norwegian record champions Larvik appear as favourites in Group D of the Women's EHF Champions League, where Metz Handball and MKS Selgros Lublin will probably have to fight about the last main round ticket.

With so prominent signings as goalkeeper Barbara Arenhart as well as wingers Camilla Herrem and Alexandra do Nascimento, just to mention a few, it is no wonder that HCM Baia Mare are dreaming of a journey to the Women's EHF FINAL4 in Budapest in May next year. No less than 12 new signings, most of whom being international top names, obviously place the Romanian team as not only favourites in Group D, but perhaps among the favourites in the tournament in general, provided that coach Costica Buceschi can make the team with all those new players click.

There is no doubt that Baia Mare will get keen competition from Larvik who are eager to celebrate the club's 25 year anniversary in May next year by playing the Women's EHF FINAL4 which they missed last season. Particularly interesting will be the goalkeeper position, where the Danish newcomer Sandra Toft will be forming the goalkeeper duo with Alma Hasanica after the two legendary veterans Lene Rantala and Cecilie Leganger have both ended their career.

Apart from Sandra Toft, other interesting signings by Larvik are left wing Sanna Solberg from Norwegian league colleagues Stabæk, line player Marit Malm Frafjord who has returned home from Danish champions Viborg HK, and Polish left back Alina Wojtas who has joined from group opponents MKS Selgros Lublin.

Metz and Lublin hope to surprise

With no less than 15 new players, Metz Handball seem to be sending on an almost entirely new team, where also the coach, Jeremy Roussel is new. Among the newcomers, right back Claudine Mendy, who has joined from Issy Paris Hand, seems to be the most obvious reinforcement, but still, Metz should probably be happy that three teams from each group proceed to the main round this season.

This also applies to MKS Selgros Lublin who will probably feel the loss of left back Alina Wojtas to group rivals Larvik. Lublin is one of very few top clubs with a female coach, and Sabina Wlodek will have her work cut out for her when trying to qualify the Polish champions for the main round.

by Peter Bruun

Group D head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group D opponents in the EC

Larvik vs MKS Selgros Lublin

04.01.2003	MKS POL-SKONE Lublin vs Larvik HK, EHF Champions League – Group C	20:20 (10:10)
15.02.2013	Larvik HK vs MKS POL-SKONE Lublin, EHF Champions League – Group C	27:19 (15:10)
04.01.2004	KS BYSTRZYCA Lublin vs Larvik HK, EHF Champions League – Group D	25:32 (11:14)
15.02.2004	Larvik HK vs KS BYSTRZYCA Lublin, EHF Champions League – Group D	33:26 (17:14)

HCM Baia Mare vs MKS Selgros Lublin

07.02.2010	SPR Lublin SSA vs HCM Stiinta Baia Mare, EHF Cup – Last 16	24:19 (12:9)
14.02.2010	HCM Stiinta Baia Mare vs SPR Lublin SSA, EHF Cup – Last 16	27:30 (11:16)

No previous encounters in European competitions

Larvik vs HCM Baia Mare
 Larvik vs Metz Handball
 HCM Baia Mare vs Metz Handball
 Metz Handball vs MKS Selgros Lublin

GROUP D

Larvik HK (NOR)



This season the Women's EHF Champions League 2011 winners and 2013 finalists, Larvik, aim to reclaim their position of dominance as one of the best four teams of the competition; a feat that would earn them a spot at the FINAL4 in May 2015 – exactly 25 years after the Norwegian club was founded in May 1990. In those 25 years Larvik has dominated Norwegian women's club handball like no other team before, winning the domestic championship 16 times and the cup competition 14 times.

The biggest off-season change to the experienced side occurred between the posts – legendary goalkeepers Cecilie Leganger and Lene Rantala have both retired from professional handball to be replaced by young Dane Sandra Toft. Ambitious new arrivals including Norwegian World and Olympic Champion Marit Malm Frafjord and Polish international Alina Wojtas have boosted the already strong squad further. Wojtas and Toft are the only non-Norwegians in the team.

Assistant coach Tor Odvar Moen expects a clear improvement from last season, particularly on the international level – Larvik progressed only as far as the main round in the EHF Champions League 2013/14.

"This season we have a team with much more depth than before. The newcomers are growing into the team with every day that goes by, and I feel that the players who were here last year are very eager to hit back from how our last international season ended in March. We will fight hard to get back among the top four!" Moen said.

Former World Handball Player of the Year and Larvik team captain Gro Hammerseng-Edin feels "a new energy in the team and the hunger to fight back from last season when we were very disappointed with the outcome in the Champions League.

"The fact that we have several new players brings the competition for playing time to a new level, which I believe is very healthy. We will fight hard to get back among the four best teams this season, but I do know that many of the other teams look stronger this year as well. This edition of the Champions League will be amazing!" Hammerseng-Edin concludes.



Playing hall

Arena Larvik
Hoffsgate 6
3262 Larvik
Norway
Capacity: 4,000

Club Address:

Larvik
Sverresgate 7
N-3256 Larvik
Norway

Media contact:

Tor Odvar Moen
+47 479 38 803
tor@larvikhk.no

Online information:

Website: www.larvikhk.no
Facebook: [larvikhk](https://www.facebook.com/larvikhk)
Twitter: [@LarvikHK](https://twitter.com/LarvikHK)

Kit colours

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

Dark
Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: green

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Norwegian champions

Newcomers:

Alina Wojtas (MKS Selgros Lublin)
Marit Malm Frafjord (Viborg HK)
Sandra Toft (Team Tvis Holstebro)
Mari Kristine Sobstad Molid (Levanger HK)
Sanna Charlotte Solberg (Stabaek Handball)

Left the club:

Lene Rantala (retired)
Cecilie Leganger (retired)
Kari Mette Johansen (retired)
Jeanette Kristiansen (Glassverket IF)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 16
Winners (1): 2010/11
Runners-up (1): 2012/13
Semi-final (4): 2001/02, 2003/04, 2009/10, 2011/12
Quarter-final (3): 2000/01, 2002/03, 2006/07
Main Round (1): 2013/14
Group Matches (5): 1994/95, 1997/98, 2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2004/05, 2007/08, Semi-final 1996/97, 2005/06
EHF Cup: Runners-up 2005/06

Norwegian league: 16 titles (1994, 1997, 2000-03, 2005-2014)
Norwegian cup: 14 titles

Larvik HK (NOR)



Biggest win:	41:20 (24:9) v Dinamo RUS (h), 12.02.2011
Biggest defeat:	29:17 (17:7) v RK Krim Neutro Roberts SLO (a), 10.03.2001
Longest winning run:	6 matches (17.04.2010 – 13.11.2010) 6 matches (05.03.2011 – 07.05.2011) 6 matches (28.10.2012 – 10.02.2013)
Longest unbeaten run:	6 matches (17.04.2010 – 13.11.2010) 6 matches (05.03.2011 – 07.05.2011) 6 matches (28.10.2012 – 10.02.2013)
Longest losing run:	4 matches (03.11.2007 – 05.01.2008)
Longest run without win:	5 matches (16.11.2013 – 01.03.2014)
Most goals:	41 v Dinamo RUS 41:20W (h), 12.02.2011
Most goals opponent:	35 v HC 'Lada Togliatti' RUS 35:25L (a), 10.11.2007
Most goals both teams:	70 v IK Sävehof SWE 39:31W (h), 13.10.2012
Fewest goals:	13 v Buducnost MNE 23:13L (a), 08.04.2012
Fewest goals opponent:	16 v Oltchim Valcea ROU 22:16W (h), 10.02.2001 16 v Buducnost MNE 28:16W (h), 16.03.2013
Fewest goals both teams:	35 v HC Dinamo RUS 18:17W (h), 08.11.2009

