



Women's EHF Cup 2016/17

Group Phase

Media Guide



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

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Foreword



Dear handball friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the premiere edition of the Women's EHF Cup Group Phase.

We are at the beginning of a new and exciting project this season following the merging of the Women's EHF Cup and the Women's Cup Winners' Cup. This new format has been developed in order to create a high-quality platform for those clubs wanting to play top-class international handball and perhaps also striving to play in the European handball's top flight – the Women's EHF Champions League – in the future. This may be a new development for women's handball but it has been inspired by the success of the changes made to the Men's EHF Cup from the start of the 2012/13 season.

Following three qualification rounds, 16 teams have now lined up in the group phase ready to battle out for the bragging rights as the first winners of this reformed competition. Interestingly, we have only clubs from seven countries represented in the four groups with Germany leading with four clubs, followed by Russia with three and Denmark, France and Hungary, each with two clubs. Only Sweden has a single club in the group phase pool. This composition tells us where the strongest domestic leagues on the continent are, but also includes the most important countries on the women's handball market.

Another proof of the quality of the competition in this first season is the fact that both defending champions from the previous season - EHF Cup's Dunaujvaros and Cup Winners's Cup's Holstebro - have already been eliminated in qualification. I am convinced that we will see six extremely entertaining rounds in the group phase as teams compete for one of the two top spots in each group and a place in the quarter-finals.

I wish to all teams the very best of luck in the upcoming six rounds and wish all fans thrilling and entertaining matches.

Yours,

Michael Wiederer
EHF President



Media information

Dear media representative,

Welcome to a new season of the Women's EHF Cup, which has been created after merging the Women's EHF Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup last summer. A new look and a new playing format are bound to result in an exciting challenge both for participating teams and handball fans around Europe in the very first season.

In the following media information you will find the essential facts you will require for the group phase, including past achievements, head coaches and key players' profiles or squad lists of all 16 participating teams. Additional information can be found on the eurohandball.com website.

For further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the EHF Media and Communications Department and we will be happy to help you with any information you may require.

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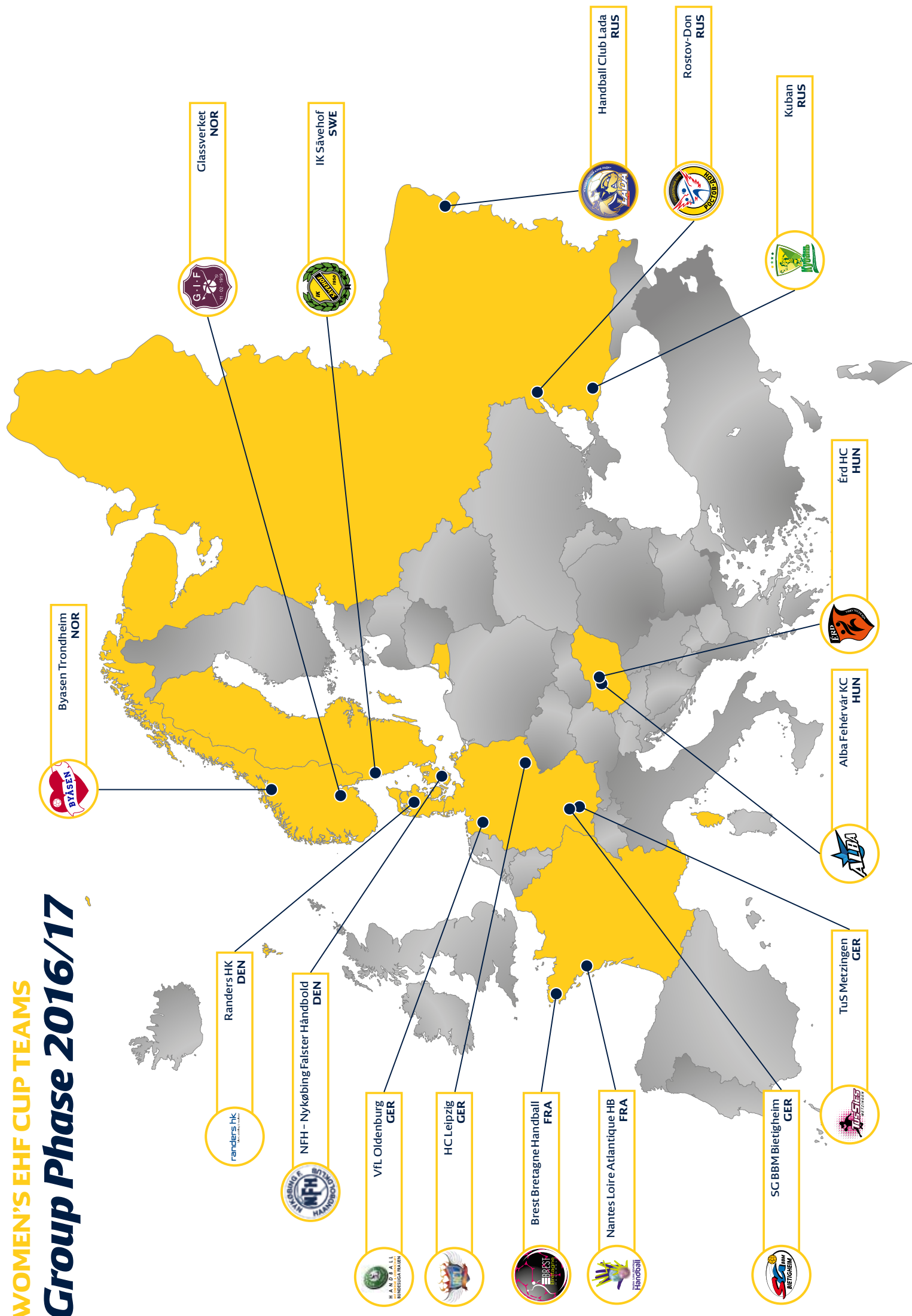
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WOMEN'S EHF CUP TEAMS

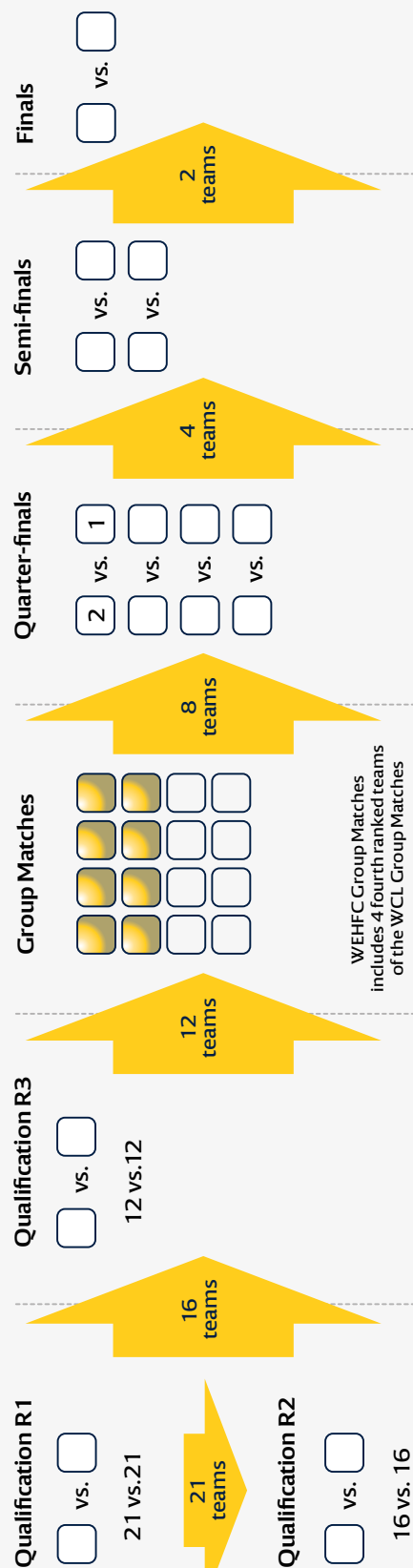
Group Phase 2016/17



WOMEN'S



Women's EHF Cup 2016/17 playing system



Season 2016/17 playing dates

Qualification Round 1 first leg - 10/11.09.2016 second leg - 17/18.09.2016	Qualification Round 2 first leg - 15/16.10.2016 second leg - 22/23.10.2016	Qualification Round 3 first leg 12/13.11.2016 second leg 19/20.11.2016	Group Matches R1 07/08.01.2017 R2 14/15.01.2017 R3 21/22.01.2017 R4 28/29.01.2017 R5 04/05.02.2017 R6 11/12.02.2017	Quarter-finals first leg 04/05.03.2017 second leg 11/12.03.2017	Semi-finals first leg 08/09.04.2017 second leg 15/16.04.2017	Finals first leg 06/07.05.2017 second leg 13/14.05.2017
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Important regulations

Scoring of the matches and ranking

General

All matches of the Women's EHF Cup 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 Phase

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

During the Group Phase:

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

After completion of the Group Phase 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
- 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 Phase 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;

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 a responsible of each club.

If one of the participating clubs is the organiser of the EHF Cup Finals the ranking of the 2nd ranked teams of the Group Phase is as follows:

- a) number of points in matches against all teams of the group;
- b) goal difference in those matches as mentioned in a);
- c) greater number of plus goals in those matches as mentioned in a);

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 a responsible of each club.

[Find all the Women's EHF Cup regulations on eurohandball.com](https://eurohandball.com)

Facts & Figures

Before the Group Phase

Eurohandball.com gives 10 reasons why the new format will bring new excitement to the women's competition.

1. Gender equality was one of the main topics at the EHF Congress in St. Wolfgang last November. The European Handball Federation is not only a trailblazer in terms of women's participation in all of their official bodies, but also in terms of competition. From the first throw-off, the Women's EHF Champions League was implemented in the same way like the male version. Many other sports and federations needed decades to bridge this gap. After the in-depth analysis of the new format for the Men's EHF Cup, all agreed to apply the same format to the women's competition.

2. The new competition is a perfect platform for clubs intending to participate in the Women's EHF Champions League – for competitive reasons as well as for organisational matters. Featuring in a group phase in January and February prepares the clubs for the schedule and the challenges of the Champions League. That is what all participants of the newly merged men's version agreed on. There is, however, one difference: After the quarter-finals, the Women's EHF Cup will continue in the old format with the semi-finals and the final to be decided in a first and a second leg. But another EHF FINAL4 tournament is the goal.

3. The implementation of the new competition system is a clear signal of the ongoing focus of the EHF on improving women's competitions and women's handball in general. Top-level competitions attract more fans, more sponsors and more media.

4. The group phase of the new Women's EHF Cup is more than just consolation for those four teams which ended bottom of the four Champions League groups.

5. The field of participants guarantees top-level handball. Already eliminated before the new group phase are three former Champions League participants (Hypo, Koprivnica and Viborg), the defending EHF Cup champions (Dunaujvaros), and the Cup Winners' Cup champions (Holstebro). A new, uprising class of teams from nations like Russia, Hungary, Denmark, France and Germany aim for the first trophy.

6. The format of the group phase guarantees more matches – and if you have a top-level squad, you want to play as often as possible. This group phase will be a real stress test.

7. The prospect of a new title holder. There are only two teams among the 16 group phase participants to have won silverware before in the three top EHF European competitions: Russian side Lada Togliatti are two-time EHF Cup champions and one-time Cup Winners' Cup champions, while Denmark's Randers HK won the EHF Cup in 2009/10. So chances are 14 out of 16 the competition gets a first-time champion.

8. Olympic champions on court: Thanks to Rostov, Kuban and Lada, more than half of the Russian Olympic gold medallists team are part of this competition, including Rio MVP Anna Vyakhireva. And as the icing on the cake, Russia coach Evgeniy Trefilov will highlight the EHF Cup as he is also coach of Kuban Krasnodar.

9. Also several Norwegian and Brazil world champions plus Norwegian and Montenegrin EHF EURO champions will be on court during the group phase. And to conclude the list of stars: Several former Champions League winners, including goalkeepers Katrine Lundø (four trophies) and Orsolya Herr, will fight for a quarter-final berth.

10. To every new competition belongs a new trophy, so everybody is eagerly waiting what the new cup will look like.



randers hk
Talent, udvikling & resultater



Group A head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group A opponents in the EC

IK Sävehof vs Randers HK 1 0-0-1 (21:26) 0:2

18.09.2011 Randers HK vs IK Sävehof, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 2 Qualification Tournament 4 26:21 (13:10)

VfL Oldenburg vs Randers HK 2 1-0-1 (54:53) 2:2

07.02.2009 VfL Oldenburg vs Randers HK A/S, EHF Cup – Last 16 28:27 (11:12)

14.02.2009 Randers HK A/S vs VfL Oldenburg, EHF Cup – Last 16 27:25 (13:10)

No previous encounters in European competitions

IK Sävehof vs Nantes Loire Atlantique HB

VfL Oldenburg vs Nantes Loire Atlantique HB

IK Sävehof vs VfL Oldenburg

Randers HK vs Nantes Loire Atlantique HB

GROUP A



Playing hall

Partillebohallen
Gamla Kronvägen 56
43300 Partille
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Capacity: 2,000

Club Address:

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Twitter: [@IK_Savehof](https://twitter.com/IK_Savehof)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

IK Sävehof (SWE)

Sweden was the focal point for women's handball in the previous two weeks, as Gothenburg was the setting for the main round and the final weekend. In the outskirts of Gothenburg, in Partille, the most successful Swedish women's handball club is located: IK Sävehof. Since 2009, the club had constantly been Swedish champions and thus EHF Champions League participant. But the team of Henrik Signell surprisingly failed in this season's race for the main round: A finally clear defeat at Danish side Esbjerg sealed Sävehof's fate to finish on fourth position of their group, in which besides Krim and Larvik proceeded to the next stage.

This was the first setback for Signell the second one followed right now: As he is parallel coach of the Swedish women's team, he and some Sävehof players failed on the way to their dream goal, making it to the semi-final of the EHF EURO. "We have to look ahead for the re-start of the season in January. I hope we will be among the quarter-finalists," said Signell. The opponents are quite mixed with another Danish side, Randers, German former Challenge Cup winner Oldenburg and the new faces in European Cup competitions from Nantes in France. "This group is composed by some challenges," says Signell, who mainly focuses on the home matches in the Partille Arena. In previous years the list of those leaving Sävehof often included their top stars and key players, as the eight-time Swedish champion club was always an initial launching point for big careers to be continued abroad.

This season is opposite, as national team players Jasmina Roberts (Team Tvis Holstebro) and Johanna Ahlm (FC Midtjylland) return to Sweden from Denmark, and Ida Oden comes back after maternity leave.

Road to the Group Phase

4th ranked from the EHF Champions League Group Matches

GROUP D

@ Larvik (NOR) W22:25
vs Team Esbjerg (DEN) L20:25
@ RK Krim Mercator (SLO) L32:29
vs RK Krim Mercator (SLO) W26:24
vs Larvik (NOR) L32:38
@ Team Esbjerg L29:18

Newcomers

Julia Walstern (GF Kroppskultur)
Ida Oden (back from maternity leave)
Jasmina Roberts (Team Tvis Holstebro)
Johanna Ahlm (FC Midtjylland)
Hanna Örtorp (from youth team)

Left the club:

Sofia Tegstedt (Önnereds HK)
Birna Berg Haraldsdottir (Glassverket Norway)
Stine Lund Andreassen (Bergen)
Mimmi Eliasson (quit playing due to injury)
Tilda Olsson (Skövde HF)

Past achievements

EHF Cup:

Last 16 (1): 2009/10
Round 3 (1): 2006/07
Round 2 (1) 2008/09

Other

Champions League: 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 main round, 2007/08, 2010/11, 2012/13, 2016/17 group matches, 2006/07, 2011/12 qualification

Cup Winners' Cup: Last 16: 2011/12

Swedish league: 12 titles (1993, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2009-16)

IK Sävehof (SWE)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
22	Johanna	Ahlm	SWE	Centre Back	03/10/1987	Göteborg, SWE	175	
1	Johanna	Bundsen	SWE	Goalkeeper	03/06/1991	Uddevalla, SWE	185	
3	Emma	Ekenman-Fernis	SWE	Right Wing	24/07/1996	Stockholm, SWE	172	
8	Elin	Enhörning	SWE	Line Player	13/03/1990	Uddevalla, SWE	176	
16	Hanna	Eriksson	SWE	Goalkeeper	23/02/1996	Ludvika, SWE	176	
9	Julia	Eriksson	SWE	Left Back	07/07/1994	Göteborg, SWE	182	
11	Rikke Slumstrup	Jensen	DEN	Left Back	30/09/1995	Herning, DEN	189	
13	Elin Hallagård	Karlsson	SWE	Centre Back	04/01/1989	Göteborg, SWE	180	
7	Thess	Krönell	SWE	Line Player	30/05/1996	Umeå, SWE	177	
5	Joanna	Lindvall-Haggren	SWE	Right Wing	28/06/1994	Göteborg, SWE	175	
19	Olivia	Mellegård	SWE	Left Wing	17/06/1996	Göteborg, SWE	178	
12	Isabella	Mouratidou	SWE	Goalkeeper	05/08/1997	Stockholm, SWE	178	
6	Ida	Oden	SWE	Right Back	14/04/1987	Borås, SWE	172	
10	Hanna	Örtorp	SWE	Left Wing	20/12/1997	Göteborg, SWE	162	
14	Linnea	Petterson	SWE	Right Back	28/07/1995	Kiruna, SWE	178	
28	Jamina	Roberts	SWE	Left Back	28/05/1990	Göteborg, SWE	176	
4	Louise	Sand	SWE	Left Wing	27/12/1992	Göteborg, SWE	164	
2	Julia	Walstern	SWE	Right Back	26/04/1998	Lyse, SWE	180	



IK Sävehof (SWE)

Coach and key players profiles



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 Sävehof and later assistant coach for the men's league team
- continues as head coach in Sävehof along with being the national coach of Sweden



Johanna Bundsen goalkeeper

- has been with Sävehof since 2007 when joining from league colleagues Kroppskultur
- had her real break-through at Sävehof in 2014/15 after being a bit in the shadow of Filippa Idehn until then; carrying an increased responsibility after Idehn left for Danish Team Esbjerg in summer 2015
- has played 18 internationals for Sweden, mostly sharing the job with Idehn

EURO: B 2014



Julia Eriksson left back

- one of many Sävehof's young guns who have really developed in the 2015/16 season as she became their top scorer
- joined from the club Kärna in the lower leagues in the summer of 2014
- got her international break-through in the CL main round in 2015/16, scoring seven goals away against HC Vardar, 11 at home against FC Midtjylland and seven away against Győr
- 2015/16 CL All-star Team nominee as the best young player



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 164 cm she is not among the tallest on a court, but she more than compensates for that through her outstanding technique
- joined Sävehof in 2009 after spells with Kärna and Önnareds
- Sweden national team member since 2012

EURO: B 2014

GROUP A



Playing hall

EWE Arena
Maastrichterstr.
Oldenburg
Germany
Capacity: 2,600

Club Address:

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Twitter: [@VfLOLHandball](https://twitter.com/VfLOLHandball)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

VfL Oldenburg (GER)

They eliminated the former French champions Fleury in the EHF Cup Qualification Round 2 and then caused one major surprise by two wins against the defending Cup Winners' Cup champions Holstebro in the upcoming round. VfL Oldenburg have proved their strength and abilities already prior to the group stage, even arriving from the first qualification round. Since 2005, Leszek Krowicki is at the helm of the 2008 EHF Challenge Cup winners, since this summer in double function, as the Pole was appointed also coach of the Polish women's national team, which he just had steered at the EURO in Sweden.