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 Larvik HK NOR	6	2	1	3	141:144	-3	5		3rd Gr. A
1997/98 Larvik HK NOR	6	3	0	3	165:150	+15	6		3rd Gr. C
2000/01 Larvik HK NOR	8	5	0	3	193:181	+12	10		1/4-finals
2001/02 Larvik HK NOR	10	7	1	2	262:253	+9	15		1/2-finals
2002/03 Larvik HK NOR	8	4	1	3	216:193	+23	9		1/4-finals
2003/04 Larvik HK NOR	10	5	1	4	287:262	+25	11		1/2-finals
2005/06 Larvik HK NOR	6	3	0	3	153:154	-1	6		3rd Gr. A
2006/07 Larvik HK NOR	8	5	0	3	236:211	+25	10		1/4-finals
2007/08 Larvik HK NOR	6	2	0	4	166:179	-13	4		3rd Gr. C
2008/09 Larvik HK NOR	6	3	0	3	179:169	+10	6		3rd Gr. C
2009/10 Larvik HK NOR	14	10	0	4	365:339	+26	20		1/2-finals
2010/11 Larvik NOR	16	13	0	3	469:376	+93	26		Winner
2011/12 Larvik NOR	14	6	2	6	336:330	+6	14		1/2-finals
2012/13 Larvik NOR	16	10	0	6	435:379	+56	20		Runner-up
2013/14 Larvik NOR	12	5	2	5	304:280	+24	12		3rd MR Gr. 2
Total	146	83	8	55	3907:3600	+307	174		

Larvik HK (NOR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
6	Tine Rustad	Albertsen	NOR	Back	12.2.1980	Lorenskog, NOR	172
20	Frida Helene	Bjaaland	NOR	Left Back	5.7.1995	Porsgrunn, NOR	179
5	Isabel	Blanco	NOR	Line Player	10.5.1979	Bergen, NOR	175
14	Kristine	Breistøl	NOR	Left Back	23.8.1993	Oslo, NOR	191
8	Karoline Dyhre	Breivang	NOR	Back	10.5.1980	Oslo, NOR	172
4	Marit Malm	Frafjord	NOR	Line Player	25.11.1985	Tromsø, NOR	182
3	Anja	Hammerseng-Edin	NOR	Back	5.2.1983	Porsgrunn, NOR	179
10	Gro	Hammerseng-Edin	NOR	Back	10.4.1980	Gjøvik, NOR	180
12	Alma	Hasanic	NOR	Goalkeeper	13.5.1989	Sije, NOR	176
13	Vilde Ingeborg	Johansen	NOR	Line Player	25.7.1994	Tønsberg, NOR	182
11	Linn-Kristin	Koren Riegelhuth	NOR	Right Wing	1.8.1984	Lorenskog, NOR	175
2	Tonje	Larsen	NOR	Back	26.1.1975	Tonsberg, NOR	185
77	Cecilie	Leganger	NOR	Goalkeeper	12.3.1975	Bergen, NOR	181
18	Lise	Loke	NOR	Line Player	21.9.1984	Tønsberg, NOR	171
21	Sofie Heide	Lund	NOR	Left Wing	7.3.1994	Bærum, NOR	163
9	Nora	Mørk	NOR	Right Wing	5.4.1991	Oslo, NOR	167
19	Thea	Mørk	NOR	Left Wing	5.4.1991	Oslo, NOR	168
7	Mari Kristine	Søbstad Molid	NOR	Back	8.8.1990	Trondheim, NOR	178
22	Sanna Charlotte	Solberg	NOR	Left Wing	16.6.1990	Bærum, NOR	178
17	Tine	Stange	NOR	Back	14.5.1986	Tonsberg, NOR	179
15	Linn Jorum	Sulland	NOR	Right Back	15.7.1984	Oslo, NOR	178
1	Sandra	Toft	DEN	Goalkeeper	18.10.1989	Gribskov, DEN	176
28	Alina	Wojtas	POL	Left Back	21.3.1987	Nowy Sacz, POL	191




Ole Gustav Gjekstad
coach

- former Norwegian international (149 caps) quit his playing career in 1996
- became coach of Larvik for the first time in 1998
- after seven years on the bench he became sports director of the club and later-on coach of Norwegian men's club team Drammen HK
- in 2011, after Larvik had become CL winners returned to their bench and only narrowly missed the trophy after their defeat by Győr in 2012/13


Sandra Toft
goalkeeper

- her 25th birthday on 18 October 2014 marks also her debut in the CL (against Metz Handball)
- 2014/15 is her first season outside her native country Denmark after she came from Holstebro
- became number one for Denmark when Karin Mortensen and Christina Nymand Pedersen quit the national team after the London Olympics 2012
- broke a neck vertebra in a car accident in 2009 and was close to being paralysed from the neck down – she was back on the court in five months


Thea Mørk
left wing

- Nora Mørk's twin has been playing in the same team as her sister since the age of five – except for the 2009/10 season
- technically skilled left winger with a fine variation of shots
- 2012/13 was her breakthrough season scoring 31 goals in the CL
- her other sister Kaja plays handball in Nordstrand


Gro Hammerseng-Edin
left back

- World Handball Player of the year (2007)
- excluding the 2011 WCh title and the 2012 Olympic gold - she has the same medals as Riegelhuth-Koren
- several times the 32-year-old Norwegian was nominated for All-Star Teams at major tournaments
- in 2011 she was a key part of Larvik's CL winning team
- in 2013 she retired from the national team

EC trophies: CL 2011

EC trophies: CL 2011, Cup Winners' Cup 2004
OG: G 2008, WCh: S 2001, 2007, EHF EURO: G 2004, 2006, 2010, S 2002


Anja Hammerseng-Edin
centre back

- awarded the MVP at the EHF EURO 2012 after she led Norway to the silver medal
- also for her club team she has proven to be extremely valuable – at orchestrating Larvik's attacking play
- played in Gerpen and Storhamar before she joined Larvik in 2012
- in the 2013 summer she got married to her teammate Gro Hammerseng.


Isabel Blanco
line player

- after a glorious career in Danish top club Ikast/FC Midtjylland, she returned home to Norway to join Larvik in the summer of 2011
- highly skilled painter and photographer with several exhibitions behind her
- her father Fernando was a Spanish football player, who played for Bran Bergen in the 70s
- spent one season in Spain playing for Ferrobuss Mislata

EHF EURO: S 2012, WCh: B 2009

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2002, 2011
EHF EURO: G 2004, 2008


Linn Jorum Sulland
right back

- her parents were handball players and her mother Guro Jorum won 51 caps for Norway
- joined Larvik in 2009, when she joined from another Norwegian league team, Stabæk
- already in 2005/06 she was voted for the best player of the league and also was the top scorer
- usually using her strength in the attack only, but here the team benefits a lot from her varied shots from the right back position


Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth-Koren
right wing

- one of the most decorated players in the handball history
- World Handball Player of the Year (2008)
- All-Star Team member at EHF EURO 2008 and WCh 2009
- EHF EURO 2008 topscorer (51 goals)
- scored over 900 goals for Norway's national team
- married to Norwegian international Einar Koren.