The 2011 EHF Cup semi-finalist are well-known for his successful youth programme and for their close connection to the Dutch Handball Federation. Having the Dutch female youth academy at Papendal just across the border, Oldenburg became the launching pad for a huge number of EURO 2016 silver medalists such as Tess Wester, Lois Abbingh or Laura van der Heijden. From the current squad, defence specialist Kelly Dulfer was part of the Dutch side at the EURO in Sweden.

After their successful qualification, Oldenburg now hope to proceed to the quarter-finals, although Krowicki knows that "we have tough and interesting opponents". VfL will face Champions League experienced teams Randers and Sävehof and additionally EHF Cup debutants Nantes in Group A. For Krowicki, the French side are the favourite for finishing on top, but he also is sure that "if we can win our home matches, we will have a chance to reach the second rank in our group." The matches against Nantes will be something special for Oldenburg's Dutch newcomer Isabelle Jongenelen, as she had played for the club before. Oldenburg will have to replace long-term injured wing player Julia Wenzel due to an injury.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ TTH Holstebro (DEN) W25:27
2nd leg: vs TTH Holstebro (DEN) W31:21
Aggregate score: 58:46

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs Fleury Loiret Handball (FRA) W29:22
2nd leg: @ Fleury Loiret Handball (FRA) W26:23
Aggregate score: 52:48

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: vs Bnei Hertzeliya (ISR) W41:20
2nd leg: @ Bnei Hertzeliya (ISR) W20:36
Aggregate score: 77:40

Newcomers:

Veronika Mala (Slavia Prague)
Stefanie Kaiser (HYPO Niederösterreich)
Madita Kohorst (VfL juniors)
Isabelle Jongenelen (Nantes Atlantic)

Left the club:

Maike Schirmer (Buxtehuder SV)
Nadja Jensen (back to Denmark, no new club)
Annika Meyer (Buxtehuder SV)
Louise Egestorp (Sonderjyske)

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Semi-final (1): 2010/11
Last 16 (1): 2008/09

Cup Winners' Cup: 2009/10 semi-finalists
Challenge Cup: 2007/08 winners

Other

German league: - (runners-up 1983)
German cup: 3 titles (1989, 2002, 2015)

VfL Oldenburg (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
20	Jenny	Behrend	GER	Right Wing	20/01/1996	Rendsburg, GER	172	8
5	Kim	Birke	GER	Left Wing	29/12/1987	Hannover, GER	172	27
14	Kelly	Dulfer	NED	Centre Back	21/03/1994	Schiedam, NED	186	17
21	Angie Birgit	Geschke	GER	Left Back	24/05/1985	Lübeck, GER	177	35
23	Cara	Hartstock	GER	Line Player	18/03/1994	Lübeck, GER	189	12
28	Isabelle	Jongenelen	NED	Right Back	28/07/1991	Breda, NED	178	11
22	Stefanie	Kaiser	AUT	Line Player	31/10/1992	Wiener Neustadt	181	11
15	Madita	Kohorst	GER	Goalkeeper	14/10/1996	Lohne, GER	183	3
67	Veronika	Malá	CZE	Left Wing	06/05/1994	Pisek, CZE	170	11
7	Caroline	Müller	GER	Centre Back	30/08/1993	Wittenberg	178	12
4	Griet	Prante	GER	Left Wing	19/10/1997	Oldenburg, GER	170	
1	Julia	Renner	GER	Goalkeeper	17/09/1987	Preetz, GER	183	
2	Kira	Schnack	GER	Right Wing	24/04/1994	Flensburg, GER	169	18
10	Inger	Smits	NED	Left Back	17/09/1994	Geleen, NED	179	18
3	Lena	Thomas	GER	Left Back	14/02/1997	Varel, GER	181	4
9	Julia	Wenzl	GER	Right Back	03/02/1990	Gießen, GER	174	



VfL Oldenburg (GER)

Coach and key players profiles



Leszek Krowicki coach

- coach of German teams since 1990. In the first five years he was coach of Walle Bremen, later-on he steered Bielefeld and Buxtehude, before he arrived at Oldenburg in 2005
- parallel he was coach of the Dutch men's national team (1995-98) and interim coach of the German women's NT (2001)
- since summer 2016 he parallel coaches the Polish women's NT, including the 2016 EHF EURO
- player for Gdansk and the Polish national team in his active career

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 1994, Challenge Cup 2008 (as coach)



Julia Renner goalkeeper

- born in Preetz, in the middle of the handball cities Kiel and Flensburg
- playing permanently for Oldenburg since she was 18
- successor of Dutch international Tess Wester as Oldenburg's number 1, after her transfer to Bietigheim
- part of all VfL trophy winning squads since 2005 (two German cup titles and the Challenge Cup)
- her VfL goalkeeper coach Alexandr Vorontsov had formed several top goalkeepers at Oldenburg

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2008



Kelly Dulfer centre back

- like many other Dutch internationals, she was part of the youth academy in Papendal
- at the age of 20, she transferred from Dutch champions Dalfsen to VfL Oldenburg in 2015
- like her country-fellow Isabelle Jongenelen she continues the long series of Dutch players at Oldenburg like Tess Wester, Laura van der Heijden or Lois Abbingh before
- at Oldenburg and the "Oranje" she plays a core role in the defence
- her parents were both cricket internationals for the Netherlands

EURO: S 2016, WCh: S 2015



Angie Geschke left back

- part of the Oldenburg squad for the second time since 2013 after a four years spell from 2008 to 2012
- played two seasons in Scandinavia, one year for Randers (Denmark) and one year for Kristiansand (Norway)
- started her career at Frankfurt/Oder, becoming German champion in 2004
- can also play on the left wing position
- top scorer of the German Bundesliga in the 2006/07 (210 goals) and 2015/16 (237 goals) seasons
- part of the German national team, her best result was the fourth rank in 2006

GROUP A



Playing hall

Arena Randers
Fyensgade 1
8900 Randers
Denmark
Capacity: 3,000

Club Address:

Randers HK
Sjællandsgade 57
8900 Randers
Denmark

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Instagram: [Randershk1995](https://www.instagram.com/Randershk1995)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: lime/green

Dark

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

Randers HK (DEN)

It was close, very close – but finally Randers HK made it to the first ever group phase of the Women's EHF Cup. After their tight 28:27 win in the first leg of qualification round 3 against Polish champions Lublin, an away draw (23:23) was just enough for the 2010 EHF Cup winners and former Danish champions.

Coached by experienced Ryan Zinglensen, the nearly all-Scandinavian team is in a process of rejuvenation. In the domestic league, Randers hope to finish in the top six. And their major international goal has already been reached by clinching their berth for the group phase, where they will face Sävehof, Oldenburg and Nantes in Group A.

"It is a tough group we are in," Zinglensen says. "We hope to end as runners-up, which means we qualify to the quarter-finals."

For the former Hypo, Melsungen and Skive coach it is "an honour to have qualified for the first group stage ever. It proves that Randers HK at the moment can match the top 16 teams in Europe."

For him, Rostov are the favourites for winning the new trophy. After celebrating 20 years of top handball in Randers this summer, now their team is spiced with some talented Women's EHF EURO 2016 participants, like Danish wing Maria Fisker, who won the 2016 EHF Champions League with Bucuresti last season. On the other hand, some experienced players, like Rikke Vestergaard, have ended their career.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs MKS Selgros Lublin (POL) W28:27
2nd leg: @ MKS Selgros Lublin (POL) D23:23
Aggregate score: 51:50

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: @ Muratpasa Belediyesi SK (TUR) W20:30
2nd leg: vs Muratpasa Belediyesi SK (TUR) W26:13
Aggregate score: 56:33

Newcomers:

Daniela Gustin (Füchse Berlin)
Martine Moen (Halden HK)
Jovana Risovic (Radnicki Kragujevac)
Maria Fisker (CSM Bucuresti)
Frederikke Gulmark (Lyngby HK)
Mari Molid (Larvik)

Left the club:

Johanna Westberg (Nykøbing Falster)
Julie Gade (retired)
Rut Jónsdóttir (FC Midtjylland)
Marianne Lundsby (TTH Holstebro)
Astrid Schulz (Aalborg)
Jane Schumacher (Nice)
Linn Gossé (Viking)
Ilda Kepic (Vendsyssel)
Anne Kathrine Danielsen
Sofie Strangholt
Rikke Vestergaard (all end of career)

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Winners (1): 2009/10
Semi-finals (1): 2015/16
Quarter-finals (1): 2008/09
Last 16 (1): 2000/01