EC trophies: CL 2011
OG: G 2012, WCh: G 2011, S 2007, EHF EURO: G 2008, 2010, S 2012

EC trophies: CL 2011, Cup Winners' Cup 2005, 2008
OG: G 2008, 2012, WCh: G 2011, S 2007, EHF EURO: G 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, S 2012

GROUP D



HCM Baia Mare (ROU)

It has been four years since a Romanian team played in the final of the Women's EHF Champions League, and now a new star seems to be on the rise. Following their first ever appearance in this competition in 2013/14 (when they were eliminated after the group matches), HCM Baia Mare bolstered their squad with big names – similar to the tactics that saw Vardar achieve qualification for the Women's EHF FINAL4 for the first time in 2014.

The Romanian champions have changed almost their entire squad, signing big names such as 2012 World Handball Player of the Year Alexandra Do Nascimento, fellow Brazilian Barbara Arenhart and Norwegian Camilla Herrem. In addition, the squad has been strengthened with the arrival of four players from Russia and Dutch scoring machine Lois Abbingh.

Now, Baia Mare are ready to continue following in Vardar's footsteps all the way to the FINAL4 in Budapest. Coach Costica Buceschi has a tough challenge ahead to ensure his team of world-class individuals become a world-class team, but members of the club are optimistic that Baia Mare – facing Larvik, Metz and Lublin in the group stage – will go all the way this season.

"We had our first taste of the Champions League last year. We enjoyed the experience, so we are back for more this year. We have a strong team with many top players, and we hope for a long journey through the Champions League. Hopefully, my next statement will be given prior to the FINAL4," says manager Liviu Bala.

Team captain Valentina Neli Ardean Elisei, one of the club's newcomers, is a little more reserved: "We are looking forward to playing in the Champions League. We are training precisely for those matches and I think every single player hopes to go as far as possible in this prestigious competition. We have been working very hard and we have a strong team. We want to show our best in the Champions League so we can reach the highest level possible."

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Romanian champions

Newcomers:

Valentina Neli Ardean Elisei (CSM Cetate Devatrans)
Camilla Herrem (Byasen Trondheim)
Barbara Arenhart (Hypo Niederösterreich)
Alexandra Do Nascimento (Hypo)
Ekaterina Davydenko (Lada)
Ksenia Makeeva (Dinamo Volgograd)
Elena Gjeorgjievskaja (Buducnost)
Lois Abbingh (VFL Oldenburg)
Liliya Artsiukhovich (Zvezda Zvenigorod)
Anastasiya Lobach (Zvezda Zvenigorod)
Bianca Elena Tiron (CSU Neptun Constanta)
Yuliya Dumanska (CSU Neptun Constanta).

Left the club:

Aneta Pirvut (SCM Craiova)
Andrada Maior Pasca (HC Zalau)
Andrada Cynthia Tomescu (SCM Craiova)
Oana Carmina Bondar (Corona Brasov)
Renata Andrada Ghionea (unknown)
Mihaela Andreea Babeanu (HCM Ramnicu Valcea)
Diana Alina Puiu (HC Zalau)
Alexandra Loredana Ciunt (HC Zalau)
Reka Tamas (Muresul Targu Mures)
Ana-Maria Tanasie (SCM Craiova)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 2
Group matches (1): 2013/14

Other

Challenge Cup: runners-up 2002/03

Romanian league: 1 title (2014)
Romanian cup: 2 titles



Playing hall

Sala Polivalenta Lascar Pana
Bd. Unirii Nr.14 A
430272 Baia Mare - Maramures
Romania
Capacity: 2,080

Club Address:

HCM Baia Mare
BD.Bucuresti Nr. 47 A
430012 Baia Mare
Romania

Media contact:

Ramona Ioana Pop
+40744839987
meramonaioana@gmail.com

Online information:

Website: www.hcmbaiamare.ro
Facebook: [HCM-Baia-Mare](https://www.facebook.com/HCM-Baia-Mare)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

HCM Baia Mare (ROU)



Biggest win:	24:23 (08:12) v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT (h), 19.10.2013 20:19 (10:11) v Thüringer HC GER (h), 10.11.2013
Biggest defeat:	21:33 (10:16) v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN (h), 12.10.2013
Longest winning run:	1 match (19.10.2013) 1 match (10.11.2013)
Longest unbeaten run:	1 match (19.10.2013) 1 match (10.11.2013)
Longest losing run:	2 matches (06.10.2013 – 12.10.2013)
Longest run without win:	2 matches (06.10.2013 – 12.10.2013)
Most goals:	29 v Thüringer HC GER 36:29L (a), 06.10.2013
Most goals opponent:	36 v Thüringer HC GER 36:29L (a), 06.10.2013
Most goals both teams:	65 v Thüringer HC GER 36:29L (a), 06.10.2013
Fewest goals:	20 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 23:20L (a), 02.11.2013 20 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 20:19W (h), 10.11.2013
Fewest goals opponent:	19 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 20:19W (h), 10.11.2013
Fewest goals both teams:	39 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 20:19W (h), 10.11.2013

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2013/14 HCM Baia Mare ROU	6	2	0	4	140:162	-22	4		4th Gr. A
Total	6	2	0	4	140:162	-22	4		

HCM Baia Mare (ROU)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
15	Valentina Neli	Ardean Elisei	ROU	Left Wing	5.6.1982	Focsani, ROU	171
12	Barbara Elisabeth	Arenhart	BRA	Goalkeeper	4.10.1986	Novo Hamburgo, BRA	184
7	Eliza Iulia	Buceschi	ROU	Left Back	1.8.1993	Baia Mare, ROU	178
16	Claudia Bogdana	Cetateanu	ROU	Goalkeeper	24.6.1976	Baia Sprie, ROU	179
25	Ekaterina	Davydenko	RUS	Right Back	7.3.1989	Togliatti, RUS	184
29	Teodora	Dinis Vartic	ROU	Line Player	2.7.1981	Bistrita, ROU	177
3	Alexandra Priscilla	Do Nascimento	BRA	Right Wing	16.9.1981	Sao Paulo, BRA	179
96	Yuliya	Dumanska	UKR	Goalkeeper	15.8.1996	Gorodenka, UKR	177
5	Melinda	Geiger	ROU	Right Back	28.3.1987	Baia Mare, ROU	177
18	Elena	Gjeorgjievskia	MKD	Right Back	27.3.1990	Struga, MKD	179
79	Camilla	Herrem	NOR	Left Wing	8.10.1986	Sola, NOR	169
17	Anastasiya	Lobach	BLR	Line Player	25.6.1987	Minsk, BLR	178
19	Kseniya	Makeeva	RUS	Line Player	19.9.1990	Ufa, RUS	184
22	Luciana Andreea	Marin	ROU	Centre Back	13.10.1988	Slatina, ROU	176
77	Adriana Nicoleta	Nechita	ROU	Right Wing	14.11.1983	Bailesti, ROU	172
4	Ioana Laura	Oltean	ROU	Centre Back	20.7.1989	Bistrita, ROU	174
9	Ibolya Gabriella	Szucs	HUN	Left Back	31.8.1984	Oradea, ROU	184
23	Timea Judita	Tatar	ROU	Line Player	28.7.1989	Baia Mare, ROU	174
95	Bianca Elena	Tiron	ROU	Left Back	31.5.1995	Iasi, ROU	178
30	Paula Claudia	Ungureanu	ROU	Goalkeeper	30.3.1980	Brasov, ROU	181





Costica Buceschi coach

- started coaching six years ago as an assistant in HCM Baia Mare, but made the switch to Minaur, Baia Mare, men's team, in 2011
- came back to HCM after only six months and has coached the Romanian champions ever since
- always likes to wear a cap during the matches
- after an underwhelming start of the 2014/15 season, Buceschi handed his resignation, but the club's board rejected it