Champions League: 2012/13 main round,
2010/11, 2011/12 group matches
Cup Winners' Cup: 2011/12, 2014/15 Last 16
City Cup: 1999/2000 runners-up

Other

Danish league: 1 title (2012)

Randers HK (DEN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
10	Gitte Evendorff	Andersen	DEN	Right Wing	21/07/1989	Randers, DEN	172	11
13	Mathilde	Bonde	DEN	Right Wing	14/05/2000	Mariagerfjord, DEN	160	
20	Camilla	Dalby	DEN	Right Back	15/05/1988	Randers, DEN	182	
19	Amalie	De Place	DEN	Left Wing	05/05/1999	Randers, DEN	174	
24	Josefine	Dragenberg	DEN	Line Player	10/04/1997	Herning, DEN	186	
8	Louise Marie	Engström	DEN	Line Player	17/04/1998	Randers, DEN	170	
25	Maria	Fisker	DEN	Left Wing	03/10/1990	Favrskov, DEN	170	6
32	Cecilie	Greve	DEN	Goalkeeper	19/01/1992	Holbæk, DEN	187	1
38	Frederikke	Gulmark	DEN	Left Back	16/07/1994	Rudersdal, DEN	178	3
11	Daniela	Gustin	SWE	Right Wing	11/05/1994	Backa, SWE	176	10
36	Kathrine	Brothmann	DEN	Line Player	26/03/1992	Rudersdal, DEN	185	12
37	Sara	Hoffmann	DEN	Centre Back	23/05/1999	Horsens, DEN	170	
22	Mie Enggrob	Højlund	DEN	Centre Back	24/10/1997	Favrskov, DEN	173	11
15	Sofie Thanning	Strangholt	DEN	Left Back	15/12/1992	Randers, DEN	176	
23	Stine Broloes	Kristensen	DEN	Goalkeeper	17/03/1998	Randers, DEN	170	
14	Camilla	Larsen Degn	DEN	Left Wing	19/12/1997	Randers, DEN	179	9
26	Anne	Lassen	DEN	Left Back	29/03/1999	Randers, DEN	170	
9	Martine	Moen	NOR	Centre Back	30/10/1992	Frederikstad, NOR	169	8
5	Mari Kristine	Søbstad	NOR	Left Back	08/08/1990	Trondheim, NOR	178	24
6	Clara	Monti Danielsson	SWE	Line Player	30/01/1992	Lund, SWE	176	4
28	Anne Sofie	Nielsen Filtenborg	DEN	Right Wing	30/12/1998	Randers, DEN	179	1
43	Josefine	Omann Jensen	DEN	Left Back	08/01/2000	Horsens, DEN	162	
16	Jovana	Risovic	SRB	Goalkeeper	07/10/1993	Beograd, SRB	171	
28	Louise	Sondergaard	DEN	Right Back	12/12/1999	Randers, DEN	180	3
74	Rikke	Thorngaard	DEN	Left Back	14/08/1998	Norddjurs, DEN	170	
39	Rikke	Tornbjerg	DEN	Left Back	02/03/1998	Favrskov, DEN	170	
17	Anna	Veng	DEN	Goalkeeper	01/01/2000	Vejle, DEN	180	
34	Lotte	Vestergaard	DEN	Left Back	18/07/1997	Vesthimmerland, DEN	170	4



Randers HK (DEN)

Coach and key players profiles



Ryan Zinglensen coach

- head coach in Randers since 2015
- has 17 years of coaching experience from top clubs in Denmark and abroad, coaching men as well as women
- in women's handball, Hypo Niederösterreich is among the most prominent clubs he has been coaching, by the men, German Melsungen and Danish Skjern.
- known for being a very thorough and dedicated coach
- will be leaving Randers after this season



Cecilie Greve goalkeeper

- joined Randers from league rivals HC Odense in 2015
- despite her relatively young age already an experienced goalkeeper, who had her championship debut for Denmark already at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia at the age of only 20 years
- tall (185 cm) upright goalkeeper who benefits from her height to gain a large reach in her goal
- good at taking the initiative against the shooters
- in Randers, she is forming a strong goalkeeper duo with Serbia international Jovana Risovic

WCh: B 2013



Mie Højlund centre back

- playing her second season in the club after joining from suburban club Vorup fB
- seen as one of the greatest playmaker talents in Danish women's handball these years
- already a key player despite her young age
- has already added a fine eye for the game to her speed and technical skills
- will be leaving Randers after this season to join HC Odense



Kathrine Heindahl line player

- joined Randers in 2014 from TTH Holstebro
- won the EHF Cup with Holstebro in 2013
- has played 38 internationals and was part of the Danish team who reached the semi-final at the EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden
- good at both ends of the court, being a reliable defender and an efficient pivot in the attack
- will be joining her current teammate Mie Højlund in HC Odense from next season

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013

GROUP A



Playing hall

Salle Sportive de la Trocardiere
91 Rue de la Trocardiere
44400 Nantes/Reze
France
Capacity: 4,170

Club Address:

Nantes Loire Atlantique Handball
3 rue Célestin Freinet
44200 Nantes

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Facebook: [NLA Handball Feminin](https://www.facebook.com/NLA-Handball-Feminin)
Twitter: [NLA_HB](https://twitter.com/NLA_HB)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: purple/pink
Player short: purple
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Nantes Loire Atlantique HB (FRA)

They come from a handball and sports city, and after their international debut last season in the the EHF Cup, now Nantes Loire Atlantique Handball made it to the group stage. Since the Czech national team coach Jan Basny arrived in 2014, the only way was up for the "neighbours" of VELUX EHF Champions League and participant and two times Men's EHF Cup finalist HBC Nantes.

Thanks to the men's club one of their new arrivals transferred to Nantes Loire Atlantique: German international Isabell Klein, the wife of HBC left wing Dominik Klein, who made it to Nantes this summer. Klein arrives in a quite international team with players from seven nations, including Serbian EURO star Jovana Stojkovic or the Norwegian new arrival Malin Holta. Both in French league and the EHF Cup, Nantes hope to make it among the best four teams. In qualification they kept an unbeaten record of six wins in three rounds.

For Basny, the club have three major goals and tasks in the EHF Cup: "Improve our game, go as far as possible in this competition and make our spectators happy." As for many others, Basny expects Russian side Rostov as the main favourite, but for his side, he hopes for "a great recognition on international level".

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ SERCODAK Dalfsen (NED) W21:31
2nd leg: vs SERCODAK Dalfsen (NED) W31:28
Aggregate score: 62:49

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs DVSC-TVP (HUN) W24:23
2nd leg: @ DVSC-TVP (HUN) W26:28
Aggregate score: 52:49

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: vs Alavarium / Love Tiles (POR) W47:16
2nd leg: @ Alavarium / Love Tiles (POR) W11:34
Aggregate score: 81:27

Newcomers:

Malin Holta (Sola HK)
Isabell Klein (Buxtehuder SV)
Gervaise Pierson (Yutz HB)
Charlène Clavel (HBC Nimes)

Left the club:

Wendy Obein (TuS Metzingen)
Marie Prudhomme (OGC Nice)
Ivana Lovric (BC Aulnoye Aymeries)
Julie Godel (Carquefou HB)
Barbora Ranikova (end of career)
Solene De La Breteche (end of career)

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Round 3 (1): 2015/16

Other

French league: - (5th place 2x)

Nantes Loire Atlantique HB (FRA)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
20	Orlane	Ahanda	FRA	Right Back	20/11/1998	Nantes, FRA	176	1
24	Louison	Boisorieux	FRA	Left Wing	22/06/1995	Clamecy, FRA	170	
28	Marion	Callavé	FRA	Goalkeeper	28/01/1982	Mérignac, FRA	180	1
16	Laurine	Chesneau	FRA	Right Wing	16/05/1994	Le Mans, FRA	169	8
23	Charlene	Clavel	FRA	Left Wing	21/01/1991	Mende, FRA	163	4
55	Pauline	Coatanea	FRA	Right Wing	06/07/1993	Saint-Renan, FRA	165	22
93	Karichma	Ekoh	FRA	Right Back	04/03/1998	Clichy la Garenne, FRA	172	5
33	Beatrix	Escribano	ESP	Centre Back	04/05/1990	Alcazar S. Juan, ESP	177	22
35	Pauline	Fichter	FRA	Goalkeeper	27/02/1997	Mulhouse, FRA	185	
5	Malin	Holta	NOR	Left Back	09/06/1993	Stavanger, NOR	177	44
3	Isabell	Klein	GER	Right Back	28/06/1984	München, GER	172	7
91	Wendy	Lawson	FRA	Left Back	28/06/1991	Troyes, FRA	183	5
6	Lea	Lignieres	FRA	Left Wing	27/10/1995	Saint-Herblain, FRA	165	17
17	Cira	Lo	FRA	Goalkeeper	22/11/1996	Lagny sur Marne, FRA	183	
9	Camille	Mandret	FRA	Line Player	16/11/1997	Livry Gargan, FRA	182	3
2	Priscilla	Marchal	FRA	Line Player	23/08/1991	Avignon, FRA	176	9
7	Mia Marie Tarp	Moldrup	DEN	Right Back	06/04/1991	Esbjerg, DEN	180	
12	Gervaise	Pierson	FRA	Goalkeeper	09/07/1986	Neufchâteau, FRA	178	2
13	Esther	Schop	NED	Line Player	22/01/1990	Alkmaar, NED	176	17
22	Julie	Soulard	FRA	Centre Back	21/05/1994	La Roche sur Yon, FRA	176	5
21	Jovana	Stoiljkovic	SRB	Left Back	30/09/1988	Belgrade, SRB	182	23