Barbara Arenhart goalkeeper

- immediately made an impact at her new team, after being transferred from Hypo in the 2014 summer
- Baia Mare is her fourth European team in seven years, after she played for Sagunto in Spain, Byasen in Norway and Hypo in Austria
- voted for the All-Star Team of the WCh 2013
- competes for a spot in the starting roster with Paula Ungureanu

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2013
WCh: G 2013, Pan-American Championship: G 2011, 2013



Valentina Elisei left wing

- one of the most experienced players in Baia Mare's roster
- after a ligament tear, Elisei made a one year break from handball and had a baby, Robert, in January 2013
- signed with Baia Mare after only two weeks
- will split her duties with Norwegian ace Camilla Herrem, who came to Baia Mare in the 2014 summer, from Byasen Trondheim

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2007, Champions Trophy 2007, Challenge Cup 2002
WCh: S 2005, EHF EURO: B 2010



Eliza Buceschi left back

- despite her young age, 21, she has already been selected many times for the Romania national team
- her father Costica is Baia Mare's coach
- on the 31st of January 2011, the Buceschi family made history in the Romanian League for Baia Mare as Carmen and Eliza – mother and daughter – played on the same time, while Costica was coaching
- left back spot can be covered also by Belarusian Liliya Artsiukovich or Hungarian Gabriella Szucs



Luciana Marin centre back

- always considered to be a prodigy, never made the step forward in her early 20s
- started playing handball as a 9-year-old, but her career was hampered by several injuries
- her father played football and was a wrestler, while her sister played handball and was a javelin thrower (silver in the Romanian Championships)
- before important matches, she likes to call her family and one of her first coaches, who helped her in difficult situations



Anastasia Lobach line player

- in 11 years Belarusian changed eight teams including Zvezda where she tasted the CL in 2012/13
- her second experience in Romania, after playing one season (2011/2012) at HC Dunarea Braila
- excellent defender, bolstering the Romanian Champions' depth in both defence and offence
- will share her duties with other three players including Ksenia Makeeva, one of the additions of the last summer for Baia Mare



Ekaterina Davydenko right back

- decided to make a change and joined the Romanian champions after eight years spent in Russia, playing for Lada
- the strong defender became one of Baia Mare's best options both in defence and in attack, with a powerful shot from behind the 9m line
- if needed, Baia Mare can cover her with Elena Gjorgjievska and Melinda Geiger. The latter will make her comeback from injury in February 2015



Adriana Nechita right wing

- one of the most experienced players in the team
- her passion is photography and modeling, acted as a reporter for different Romanian TV stations
- followed by nearly 6,000 people on her official Facebook account
- will battle for a starting spot with Alexandra do Nascimento, the Brazilian World Handball Player of the Year in 2012

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2012, 2014
EHF EURO: S 2006, B 2008

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2007, Champions Trophy 2007
EHF EURO: B 2010

GROUP D



Playing hall

"Les Arenes" Metz

5 av. Rue Louis le Debonnaire
57000 Metz
France
Capacity: 4,500

Club Address:

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20 Rue des Mirabelles
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Facebook: [MetzHandballOfficiel](https://www.facebook.com/MetzHandballOfficiel)
Twitter: [@MetzHandball](https://twitter.com/MetzHandball)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Metz Handball (FRA)

The French women's champions, Metz Handball, will be playing under a new coach this season; Jeremy Roussel arrived at the club from men's team Aix-en-Provence, replacing previous Metz coach, Sandor Rac.

The 36-year-old can count on a broad squad, including a number of French talents such as Claudine Mendy, who played for Buducnost and Issy Paris Hand before joining Metz this season. The French have high hopes Mendy, and fellow newcomer, Slovenian Ana Gros, can have a major impact on the team.

Along with Mendy and Gros, the club welcomed eight young French players, all of whom will be playing their first European Cup season this year. National team members Nina Kamto Njitam and Paule Baudouin remain with Metz.

Roussel, who has previously coached both Nikola and Luka Karabatic, aims to lead Metz to the main round of the EHF Champions League – a stage the club has missed in the previous two seasons.

Under the new playing format three teams from each group in the group phase will continue to the main round so Metz's chances are stronger than before, but the team will face two strong contenders for the FINAL4 – Larvik and Baia Mare – in this early stage of the competition. Their other opponent in Group D is Polish club, Lublin.

Qualifying for the main round would be the perfect way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the club, which falls during the 2014/15 season.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: French champions

Newcomers:

Claudine Mendy (Issy Paris Hand)
Ana Gros (Thüringer HC)
Hawa N'Diaye
Fiona Carrara
Raissa Dapina
Manon Entringer
Aude Euphrasie
Manon Hemmerlin
Helene Sajka
Julie Sias
Lilla Toth
Deborah Kpodar
Margaux Cintrat
Lindsay Burlet
Tamara Horacek (all from youth system)

Left the club:

Marie Prudhomme (Nantes)
Barbora Ranikova (AS Cannes)
Svetlana Ognjenovic (end of career)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 17
Main Round (1): 2011/12
Last 16 (2): 1994/95, 1995/96
Last 32 (1): 1993/94
Group Matches (8): 1996/97, 1997/98, 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2002/03, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2013/14
Qualification (4): 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08

Other

EHF Cup: Runners-up 2012/13, quarter-final 2000/01, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2007/08
Cup Winners' Cup: semi-final 1998/99, 2003/04, 2009/10, 2010/11

French league: 19 titles (1989, 1990, 1993-1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2004-2009, 2011, 2013, 2014)
French cup: 6 titles

Metz Handball (FRA)



Biggest win:	30:20 (20:10) v IK Sävehof SWE (h), 17.11.2013
Biggest defeat:	34:17 (13:10) v Mar El Osito L'Elia ESP (a), 25.01.1998
Longest winning run:	2 matches (30.01.2000 – 05.02.2000) 2 matches (09.11.2008 – 15.11.2008) 2 matches (15.01.2010 – 01.10.2011) 2 matches (10.11.2013 – 17.11.2013)
Longest unbeaten run:	2 matches (04.01.1998 – 11.01.1998) 2 matches (30.01.2000 – 05.02.2000) 2 matches (09.11.2008 – 15.11.2008) 2 matches (15.01.2010 – 01.10.2011) 2 matches (10.11.2013 – 17.11.2013)
Longest losing run:	6 matches (11.01.2003 – 01.11.2008)
Longest run without win:	8 matches (10.11.1996 – 15.11.1997) 8 matches (04.02.2012 – 12.10.2013)
Most goals:	32 v 1. FC Nürnberg Handball GER 32:24W (h), 15.11.2008
Most goals opponent:	37 v Viborg HK DEN 24:37L (h), 01.11.2008 37 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 30:37L (h), 24.10.2009
Most goals both teams:	67 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 30:37L (h), 24.10.2009
Fewest goals:	14 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 27:14L (a), 17.11.1996
Fewest goals opponent:	17 v Byasen Trondheim NOR 16:17L (h), 10.11.1996
Fewest goals both teams:	33 v Byasen Trondheim NOR 16:17L (h), 10.11.1996

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 ASPTT Metz FRA	6	0	2	4	108:137	-29	2		4th Gr. C
1997/98 ASPTT Metz HB FRA	6	1	1	4	135:166	-31	3		4th Gr. B
1999/00 ASPTT Metz FRA	6	3	0	3	130:121	+9	6		3rd Gr. A
2002/03 Handball Metz Metropole FRA	6	1	0	5	142:176	-34	2		4th Gr. D
2008/09 Metz Handball FRA	6	2	0	4	173:188	-15	4		3rd Gr. D
2009/10 Metz Handball FRA	6	2	1	3	163:174	-11	5		3rd Gr. B
2011/12 Metz Handball FRA	12	3	1	8	298:322	-24	7		4th MR Gr. 2
2013/14 Metz Handball FRA	6	3	0	3	149:144	+5	6		3rd Gr. C
Total	54	15	5	34	1298:1428	-130	35		

Metz Handball (FRA)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
17	Ekaterina	Andryushina	RUS	Centre Back	17.8.1985	Moskau, RUS	186
9	Paule	Baudouin	FRA	Left Wing	25.10.1984	Saint-Denis, FRA	172
14	Yvette	Broch	NED	Line Player	21.12.1990	Monster, NED	185
66	Lindsay	Burlet	FRA	Right Back	6.6.1994	Villepinte, FRA	180
19	Fiona	Carrara	FRA	Centre Back	16.5.1996	Pontault Combault, FRA	169
46	Margaux	Cintrat	FRA	Goalkeeper	2.11.1995	Starsbourg, FRA	185
20	Deborah	Dangueuger	FRA	Goalkeeper	28.4.1994	Metz, FRA	174
25	Raissa	Dapina	FRA	Right Wing	27.9.1995	Paris, FRA	171
27	Manon	Entringer	FRA	Left Wing	5.3.1997	Thionville, FRA	168
21	Aude	Euphrasie	FRA	Back	20.2.1996	Trinité, FRA	166
5	Laura	Flippes	FRA	Right Back	13.12.1994	Starsbourg, FRA	171
1	Laura	Glauser	FRA	Goalkeeper	20.8.1993	Besancon, FRA	178
22	Lara	Gonzales Ortega	ESP	Left Back	22.2.1992	Santa Pola, ESP	184
6	Ana	Gros	SLO	Right Back	21.1.1991	Ljubljana, SLO	186
28	Manon	Hemmerlin	FRA	Back	27.4.1995	Saint-Louis, FRA	180
11	Tamara	Horacek	CRO	Right Back	5.11.1995	Pozega, CRO	180
4	Nina	Kamto Njitam	FRA	Line Player	5.6.1983	Yaounde, SEN	178
33	Deborah	Kpodar	FRA	Left Back	3.6.1994	Iles d'Espagnac, FRA	171
71	Kristina	Liscevic	SRB	Centre Back	20.10.1989	Sombor, SRB	173
30	Jurswailly	Luciano	NED	Right Wing	25.3.1991	Curacao, NED	171
8	Claudine	Mendy	FRA	Right Back	8.1.1990	Mantes Le Joile, FRA	182
15	Hawa	N'Diaye	FRA	Line Player	24.7.1995	Strasbourg, FRA	176
12	Gervaise	Pierson	FRA	Goalkeeper	9.7.1986	Neufchâteau, FRA	178
29	Helene	Sajka	FRA	Left Back	13.9.1997	Nancy, FRA	185
23	Julie	Sias	FRA	Back	27.11.1997	Freming-Merleback, FRA	167
14	Lilla	Toth	FRA	Centre Back	28.2.1995	Budapest, HUN	185
7	Grace	Zaadi Deuna	FRA	Left Back	7.7.1993	Courcouronnes, FRA	171




Jeremy Roussel
coach

- one of the youngest coaches (36) on the bench in the women's CL
- his first experience with training women in Metz
- over the last six seasons he has coached men of Aurillac and Aix-en-Provence
- elected second-best league coach in France in 2002


Gervaise Pierson
goalkeeper

- started handball as a goalkeeper in an all boys team
- first played in her native region, the Vosges, in the east of France.
- never left school for her handball career and is still a student in physiotherapy.
- since 2012, when she helped Metz to reach the EHF Cup final, she has been a strong fans' favourite in Metz


Paule Baudouin
left wing

- since 1999 played all across France, from Le Havre to Mios Biganos to Issy Paris
- played for Esbjerg, Denmark 2008-2010
- along with Nina Kanto, she is the player with the most important international experience in the team
- voted best left wing in the French league in the 2013/14 season.


Lara Gonzales
left back

- member of the Spanish national team signed with Metz in 2012
- according to her flatmate Grace Zaadi (the team's centre back), she is as good at making "delicious fajitas" as she is on the court.
- top scorer of the 2011/12 Spanish league with 220 goals for Club Balonmano Elche
- fourth top scorer of the Junior World Championship 2012 with Spain

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2012
WCh: S 2009, 2011 EHF EURO: B 2006


Kristina Liscevic
centre back

- signed with Metz in January 2012 to replace Allison Pineau, who was seriously injured
- Serbian international has become a fans' favourite and was one of the key players when the team won the French championship in 2013/14
- voted best player of the year in France in 2013
- two championship titles in the Macedonian league in 2011 and 2012 with WHC Metalurg


Yvette Broch
line player

- Dutch international is also known for being the runner-up in Holland's Next Top Model in 2008
- modelled in fashion shows during Amsterdam Fashion Week.
- left this world for handball when she signed with Amsterdam in 2009 but plan to return to the fashion industry after her handball career will be over
- before Metz, she also played for Spain's Alcobendas

WCh: S 2013


Ana Gros
right back

- despite being only 23, the Slovenian became a CL regular in Metz
- played in Germany (Thüringer HC), Hungary (Győr) and also in Slovenia with Krim and Olimpija
- came to Metz in January 2014 and immediately showed her potential by scoring nine goals in her first match.
- become a key player in Jeremy Roussel's squad, often scoring more than five goals.


Jurswailly Luciano
right wing

- a right winger from the Netherlands is not something the French teams are used to, but Luciano has become a sensation since she arrived in 2011
- learned alongside French national player Katty Piejos and reached the spotlight in 2013
- at only 23, she's still got plenty of room for progression

GROUP D



Playing hall

Globus Hall

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

Club Address:

MKS Lublin
ul. Melgiewska 2
20-209 Lublin
Poland

Media contact:

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Online information:

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: violet

Dark

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

MKS Selgros Lublin (POL)

Polish champions MKS Selgros Lublin made their Women's EHF Champions League comeback last season following a ten-year absence from the group stage of the competition. After a year of learning and re-building, the team now hope the time has come to climb the ladder one step further.

When the era of Edward Jankowski as MKS coach ended last season, his former assistant coach Sabina Wlodek took over the position and Monika Marzec was appointed assistant coach. Both were previously players at Lublin and know the club inside-out.

In addition to this young and ambitious duo, Lublin have signed two Brazilian players: left back Patricia Diane De Jesus, arriving from Sao Jose dos Campos, and right wing Jessica Da Silva Quintino from Polish club Vistal Gdynia.

The two Brazilians have been brought on to fill the gaps left by Alina Wojtas, who signed with Lublin's second group matches opponent: Larvik, and retired Malgorzata Majerek, who remains part of the club as youth coach.

After being eliminated in the group stage of the 2013/14 season, Lublin now want to take advantage of the new playing system; in particular the fact that three teams from each of the groups – as oppose to the previous two under the old system – progress to the main round. Along with Larvik, Lublin will face two other tough opponents during the group stage: Romanian champions Baia Mare and French title holders Metz.

With those opponents in mind, team manager Edyta Danielczuk is optimistic the team can qualify for the next stage.

"The purpose of this season for our team is primarily to proceed to the main round. This will not be an easy task because we have a group of tough opponents, but we are counting on strong performances in the elite competition from our team," said Danielczuk.