Nantes Loire Atlantique HB (FRA)

Coach and key players profiles



Jan Basny coach

- nicknamed the most French of all Czechs, arrived as a player in 1990, then turned to coaching in 1997
- has been a Czech women national team coach from 2010
- signed to Nantes in 2014 and achieved a real success having led his team to the EHF Cup only two years after his arrival
- likes his team to play fast-paced handball and has chosen his signings accordingly accordingly from Nordic countries, not really physical but with the capacity to run for 60 minutes



Malin Holta left back

- latest of the Norwegian players to come and play in France, after the Oftedal sisters and Silje Solberg in Issy-Paris
- even though the 2016/17 season is only her second playing a European cup, she's already scored 44 times in six games in the EHF Cup
- part of an international signing campaign last summer in Nantes, alongside German Isabell Klein
- in Nantes, far from her family and boyfriend, she lives with Jeanett Hansen, another Norwegian girl who plays for Nantes' second team



Beatriz Escribano centre back

- one of the first Spanish players to come and play in France arrived in 2012 in Nice before joining Nantes in 2015
- despite a huge competition on her position, she's often selected to play in the Spanish national team
- not really a huge scorer, she's very good at placing others in good shooting position
- real athlete, she used to be a high-level runner before turning to handball



Jovana Stojilkovic left back

- born in Serbia in 1988, Stojilkovic arrived in France in 2012, played two years in Le Havre before signing to Nantes in 2014
- one of the oldest players of the squad, and also one of the players who's been in Nantes for the longest time
- even though she doesn't play as much as she used to this season, she's still a coach's voice on the court
- experienced player, this campaign will be her eighth playing a European competition
- EHF EURO 2016 All-star Team nominee on her position

EURO: S 2014

WCh: S 2013



Group B head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group B opponents in the EC

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Leipzig vs Kuban

HC Leipzig vs Brest Bretagne Handball

HC Leipzig vs Alba Fehérvár KC

Kuban vs Brest Bretagne Handball

Kuban vs Alba Fehérvár KC

Brest Bretagne Handball vs Alba Fehérvár KC

GROUP B



Playing hall

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

Club Address:

HC Leipzig
ARENA Leipzig
Am Sportforum 2
04105 Leipzig, Germany

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Twitter: [@HCLeipzig](https://twitter.com/HCLeipzig)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

HC Leipzig (GER)

One single goal was missing. After a 24:27 away defeat at the Russian champion, Astrakhanochka, HC Leipzig won their Champions League group match at home 30:27 – but, due to the away goal rule, the Russians proceeded to the main round and not the Germans, despite having equal points in the final ranking. Now, the 2009 EHF Cup Finalist and German record champions will continue in the group phase of the EHF Cup - having high hurdles ahead according to coach, Norman Rentsch. “We will face three top teams, which will mean interesting and exciting tasks in the group phase. We hope that some of our injured players will return before the start in January.”

For example, German international, Shemia Minevskaja, missed the EURO competition in Sweden due to a broken finger and team captain, Karolina-Kuzdlacz, was out because of back problems. But, differently to the start of the season, one key player is missing - Line player, Luisa Schulze, transferred to fellow EHF Cup participant, SSG Bietigheim. In the Champions League Group Matches, German international, Anne Hubinger, was the third best overall scorer with 36 goals. In the previous season, Leipzig were eliminated in the EHF Cup Quarter-finals by their country-fellows Metzingen. This year, they will face Kuban, Fehervar and Brest in Group B.

“Kuban count on five Russian Olympic champions and even the national team coach, Evgenii Trefilov. Fehervar have internationally experienced players, such as Brazilian Piedade or Hungarian goalkeeper Herr, while Brest mainly have two exceptional playmakers in Mangue and Pineau,” says HCL coach Rentsch. In general, Leipzig’s Manager, Kay-Sven Hähner, is sure that “playing on (an) international level is highly important for the players, the sponsors and the whole environment of the club.”

Road to the Group Phase

4th ranked from the EHF Champions League Group Matches

GROUP B
@ Astrakhanochka (RUS) L27:24
@ HC Vardar (MKD) L41:24
@ FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria (HUN) L26:22
vs FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria (HUN) L17:30
vs Astrakhanochka (RUS) W30:27
vs HC Vardar (MKD) L22:45

Qualification Group 2 (San Sebastian, ESP)
Semi-final: vs HC Gomel (BLR) W29:18
Final: vs Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT) W32:30

Newcomers:

Tamara Boesch (LC Brühl Handball)
Hildigunnur Einarsdottir (Vulkan Ladies Koblenz)
Julia Weise (HC Leipzig Juniorteam)

Left the club:

Kaya Diehl (SC Herrenberg)
Helena Hertlein (destination unknown)
Thorgerdur Anna Atladottir (UMF Stjarnan) during the season:
Luisa Schulze (SSG Bietigheim)

Past achievements

EHF Cup:

EHF Cup: Runners-up 2008/09, Semi-finals 2004/05

Other

Champions League: 2009/10, 2010/11, 2014/15 Main Round, 1998/99, 1999/2000, 2002/03, 2006/07, 2013/14, 2016/17 Group Matches

Cup Winners’ Cup: Final 1996/97, Semi-finals 2011/12

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

German cup: 9 titles

HC Leipzig (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
40	Anna	Ansorge	GER	Wing	05/04/1999	Leipzig, GER	178	
15	Tamara	Bösch	AUT	Right Back	05/06/1989	Lustenau, AUT	174	
33	Wiebke	Detjen	GER	Goalkeeper	12/07/1996	Leipzig, GER	175	
10	Hildigunnur	Einarsdottir	ISL	Line Player	11/02/1988	Reykjavik	180	
41	Jenice	Funke	GER	Back	20/05/1999	Leipzig, GER	170	
38	Lea	Guderian	GER	Line Player	27/08/1997	Leipzig, GER	170	
17	Anne	Hubinger	GER	Right Back	31/07/1993	Ribnitz-Damgart., GER	185	
43	Isabell	Hurst	GER	Line Player	17/10/1999	Leipzig, GER	177	
12	Katja	Kramarczyk	GER	Goalkeeper	18/03/1984	Frankfurt/Oder, GER	178	
36	Tammy	Kreibich	GER	Line Player	28/06/1997	Leipzig, GER	180	
45	Lucie	Kretzschmar	GER	Back	07/08/2000	Leipzig, GER	180	
14	Karolina	Kudlacz-Gloc	POL	Left Back	17/01/1985	Wabrzezno, POL	178	
21	Nele	Kurzke	GER	Goalkeeper	16/06/1990	Leipzig, GER	187	
18	Saskia	Lang	GER	Left Back	19/12/1986	Lörrach, GER	179	
5	Alexandra	Mazzucco	GER	Right Wing	29/01/1993	Lauf a.d. Pegnitz, GER	175	
6	Franziska	Mietzner	GER	Left Back	20/12/1988	Bad Saarow, GER	192	
23	Ewgenija	Minevskaja	GER	Centre Back	31/10/1992	Minsk, BLR	183	
30	Anna Lena	Plate	GER	Back	20/11/1998	Leipzig, GER	185	
20	Nele	Reimer	GER	Left Wing	09/09/1996	Rostock, GER	180	
25	Nina	Reißberg	GER	Line Player	09/10/1998	Leipzig, GER	178	
46	Elaine	Rode	GER	Wing	08/04/1999	Berlin, GER	172	
34	Joanna	Rode	GER	Right Wing	30/07/1997	Berlin, GER	173	
22	Nicole	Roth	GER	Goalkeeper	08/05/1995	Nürnberg, GER	183	
47	Lena	Smolik	GER	Wing	28/05/1999	Leipzig, GER	170	
24	Luisa	Sturm	GER	Line Player	08/02/1996	Nürnberg, GER	175	
37	Emely	Theilig	GER	Wing	26/03/2000	Leipzig, GER	173	
49	Pauline	Uhlmann	GER	Wing	27/09/2000	Leipzig, GER	173	
26	Michelle	Urbicht	GER	Left Wing	06/01/1994	Cottbus, GER	172	
35	Julia	Weise	GER	Right Wing	19/01/2000	GER	180	



HC Leipzig (GER)

Coach and key players profiles



Norman Rentsch coach

- first non-Danish born coach at HC Leipzig in a decade
- arrived from the Zwickau women's team before the 2014/15 season
- assisted by German goalkeeping legend Wieland Schmidt, Olympic Champion at the 1980 Games in Moscow
- his motto is: pressure is my motivation
- led Leipzig to the German cup trophy in May 2016



Katja Kramarczyk goalkeeper

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



Saskia Lang left back

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



Karolina Kudlacz-Gloc left wing

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

GROUP B



Playing hall

Palace of Sports "Olimp"
Krasnodar
Beregovaja str. 144
350007 Krasnodar, Russia
Capacity: 2,500

Club Address:

Kuban
Radio str., 5
350038 Krasnodar
Russia

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Twitter: [@whckuban](https://twitter.com/whckuban)
Instagram: [whckuban](https://www.instagram.com/whckuban)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: green
Goalkeeper shirt: red

Dark

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

Kuban (RUS)

Nearly none of the current group phase participants have such a long tradition of being part of European Cup competitions like Kuban. The team of legendary Russian national team coach, Evgenii Trefilov, are taking part in their 16th international season since 1995, highlighted as the Cup Winners' Cup Finalist in 2000. Except for Serbian international, Kristina Liszevic, the huge squad of Kuban consists only of Russian players - including five Rio 2016 Olympic champions.