Team captain Dorota Malek hopes the team can surprise its opponents. "This year our group is very difficult. I hope our team will show its best side. We want to fight to the bitter end," Malek said.

Qualification for the Women's EHF Champions League 2014/15 season: Polish champions

Newcomers:

Patricia Diane De Jesus (Sao Jose dos Campos)
Jessica Da Silva Quintino (Vistal Gdynia)

Left the club:

Alina Wojtas (Larvik)
Malgorzata Majerek (end of career)
Katarzyna Wojdat (end of career)

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2014/15 season): 17
Quarter-final (2): 1999/2000, 2001/02
Last 16 (1): 1995/96
Group Matches (7): 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 2000/2001, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2013/14
Qualification (6): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11

Other

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

Polish league: 17 titles (1995-2003, 2005-2010, 2013, 2014)
Polish cup: 10 times

MKS Selgros Lublin (POL)



Biggest win:	29:16 (15:06) v Podravka Dolcela CRO (h), 06.02.2000
Biggest defeat:	21:38 (10:18) v Kometal DP Skopje MKD (h), 17.02.2002
Longest winning run:	4 matches (30.10.1999 – 06.02.2000)
Longest unbeaten run:	6 matches (30.01.1999 - 06.02.2000)
Longest losing run:	8 matches (15.02.2004 – 17.11.2013)
Longest run without win:	8 matches (15.02.2004 – 17.11.2013)
Most goals:	38 v GAS Anagennisi Artas GRE 38:28W (h), 30.01.2000
Most goals opponent:	40 v FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN 40:25L (a), 20.10.2013
Most goals both teams:	66 v GAS Anagennisi Artas GRE 38:28W (h), 30.01.2000
Fewest goals:	19 v Motor Zaporoshje UKR 20:19L (a), 25.01.1998 19 v Larvik HK NOR 27:19L (a), 15.02.2003 19 v Buducnost MNE 31:19L (a), 06.10.2013
Fewest goals opponent:	16 v Henzo Sw. Roermond NED 27:16W (h), 04.01.1997 16 v Podravka Dolcela CRO 29:16W (h), 06.02.2000
Fewest goals both teams:	39 v Motor Zaporoshje UKR 20:19L (a), 25.01.1998

Women's EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 Montex Lublin POL	6	2	0	4	155:155	0	4		3rd Gr. B
1997/98 Montex Lublin POL	6	2	0	4	156:163	-7	4		3rd Gr. A
1998/99 Montex Lublin POL	6	2	2	2	142:143	-1	6		3rd Gr. D
1999/00 Montex Lublin POL	8	5	1	2	221:204	+17	11		1/4-finals
2001/02 MKS Montex Lublin POL	8	4	0	4	215:221	-6	8		1/4-finals
2002/03 MKS POL-SKONE Lublin POL	6	1	1	4	133:155	-22	3		4th Gr. C
2003/04 KS BYSTRZYCA Lublin POL	6	1	0	5	155:186	-31	2		4th Gr. D
2013/14 MKS Selgros Lublin POL	6	0	0	6	140:189	-49	0		4th Gr. B
Total	52	17	4	31	1317:1416	-99	38		

MKS Selgros Lublin (POL)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height
16	Aleksandra	Baranowska	POL	Goalkeeper	10.1.1989	Wroclaw, POL	178
3	Jessica	Da Silva Quintino	BRA	Right Wing	17.4.1991	San Paulo, BRA	172
11	Patricia Diane	De Jesus	BRA	Left Back	25.6.1993	S. Jose dos Campos, BRA	173
20	Joanna	Drabik	POL	Line Player	28.10.1993	Wloszczowa, POL	180
1	Ekaterina	Dzhukeva	BUL	Goalkeeper	8.5.1988	Dupnitsa, BUL	185
12	Weronika	Gawlik	POL	Goalkeeper	20.10.1986	Gliwice, POL	180
10	Marta	Gega	POL	Left Back	16.4.1986	Bielawa, POL	184
6	Agnieszka	Kocela	POL	Left Wing	17.1.1988	Jelenia Gora, POL	171
2	Karolina	Konsur	POL	Right Wing	1.1.1989	Lwówek Slaski, POL	168
18	Katarzyna	Kozimur	POL	Right Back	9.6.1994	Przemysl, POL	175
4	Dorota	Malek	POL	Centre Back	3.1.1981	Tuchola, POL	176
23	Alesia	Mihdaliowa	BLR	Right Back	22.1.1985	Orsza, BLR	177
21	Valiantsina	Nestsiaruk	BLR	Centre Back	30.5.1988	Brest, BLR	170
24	Dagmara	Nocun	POL	Left Wing	2.1.1996	Kolno, POL	166
17	Krystyna	Repelewska	POL	Right Back	7.1.1981	Minsk, BLR	176
8	Malgorzata	Rola	POL	Left Wing	7.1.1983	Lukow, POL	170
25	Kamila	Skrzyniarz	POL	Centre Back	20.11.1984	Kielce, POL	175
33	Honorata	Syncerz	POL	Centre Back	27.1.1993	Kielce, POL	177
66	Joanna	Szarawaga	POL	Line Player	2.4.1994	Debno, POL	185




Sabina Wlodek
coach

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


Ekaterina Dzhukeva
goalkeeper

- voted best keeper in the Polish league 2013/2014 by sports daily newspaper Przegląd Sportowy.
- one of two Bulgarian handball players in the Polish women's league
- voted best team player of the regular season 2013/2014 by MKS Selgroz Lublin fans.
- played in Spain and Norway in the past
- set her personal save percentage record of 73% against Vipers Kristiansand


Agnieszka Kocela
left wing

- 2014/15 is her fourth season in the team
- considered the successor of Lublin's legendary left wing: Sabina Wlodek – now the team's head coach
- did not participate in the CL 2013/14 or WCh 2013 in Serbia due to injury
- her biggest sport-related dream is to participate in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro 2016


Marta Gega
left back

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


Dorota Malek
centre back

- one of the most experienced players in Lublin
- joined the team in 2001 and already at the age of 21 she was often the first choice in EC games
- despite many injuries in 2005-2009, arguably the best Polish league player and participated in the EHF EURO 2006 and the WCh 2007
- refused all offers from top international teams abroad, including Krim when she was 21


Joanna Drabik
line player

- youngest key player in the team
- debuted in the CL 2013/14 when the first line player was injured right before the start of the competition
- played her first match for the Poland national team in March 2014 against Portugal
- has a good chance of being called for the EHF EURO 2014 in Hungary and Croatia.