Most of them arrived from 2016 champions Astrakhanochka and joined Trefilov, as he returned back to where his coaching career began (including four gold medals at World Championships). In total, 14 new players joined Kuban, including new team captain and Olympic champion, Polina Kuznetsova, who missed the EURO in Sweden due to an injury. As usual, Trefilov's goals are quite straight-forward. "We want to win any match in any competition. But, all of the remaining teams in the EHF Cup are strong, as the weak have been eliminated already."

Kuban were drawn in a tough Group B, facing Leipzig, Brest and Fehervar. "All our opponents in the group are very experienced and strong. With that being said, we will try to come out on top," says Trefilov, who succeeds former coach, Dmitriy Karlov, and shares the job with Alexander Revva. After claiming gold at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, Kuban alongside Trefilov won all six qualification matches on their way to the group phase, including two victories against the Champions League record winners, Hypo Niederösterreich, in Round 3.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT) W23:29
2nd leg: vs Hypo Niederösterreich (RUS) W32:26
Aggregate score: 61:49

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: @ SPONO Eagles (SUI) W23:35
2nd leg: vs SPONO Eagles (SUI) W38:28
Aggregate score: 73:51

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: vs O.F.N. Ionias (GRE) W36:24
2nd leg: @ O.F.N. Ionias (GRE) W24:31
Aggregate score: 67:48

Newcomers:

Irina Antonova
Nataliya Danshina
Valentina Goncharova
Olga Gorshenina
Viktoriia Kalinina
Oxana Koroleva
Polina Kuznetsova
Kristina Liszevic
Ekaterina Marennikova
Victoria Samarskaya
Marina Sudakova
Yana Uskova
Viktoriya Zhilinskayte
Yana Zhilinskayte

Left the club:

Irina Trezno
Olesya Cifka
Irina Smirnova
Maria Basarab
Ekaterina Artamonova
Natalia Vasilevskaya

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Quarter-final (3): 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13
Last 16 (1): 2010/11

Cup Winners' Cup: 1999/2000 runners-up,
1997/98, 1998/99, 2000/01 quarter-finalists
City Cup: 1994/95 semi-finalists

Other

IHF Cup Winners' Cup: 1987, 1988 winners
IHF European Champions Cup: 1990
runners-up
Soviet league: 1989, 1992
Russian league: - (runners-up 1997-2000)

Kuban (RUS)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
55	Irina	Antonova	RUS	Line Player	02/07/1986	Naro-Fominsk, RUS	177	7
9	Nataliya	Danshina	RUS	Right Back	10/04/1992	Voljski, RUS	182	14
4	Alexandra	Davidenko	RUS	Left Wing	07/07/1998	Timashevsk, RUS	169	
14	Ksenia	Dyachenko	RUS	Left Back	07/12/1994	Krasnodar, RUS	180	4
24	Anna	Efimkina	RUS	Right Wing	25/01/1999	Krymsk, RUS	173	
86	Maria	Gafonova	RUS	Line Player	21/06/1987	Maykop, RUS	177	
10	Julia	Gariaeva	RUS	Right Back	24/05/1996	Primor.-Axtarsk, RUS	180	13
73	Valentina	Goncharova	RUS	Line Player	03/07/1991	Elabuga, RUS	178	
38	Olga	Gorshenina	RUS	Right Back	09/11/1990	Togliatti, RUS	179	22
1	Victoriia	Kalinina	RUS	Goalkeeper	08/12/1988	Krasnodar Reg, RUS	183	
97	Valeriia	Khristenko	RUS	Goalkeeper	14/02/1997	Krasnodar, RUS	185	
20	Viktoriia	Koposova	RUS	Left Back	07/05/1993	Volgograd, RUS	175	6
44	Oxana	Koroleva	RUS	Left Back	17/07/1984	Astrakhan, RUS	186	6
88	Polina	Kuznetsova	RUS	Left Wing	10/06/1987	Shopokov, KGZ	170	21
78	Kristina	Liscevic	SRB	Centre Back	20/10/1989	Sombor, SRB	173	8
22	Ekaterina	Marennikova	RUS	Left Wing	29/04/1982	St.-Petersburg, RUS	174	7
16	Irina	Mikhaylyuta	RUS	Goalkeeper	16/06/1993	Krasnodar, RUS	186	
31	Julia	Nalivko	RUS	Centre Back	22/08/1994	Krasnodar, RUS	170	
33	Milana	Rzaeva	RUS	Right Back	25/11/1998	Krasnodar, RUS	175	
99	Victoria	Samarskaya	RUS	Goalkeeper	15/02/1994	Krasnodar, RUS	182	
5	Lada	Samoilenko	RUS	Left Back	10/06/1998	Tikhoretsk, RUS	174	
8	Iana	Savinova	RUS	Left Wing	03/01/1991	Samarskaya, RUS	169	
6	Ekaterina	Smirnova	RUS	Centre Back	06/06/1991	Togliatti, RUS	173	2
13	Irina	Smirnova	RUS	Line Player	26/05/1984	Bryanskaya, RUS	170	
15	Marina	Sudakova	RUS	Right Wing	17/02/1989	Volgograd, RUS	166	17
11	Oxana	Svitanko	RUS	Left Wing	15/04/1985	Krasnodar, RUS	169	13
17	Yana	Uskova	RUS	Right Wing	28/09/1985	Maykop, RUS	167	15
23	Natalia	Vinyukova	RUS	Left Back	27/03/1989	Majkop, RUS	178	
7	Diana	Zakarian	RUS	Right Wing	25/11/1992	Krasnodar, RUS	172	15
21	Viktoriya	Zhilinskayte	RUS	Left Back	06/03/1989	Uray, RUS	188	24
25	Yana	Zhilinskayte	RUS	Line Player	06/03/1989	Uray, RUS	185	7



Kuban (RUS)

Coach and key players profiles



Evgenii Trefilov coach

- one of the most renowned and experienced coaches in the present-day handball
- moved to Kuban from Astrakhanochka last summer, after helping the team from Astrakhan to sensationally win the Russian League
- has been coaching Russia national team since 1999, with a brief interruption in the 2012/13 season, and led them to a number of major titles
- known for his temper and emotional style of coaching

EC trophies: CL 2008, Cup Winners' Cup 2002, EHF Cup 2007, 2012
OG: G 2016, WCh: G 2001, 2005, 2007, 2009



Viktoria Zhilinskayte left back

- 2016/17 is her first season at Kuban after moving from Astrakhanochka
- previously also played for Lada Toliatti and won EHF Cup twice with that team
- has a twin sister Yana, with whom she has been playing together throughout the whole career in clubs as well as Russia national team
- her last name is Lithuanian as she is from Lithuanian descent

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2012, 2014
OG: G 2016, WCh: G 2009, EHF EURO: B 2008



Kristina Liscevic centre back

- in the summer of 2016, she moved from Hungary's Vaci NKSE to Astrakhanochka, but already a couple of months later completed her transfer to Kuban
- born in Sombor, started her career at the local club ZRK Sombor, also played for Red Star Belgrade, Macedonia's EK Metalurg Skopje and France's Metz Handball
- two-time Macedonian champion with Metalurg and two-time French champion with Metz
- her brother Zlatko Liscevic is a professional footballer now playing for Radnik Surdulica

WCh: S 2013



Marina Sudakova right wing

- moved to Kuban last summer from Rostov-Don
- had been playing for Rostov since the age of 15 and became the Russian champion in 2015
- missed most of the last season after giving birth to her son
- has been a member of Russia national team for many years

OG: G 2016

GROUP B



Playing hall

Arena Brest
140 Boulevard de Plymouth
29200 Brest
France
Capacity: 4,077

Club Address:

Brest Bretagne Handball
ARENA 140 Boulevard de Plymouth
29200 Brest, France

Media contact:

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Online information:

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Facebook: [Brest-Bretagne-Handball-Officiel](https://www.facebook.com/Brest-Bretagne-Handball-Officiel)
Twitter: [@BBH_Officiel](https://twitter.com/BBH_Officiel)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Brest Bretagne Handball (FRA)

In their first ever appearance in EHF European Cup competitions, Brest have already left their footprints in the qualification for the group phase. Thanks to top signings, such as former IHF World Player of the Year Allison Pineau, former French international goalkeeper Cleopatre Darleux and Romanian international Melinda Geiger, the club from the west coast of France managed to eliminate both the former EHF Champions League FINAL4 participant Dinamo Sinara (Russia) and the Spanish champion Bera Bera to proceed among the top 16.

Thanks to the Pineau transfer, the team of coach Laurent Bezeau can count on two of the best playmakers in the world of women's handball, as the Spaniard Marta Mangue (currently injured) is also part of the squad. But, being on their maiden international voyage, Brest remain humble, as they set their goal of making it to the quarter-final, despite this high-quality line-up. "It's the first time that we will compete in the European Cup competitions. So we are happy to participate in the group phase. Now, we would like to go as far as possible by displaying good matches in our arena for our amazing audience. All opponents are formidable, so it will be an incredible experience," says Bezeau on the upcoming tasks.