Krystsina Repelewska
right back

- Born in Belarus became a Polish citizen after 10 years in Poland
- had her Poland national team debut in 2012
- did not participate in the 2013/14 CL season due to her pregnancy
- works at a private university as a Physical Education teacher


Jessica Da Silva Quintino
right wing

- first Brazilian player in the history of the Polish league
- Lublin is her second Polish team – she spent one season with Vistal Gdynia
- did not participate in the WCh 2013 in Serbia, where Brazil were champions, due to injury
- In May 2014, the previous team captain and right wing Malgorzata Majerek chose Quintino as her successor

2013/14 Top Scorers

Rank	Player	Club	Goals
1	Anita Görbicz (HUN)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	87
2	Andrea Lekic (SRB)	WHC Vardar SCBT (MKD)	79
3	Katarina Bulatovic (MNE)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	72
4	Nora Mörk (NOR)	Larvik (NOR)	71
5	Ida Oden (SWE)	IK Sävehof (SWE)	69
6	Cornelia Nycké Groot (NED)	FC Midtjylland (DEN)	67
7	Cristina Neagu (ROU)	Buducnost (MNE)	64
8	Alexandrina Barbosa (ESP)	Thüringer HC (GER)	63
9	Stine Jørgensen (DEN)	FC Midtjylland (DEN)	62
10	Eduarda Amorim (BRA)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	59
11	Andrea Penezic (CRO)	RK Krim Mercator (SLO)	58
	Jovanka Radicevic (MNE)	WHC Vardar SCBT (MKD)	58
13	Radmila Petrovic (MNE)	Buducnost (MNE)	56
	Jamina Roberts (SWE)	IK Sävehof (SWE)	56
15	Sonja Frey (AUT)	Thüringer HC (GER)	55
16	Trine Ostergaard Jensen (DEN)	FC Midtjylland (DEN)	52
	Heidi Löke (NOR)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	52
18	Jenny Alm (SWE)	IK Sävehof (SWE)	51
	Line Anna Jørgensen (DEN)	FC Midtjylland (DEN)	51
20	Alexandra Do Nascimento (BRA)	Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT)	50

Past seasons' top scorers

Season	Player	Club	Goals
1993/94	Natalia Morskova	Mar Valencia/ESP	102
1994/95	Snežana Petika	Podravka Koprivnica/CRO	72
1995/96	Snežana Petika	Podravka Koprivnica/CRO	77
1996/97	Natalia Morskova	Mar Valencia/ESP	150
1997/98	Natalia Morskova	Mar Valencia/ESP	127
1998/99	Natalia Derepasko	Krim Ljubljana/SLO	120
1999/00	Ausra Fridrikas	Hypo Niederösterreich/AUT	97
2000/01	Ausra Fridrikas	Baekkelagets Oslo/NOR	83
2001/02	Ágnes Farkas	FTC Budapest/HUN	112
2002/03	Natalia Derepasko	Krim Ljubljana/SLO	81
2003/04	Bojana Popović	Slagelse FH/DEN	98
2004/05	Tatjana Logvin	Hypo Niederösterreich/AUT	85
2005/06	Natalia Derepasko	Krim Ljubljana/SLO	86
2006/07	Bojana Popović	Slagelse FH/DEN	96
2007/08	Timea Tóth	Hypo Niederösterreich/AUT	127
2008/09	Grit Jurack	Viborg HK/DEN	113
2009/10	Cristina Vărzaru	Viborg HK/DEN	101
2010/11	Heidi Løke	Larvik HK/NOR	99
2011/12	Anita Görbicz	Győri AUDI ETO KC/HUN	133
2012/13	Zsuzsanna Tomori	FTC Rail Cargo Hungária/HUN	95
2013/14	Anita Görbicz	Győri AUDI ETO KC/HUN	87

Past Winners

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

EHF Champions League history

1993 – 2003

1993/94

Hypo Niederösterreich vs Vasas Budapest 20:18 / 25:21 (45:39)

New name, new playing system, but well-known finalists – just as in the men's competition the Champions League replaced the Champions Cup from the 1993/94 season. 32 teams played two K.O. rounds for the eight places in the Champions League. The two finalists were the winners of the two groups of four. Hypo Niederösterreich became the first title holder showing a spotless performance with 12 victories from 12 matches.

1994/95

Hypo Niederösterreich vs Podravka Koprivnica 14:17 / 26:19 (40:36)

After 20 victories in 20 Champions League matches, Hypo Niederösterreich was beaten for the first time in the first leg of the final in Koprivnica. But the 14:17 in Croatia was followed by a clear 26:19 victory in the second leg and the cup remained in Austria.

1995/96

Podravka Koprivnica vs Hypo Niederösterreich 13:17 / 25:20 (38:37)

In the 1995/96 season Austrian side Hypo Niederösterreich „only“ finished second and that created tremendous joy for the Eastern Croats. Under the leadership of the old and new top scorer, Snežana Petika, Podravka Koprivnica for the first time took the crown of the greatest club competition.

1996/97

Mar Valencia vs Viborg HK 35:26 / 23:24 (58:50)

In 1997 there was a whole new constellation in the final. Mar Valencia, who had narrowly lost three times in the Champions League Group Phase, celebrated a Spanish fiesta. The team, which was based around the excellent Natalia Morskova, was the first Spanish team in the history of the competition to reach the final. The opponent was Viborg – the first Danish finalist since Copenhagen in 1966 (ed. IHF competition).

1997/98

Hypo Niederösterreich vs Mar El Osito L'Elia 28:21 / 28:26 (56:47)

Mar El Osito L'Elia had reached the final by scoring at least 31 goals per match. They failed to repeat this feat when they needed it most. Hypo Niederösterreich triumphed with two victories, earning their third Champions League title.

1998/99

Dunaferre SE vs Krim Electa Ljubljana 25:23 / 26:26 (51:49)

Two new faces appeared in the Champions League final in the 1998/99 season. In the semi-finals Dunaferre had beaten defending champion Hypo Niederösterreich while Ljubljana narrowly held the upper hand over Podgorica. In the final it was the Hungarian side that prevailed, winning their first Champions League title.

1999/00

Hypo Niederösterreich vs Kometal Skopje 32:23 / 20:22 (52:45)

The final of the 1999/00 is less likely to be remembered for Hypo's fourth title in just four years but more for the violent disruptions caused during the final by Macedonian fans. In the second leg objects had been thrown onto the court for almost the entire match, and the problems reached a climax when everyone fled into the changing rooms and Hypo manager Gunnar Prokop was attacked.

2000/01

Viborg HK A/S vs RK Krim N. Roberts Ljubljana 22:22 / 19:25 (41:47)

After suffering defeat in the 1999 finals against Dunaferre, the time was finally ripe in 2001 for Krim, Slovenia's most dominating club whose focus had always been to win the Champions League. In the final Krim prevailed over Viborg thanks to win and a draw.

2001/02

FTC HERZ Budapest vs Kometal D. P. Skopje 27:25 / 22:26 (49:51)

On 19 May 2002, 45,000 fans people celebrated their heroines enthusiastically in the main square of the Macedonian capital – a great achievement had been made: Kometal Skopje wore the crown of Europe's top club competition for the first time. Two years before, the Macedonians had played in the finals against Hypo Niederösterreich but after rioting fans during the second leg in Skopje all Macedonian clubs were banned for one year from the European Cup, and no one had expected Macedonian handball to recover that fast from the shock.

2002/03

El Osito Valencia vs Krim N. Roberts Ljubljana 30:27 / 28:36 (58:63)

For the third time in a row, the Champions League winner came from former Yugoslavia and for the second time after 2001 Krim Ljubljana was sitting on the European throne. Skopje had won the title in 2002. There was also another record: goalkeeper Luminita Dinu won the European title for the third time in a row.

2003/04

Slagelse DT vs Krim Ljubljana 25:24 / 36:32 (61:56)

In less than four years world class player and world class coach Anja Andersen had led Danish side Slagelse DT out of the second division and straight into their first Champions League season. And just one year after they had already celebrated the win of the EHF Cup, the team was victorious once more – this time in Europe's most prestigious club handball competition. It was a fairy tale come true.

EHF Champions League history

2003 – 2014

2004/05

Slagelse DT vs Kometal D.P. Skopje 27:23 / 27:20 (54:43)

For the second time in the history of the Champions League and after the double victory of Hypo Niederösterreich in 1994 and 1995, a team was able to defend its title. In all twelve Champions League matches, from the Group Phase to the final, coach Anja Andersen's team suffered only one defeat.