He expects a lot of contenders for the first-ever trophy in the merged competition. "My favourite teams for the finals are the Russian sides like Rostov, but also the Hungarian club Erd, the Swedes from Sävehof and Nykobing." For his side, Bezeau expects to learn many things in the new environment. "We take great pride in being able to participate in such a beautiful and tough competition and to be part of Europe's top 28 teams."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Super Amara Bera Bera (ESP) W20:25
2nd leg: vs Super Amara Bera Bera (ESP) W23:19
Aggregate score: 48:39

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: @ Dinamo-Sinara (RUS) W25:29
2nd leg: vs Dinamo-Sinara (RUS) W31:26
Aggregate score: 60:51

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: vs Madeira Andebol SAD (POR) W30:16
2nd leg: @ Madeira Andebol SAD (POR) W18:31
Aggregate score: 61:34

Newcomers:

Allison Pineau (Baia Mare)
Melinda Geiger (Baia Mare)
Astride N'gouan (Toulon)
Marie Prouvensier (Dijon)
Cleopatre Darleux (Nice)

Left the club:

Daniela Pereira (St Amand les Eaux)
Lea Marie Joseph (Rennes St Grégoire)
Nely Carla Alberto (Chambray)
Juliette Le Maire (retired)

Past achievements

-

Other

French league: 1 title (2012)
French cup: 1 title (2016)
League cup: 1 title (2012)

Brest Bretagne Handball (FRA)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
32	Anais	Adelin	FRA	Goalkeeper	30/09/1996	Versailles, FRA	180	
20	Lea	Breneol	FRA	Centre Back	09/01/1997	Brest, FRA	172	
8	Maud Eva	Copy	FRA	Left Wing	06/11/1992	Brest, FRA	168	17
1	Deborah	Dangueuger	FRA	Goalkeeper	28/04/1994	Metz, FRA	174	
16	Cleopatre	Darleux	FRA	Goalkeeper	01/07/1989	Mulhouse, FRA	176	
91	Marine	Desgrolard	FRA	Right Wing	14/01/1991	Massy, FRA	167	12
6	Alice	Durand	FRA	Left Wing	16/12/1985	Chambéry, FRA	174	14
5	Melinda	Geiger	ROU	Right Back	28/03/1987	Baia Mare, ROU	177	6
15	Axelle	Iziquel	FRA	Left Back	20/01/1996	Lannion, FRA	174	
11	Amandine	Lagattu	FRA	Left Wing	10/02/1999	Brest, FRA	168	
12	Amandine	Le Bellec	FRA	Wing	13/01/1997	Saint-Brieuc, FRA	180	
7	Gaelle	Le Hir	FRA	Wing	27/05/1990	Brest, FRA	176	6
77	Marion	Limal	FRA	Left Back	12/01/1987	Fontaine L. Dijon, FRA	184	16
2	Sarah	Lobe Eleme	FRA	Left Back	02/01/1998	Troyes, FRA	171	
99	Marta	Mangué Gonzalez	ESP	Back	23/04/1983	Las Palmas, ESP	177	22
13	Caroline	Morizur	FRA	Right Back	27/04/1996	Brest, FRA	175	
9	Astride	N'Gouan	FRA	Wing	09/07/1991	Saint Denis, FRA	187	10
24	Stéphanie	Ntsama Akoa	FRA	Left Back	24/01/1984	Yaoundé, CMR	184	17
10	Allison Marie	Pineau	FRA	Back	02/05/1989	Chartres, FRA	181	12
17	Marie	Prouvensier	FRA	Right Wing	09/02/1994	Dijon, FRA	165	12
22	Agathe	Quiniou	FRA	Goalkeeper	31/10/2000	Brest, FRA	178	
14	Camille	Rassinoux	FRA	Centre Back	03/04/1992	La Roche sur Yon, FRA	175	
4	Amandine	Tissier	FRA	Left Back	10/09/1993	Sable-Sur-Sarthe, FRA	179	12
18	Nabila	Tizi Sadki	FRA	Right Back	20/03/1984	Akbou, ALG	169	6
3	Alicia	Toublanc	FRA	Right Wing	03/05/1996	Saint-Brieuc, FRA	168	7



Brest Bretagne Handball (FRA)

Coach and key players profiles



Laurent Bezeau coach

- helped Brest turn into the first ever club to win the French cup while playing in the second league
- has been a long term Brest coach, arrived in 2009, he left in 2012 to coach the Tunisian national team, only to come back one season later
- ask the player or the president, they'll probably answer that Laurent Bezeau has been key in the club's success
- confesses he usually doesn't sleep the night before the game, having too many questions in his head that he can't answer



Cléopatre Darleux goalkeeper

- arrived in Brest in 2012, but after club got bankrupt she went away only to return in the summer of 2016, when the club gained its spot in the French first league again
- already played for five different clubs : Issy-Paris, Metz, Nice, Brest and two years in Viborg, Denmark
- after suffering an abcess in the eye, she had to wear glasses for four years before being finally allowed to remove them in 2015
- regularly elected the "hottest" sportswoman in France

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2014
WCh: S 2009, 2011



Maud-Eva Copy left wing

- already in the team in 2012, when Brest won the French national title
- decided to stay while everyone else left when the club was downgraded
- in the meantime, she graduated in sports, meaning she's got a degree to become a sports teacher when her career is over
- her commitment to the club is endless, which explains why she's one of the coach's most trusted person
- one of the most spectacular wingers one can witness, always looking for kempas and trick shots



Allison Pineau centre back

- after four seasons away from France, she decided to come back home in the summer of 2016
- during those four years, she wore the jerseys of several European powerhouses: HCM Baia Mare, Vardar Skopje and Krim Ljubljana
- elected IHF Player of the year in 2009, when she was only 20
- gained a lot of experience, which turns her into a real team-leader, in the national team and also with Brest

EURO: B 2016, OG: S 2016, WCh: S 2009, 2011

GROUP B



Playing hall

Köfem Playing Hall
Verseci u. 1-15.
8000 Székesfehérvár
Hungary
Capacity: 1,200

Club Address:

Alba Fehérvár KC
Verseci 1-15
8000 Székesfehérvár
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Online information:

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow/red

Dark

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

Alba Fehérvár KC (HUN)

Under different names, the club now called 'Alba Fehervar KC,' was highly successful in international women's handball. The team's biggest achievement was winning the EHF in 2005 as Cornexi-Alcoa Székesfehérvár, followed by making it to the EHF Cup semi-final nine years later as Köfem Klub, then Fehervar KC. Since the start of this season, it is not only the new name 'Alba,' but also some new players, who are famous on the international stage. The 2013 Brazilian World Champion, Daniela Piedade and former French international, Claudine Mendy, joined the team of head coach, Rita Dely, who took over Alba in February. In addition, Alba relies on the only Japanese player, who is part of this competition, Ishitate Mayuko.

The qualification stage was imprinted by two neighbouring duels with Romanian-side, Roman and Slovak champions, Michalovce, in which Fehervar won both matches in style after an easy-going start against Gdynia from Poland. "Now, as we have fulfilled our primary goal of the qualification, it is time to set new objectives," says Rita Deli. "We will meet great opponents in our group and we would like to prove against all of them that we are worthy members of this stage of the EHF Cup. These matches, as well as the tough competition in the Hungarian League, require the very best of our team, but we like challenges and are looking forward to them," adds Deli.

In general, the club feels honoured to be among the best 16 teams of this newly merged competition. "Playing in European Cup competitions is always something special in the life of our club - especially, since we won the EHF Cup in 2005 and reached the semi-final in 2014."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ IUVENTA Michalovce (SVK) 23:28
2nd leg: vs IUVENTA Michalovce (SVK) 27:19
Aggregate score: 55:42

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: @ H.C.M. Roman W25:27
2nd leg: vs H.C.M. Roman W28:24
Aggregate score: 55:49

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: vs Vistal Gdynia W28:17
2nd leg: @ Vistal Gdynia W17:27
Aggregate score: 55:34

Newcomers:

Daniela Piedade (Siofok KC)
Jelena Lavko (Craiova)
Claudine Mendy (Metz)
Orsolya Pelczeder (Vaci NKSE)
Eszter Vajk (Kozarmisleny)
Sara Tornoczky (NEKA)

Left the club:

Mira Emberovics (Dortmund)
Viktoria Csaki (DVSC)
Anita Herr (Vasas)
Helga Hrabovszky (Haladas)
Yuki Tanabe (Hokkoku Bank)
Szabina Tapai (retired)

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Winner (1): 2004/05
Semi-finals (1): 2013/14
Quarter-finals (1): 2005/06

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Last 16 2011/12
Challenge Cup: Last 16 1999/2000