2005/06

Krim Ljubljana vs Viborg HK A/S 22:24 / 21:20 (43:44)

In the history of the Women's EHF Champions League that had not happened before. In both final matches of the 2005/06 season the away teams won. It seemed a mere formality for Viborg to lift the trophy following their 24:22 win in Slovenia, but Ljubljana fought back and had one hand on the cup when they led 20:17 in the 52nd minute before running out of steam.

2006/07

Slagelse DT vs Lada Togliatti 29:29 / 32:24 (61:53)

It was Slagelse's third go at gold and they did it convincingly. With elite performances both in the Champions League and the Danish league, where they did not lose one single point, Anja Andersen's women were the favourites for the title – so another success of the "dream team" was not a surprise.

2007/08

Zvezda Zvenigorod vs Hypo Niederösterreich 25:24 / 31:29 (56:53)

After having beaten Hypo Niederösterreich at home 25:24, the Russian champions were also triumphant in Wiener Neustadt in a very tough second leg. For Hypo it was a big disappointment as everything had been prepared for party at the Arena Nova to celebrate their ninth title since 1989.

2008/09

Viborg HK vs Győri AUDI ETO KC 24:26 / 26:23 (50:49)

Viborg HK won the Champions League for the second time after having lost the first leg of the final 24:26 but winning the second leg 26:23 against Győr. Viborg's Grit Jurack contributed four goals in the second match and became the Champions League's top scorer with 113 goals in the 2008/09 season.

2009/10

Viborg HK vs Oltchim Rm. Vâlcea 28:21 / 32:31 (60:52)

Viborg HK defeated Oltchim Vâlcea to win the Women's EHF Champions League for the second consecutive time and the third time in the last five years. Also the Danish dominance continued. Since 2003/2004 all Champions League titles had gone to Danish teams, except for the 2007/2008 season when Russian team Zvezda Zvenigorod celebrated the victory.

2010/11

Larvik vs Itxako Reyno De Navarra 23:21 / 24:25 (47:46)

In a real nail-biting thriller right until the dying seconds, Itxako defeated Larvik by a single goal in the second leg of the final, but with the aggregate score, the Norwegians were the lucky winners of this clash and brought home the EHF Champions League trophy for the first time in the club's history.

2011/12

Győri AUDI ETO KC vs Budočnost 29:27 / 25:27 (54:54)

Budočnost won the tightest edition of the EHF Women's Champions League by account of scoring the greater number of away goals (27 in Hungary) than Győri AUDI ETO KC (25 in Montenegro). It was only a small consolation for Győri AUDI ETO KC's Anita Görbicz who picked up the top scorer for the 2011/12 Women's EHF Champions League season.

2012/13

Larvik HK vs Győri AUDI ETO KC 21:24 / 22:23 (43:47)

After losing the finals in 2009 and 2012 Győr finally ended their curse of seven European Cup finals without a trophy. The coronation of the new queens of European handball took place in jam-packed Veszprém Aréna after the second leg victory and carried on in the streets of the city of Győr. The Hungarian team were dominant throughout the whole season as they suffered only one defeat (in the semi-final at home vs Oltchim) in 16 matches.

2013/14

Buducnost vs Győri AUDI ETO KC 21:27 (10:15)

For the first time in history just one final game decided about the new title holders as Papp Laszlo Budapest Sportarena hosted the excellent premiere edition of the MVM EHF FINAL4. Győr successfully defended the title after avenging their 2012 defeat by Buducnost in front of a sold-out crowd (10,000). Hungarian champions were the only undefeated team of the season as they won 12 matches and drew twice with Buducnost in the main round. Győr's captain Anita Görbicz became the season's top scorer for the second time scoring 87 goals.

All-time club standings 1993 - 2014

#	TR	Name of the club	MP	W	D	L	GF:FA	GD	P	NP	%	G
1	1	Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	186	123	4	59	5014:4620	+394	249*:123	(21)	66,94%	A
2	2	RK Krim Mercator SLO	184	100	10	74	5019:4780	+239	210:158	(18)	57,07%	A
3	3	Buducnost MNE	170	88	19	63	4516:4397	+119	195:145	(18)	57,35%	B
4	4	Györi Audi ETO KC HUN	126	87	9	30	3527:3161	+366	183:69	(10)	72,62%	C
5	5	Viborg HK A/S DEN	150	82	11	57	4218:3950	+268	175:125	(17)	58,33%	C
6	6	Larvik NOR	146	83	8	55	3907:3600	+307	174:118	(15)	59,59%	D
7	7	Oltchim Rm. Valcea ROU	118	62	8	48	3148:3005	+143	132:104	(12)	55,93%	
8	8	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN	104	53	7	44	2829:2733	+96	113:95	(13)	54,33%	Q
9	9	CBM Astroc Sagunto ESP	100	52	3	45	2658:2582	+76	107:93	(12)	53,50%	
10	10	HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	112	50	6	56	2855:2921	-66	106:118	(16)	47,32%	B
11	11	Kometal Gjorce Petrov MKD	98	47	6	45	2460:2410	+50	100:96	(12)	51,02%	
12	12	Slagelse DT DEN	56	38	2	16	1514:1400	+114	78:34	(5)	69,64%	
13	13	FC Midtjylland DEN	70	34	5	31	1839:1823	+16	73:67	(7)	52,14%	Q
14	14	Dinamo-Sinara RUS	78	31	7	40	2053:2104	-51	69:87	(10)	44,23%	A
15	15	HC Lada RUS	62	33	2	27	1729:1737	-8	68:56	(7)	54,84%	
16	16	Dunafer NK HUN	52	29	4	19	1395:1285	+110	62:42	(6)	59,62%	
17	17	Zvezda Zvenigorod RUS	46	21	3	22	1294:1297	-3	45:47	(5)	48,91%	
18	18	Grupo Asfi Itxako Navarra ESP	34	17	5	12	879:839	+40	39:29	(3)	57,35%	
19	19	MKS Selgros Lublin POL	52	17	4	31	1317:1416	-99	38:66	(8)	36,54%	D
20	20	Metz Handball FRA	54	15	5	34	1298:1428	-130	35:73	(8)	32,41%	D
21	21	Byasen Trondheim NOR	40	15	3	22	942:1006	-64	33:47	(6)	41,25%	Q
22	22	HC Leipzig GER	54	14	3	37	1342:1507	-165	31:77	(7)	28,70%	A
23	24	WHC Vardar SCBT MKD	14	9	3	2	393:333	+60	21:7	(1)	75,00%	B
24	28	Thüringer HC GER	24	8	2	14	601:637	-36	18:30	(3)	37,50%	B
25	31	IK Sävehof SWE	30	5	4	21	827:934	-107	14:46	(4)	23,33%	C
26	44	HCM Baia Mare ROU	6	2	0	4	140:162	-22	4:8	(1)	33,33%	D
		HC Lokomotiva Zagreb CRO	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%	C
		BNTU-BelAZ Minsk Reg. BLR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%	Q
		SERCODAK Dalfsen NED	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%	Q
		WHC Radnicki Kragujevac	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%	Q

* Point for Hypo NÖ deducted by official decision

^ = Excluding Qualifying matches

The club name is the last used name in VELUX Women's EHF Champions League competition

TR – total ranking

MP – matches played

W – wins

D – draws

L – losses

GF:GA – goals for:goals against

P – points

NP – number of participations

% = winning percentage

G - group

All stats in this guide are provided by Roy Knoppert.

2014/15 Women's EHF Champions League Group Matches

Media Guide

by

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