Hungarian league: - (4th place 6x)
Hungarian cup: runners-up 2005/06

Alba Fehérvár KC (HUN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
21	Biljana	Bandelier	SRB	Left Back	12/01/1986	Belgrade, SRB	189	28
23	Bianka	Boldizsar	HUN	Left Back	04/09/1996	Dunaújváros, HUN	180	
5	Daniela	Piedade	BRA	Line Player	02/03/1979	Sao Paulo, BRA	175	8
18	Elena	Gjeorgjievska	MKD	Right Back	27/03/1990	Struga, MKD	179	21
19	Csege	Hajdich	HUN	Right Back	03/10/1990	Bekescsaba, HUN	180	8
55	Dorina	Hernadi	HUN	Goalkeeper	16/07/1999	Gyula, HUN	170	
12	Orsolya	Herr	HUN	Goalkeeper	23/11/1984	Tatabánya, HUN	176	
11	Enikő	Hudra	HUN	Centre Back	05/10/2000	Szekesfehervar, HUN	174	
34	Anita Kitti	Kazai	HUN	Left Wing	28/05/1988	Szeged, HUN	178	13
71	Bobana	Klikovac	MNE	Line Player	19/07/1995	Cetinje, MNE	181	
7	Jelena	Lavko	SRB	Right Back	06/07/1991	Zrenjanin, SRB	184	17
99	Bernadett	Leiner	HUN	Goalkeeper	30/04/1999	Varpalota, HUN	168	
3	Krisztina	Majer	HUN	Right Wing	27/04/1995	Szekesfehervar, HUN	163	8
27	Szabina	Mayer	HUN	Line Player	24/03/1988	Papa, HUN	176	4
20	Ishitate	Mayuko	JPN	Centre Back	18/01/1987	Fukui City, JPN	166	8
8	Claudine	Mendy	FRA	Left Back	08/01/1990	Mantes La Jolie	183	30
13	Orsolya	Pelczeder	HUN	Left Wing	18/05/1993	Győr, HUN	168	7
73	Karmen	Piller	HUN	Centre Back	07/12/1999	Mór, HUN	170	
6	Renata	Rideg	HUN	Line Player	08/04/1997	Szekesfehervar, HUN	178	
98	Josephine	Rozsas	HUN	Centre Back	27/05/1998	Ajka, HUN	166	
16	Flora	Sipeki	HUN	Goalkeeper	04/04/1991	Budapest, HUN	186	
9	Tamara	Tilinger	HUN	Centre Back	14/02/1989	Szekesfehervar, HUN	174	13
17	Sara	Tornoczky	HUN	Left Wing	26/04/1999	Bonyhad, HUN	174	
14	Linda	Utasi	HUN	Left Back	19/06/2000	Salgotarjan, HUN	176	
1	Eszter	Vajk	HUN	Goalkeeper	07/12/2000	Pécs, HUN	175	



Alba Fehérvár KC (HUN)

Coach and key players profiles



Rita Deli coach

- as a player Deli won the Cup Winners's Cup with Dunaferr, had played for FTC, Vasas, Tatabánya and Hypo Niederösterreich before she was forced to retire due to a serious injury
- two-time top scorer in the Hungarian league as a player
- ex-left back started her coaching career at youth teams and was the coach of the Fehérvár youngsters (also held the sports director position) when Alba sacked Botond Bakó and appointed Deli as head coach
- having lost the quarter-final against Győr Deli finished eighth with Alba in 2015/16 season and the management promoted her from interim to head coach

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 1995 (as player)
OG: S 2000, EURO: B 1998 (as player)



Daniela Piedade line player

- has been a prominent figure of women's handball in the 15 years, has won a WCh and played in the Women's EHF Champions League for 12 seasons.
- after her 2012 stroke, which kept her out of action for only six months, made a remarkable comeback and signed a contract with Siófok, which she left for Fehérvár in 2016
- national champion for eleven straight years (nine with Hypo, two with Krim Ljubljana)
- Brazilian star has competed in all EHF tournaments except for Challenge Cup and at the age of 37 she is still a clutch player for Fehérvár

WCh: G 2013, Pan American Games: G 2007, 2011, 2015, Pan American Ch: G 2007, 2011, 2013, 2015, S 2009



Claudine Mendy left back

- played in France for most of her prolific career (apart from a year with Budućnost in Montenegro) and arrived in Fehérvár in 2016
- Mendy's husband is Milena Knezevic's brother so she speaks Montenegrin and English, too, which made it easier for her to settle down in Fehérvár
- won both national championships and cups in France and Montenegro, while her best international performance came with Le Havre, whom she reached the semi-final of EHF Cup with
- best line player of the French league in 2009/10 plays mainly on the left back position in Fehérvár

WCh: S 2009, 2011



Elena Gjeorgjievska right back

- real Eastern European traveller, having played for Vardar Skopje, Budućnost and Baia Mare, signed a contract with the Hungarian outfit in 2016
- CL winner with Budućnost and has played in all EHF competitions since her 2004 debut in the EHF Cup
- left-handed shooter has not always been a clutch player in her previous teams but she has been the most prolific goal scorer of Fehérvár
- Macedonian right back scored 12 goals in Fehérvár's group qualifiers

EC trophies: CL 2012



Group C head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group C opponents in the EC

Rostov-Don vs Érd HC 2 2-0-0 (60:52) 4:0

05.04.2015 Érd HC vs Rostov-Don, EHF Cup – Semi-final

24:28 (13:15)

11.04.2015 Rostov-Don vs Érd HC, EHF Cup – Semi-final

32:28 (13:15)

No previous encounters in European competitions

Rostov-Don vs Byasen Trondheim

Rostov-Don vs SG BBM Bietigheim

SG BBM Bietigheim vs Érd HC

SG BBM Bietigheim vs Byasen Trondheim

Érd HC vs Byasen Trondheim

GROUP C



Playing hall

Palace of Sport " Rostov Don"
St. Khalturinsky str. 103
344011 Rostov-Don, Russia
Capacity: 3,500

Club Address:

Rostov-Don
1 Konnoy Army street, 4-E
344029 Rostov-on-Don
Russia

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Facebook: [rostovhandball](https://www.facebook.com/rostovhandball)
Twitter: [@rostovhandball](https://twitter.com/rostovhandball)
Instagram: [rostovhandball](https://www.instagram.com/rostovhandball)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: black/yellow
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: dark red

Rostov-Don (RUS)

Their hopes in the Women's EHF Champions League were set extremely high, but the road to the FINAL4 in Budapest ended much earlier than expected. After only one win in six group matches, the Russian powerhouse, Rostov-Don, were eliminated from the competition in the group of death, facing Bucuresti, Györ and Midtjylland.

The extremely bolstered Champions League quarter-finalists from last season were hit hard. Including their top transfer, Olympic Games MVP Anna Vyakhireva, six of Rostov's players became Olympic champions with Russia in Rio: Anna Sedoikina, Anna Sen, Vladlena Bobrovnikova, Ekaterina Ilina and Maya Petrova. In addition, Rostov have the Rio silver medalist Siraba Dembele (France, new from Vardar) and bronze medalist Katrine Lunde (Norway) on their squad. The only bad news was the injury of goalkeeper Anna Sedoikina in Rio, who is still out until the end of the year. Now, Maria Basarab (Kuban Krasnodar) will replace her.

Rostov could not stand the pressure. In December, the club announced to go separate ways with their Danish born coach, Jan Leslie. At the end of the month, Leslie's successor was found in France: Frederic Bougeant, who steered Fleury to the French title, as well as the Champions League, and had also coached the Senegalese women's national team. Bougeant will see a familiar face, as his former Fleury top star, Spaniard Alexandrina Cabral, joined Rostov last summer. His ambitions are high, even though he knows that the clock is ticking. "We have to prepare in a short time and the key is more stability," Bougeant says. He adds, "In the EHF Cup, we were drawn in a very strong group. ÉRD are a strong and stable team, Bietigheim is a serious project with big ambitions and Byasen have several players who just became EURO champions. But, we will produce six serious fights to proceed in the next stage. I will do everything possible to meet the expectations of fans and bring the team to a new level."

Road to the Group Phase

4th ranked from the EHF Champions League Group Matches

GROUP C

@ CSM Bucuresti (ROU) L24:21
vs Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN) L27:28
vs FC Midtjylland (DEN) W26:20
@ FC Midtjylland (DEN) L25:23
vs CSM Bucuresti (ROU) L20:22
@ Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN) L32:25

Newcomers:

Lotte Grigel (Team Esbjerg)
Anna Vyakhireva (Astrakhanochka)
Olga Chernovivanenko (Vardar)
Siraba Dembele (Vardar)
Alexandrina Cabral Barbosa (Fleury Loiret HB)
Ana-Paula Rodrigues-Belo (CSM București)
Maria Basarab (Kuban)

Left the club:

Marina Sudakova (Kuban)
Anna Punko (Debreceni VSC)
Oxana Kisileva (Odense)
Regina Shimkute (pregnant)
Ekaterina Davydenko
Elena Avdekova
Marina Skladchikova

Past achievements

EHF Cup:

Runners-up (1): 2014/15
Quarter-finals (1): 2009/10

Other

Champions League: 2015/16
quarter-finalists, 2016/17 group
matches, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14
qualification

Cup Winners' Cup: semi-final 2012/13,
2013/14, quarter-final 2010/11

Russian league: 4 titles (1990, 1991,
1994, 2015)

Russian cup: 7 titles

Rostov-Don (RUS)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
12	Mariya	Basarab	RUS	Goalkeeper	19/01/1990	Uray, RUS	186	
17	Vladlena	Bobrovnikova	RUS	Left Back	24/10/1987	Krasnodar, RUS	180	
99	Viktoriya	Borshchenko	UKR	Left Wing	05/01/1986	Kherson, UKR	170	
86	Alexandrina	Cabral Barbosa	ESP	Left Back	05/05/1986	Lisbon, POR	175	
25	Olga	Chernoivanenko	RUS	Right Wing	17/04/1989	Samarsk, RUS	176	
28	Siraba	Dembele	FRA	Left Wing	28/06/1986	Dreux, FRA	172	
61	Lotte	Grigel	DEN	Centre Back	05/04/1991	Esbjerg, DEN	165	
33	Ekaterina	Ilina	RUS	Centre Back	07/03/1991	Togliatti, RUS	175	
3	Katrine	Lunde	NOR	Goalkeeper	30/03/1980	Kristiansand, NOR	181	
19	Kseniya	Makeeva	RUS	Line Player	19/09/1990	Ufa, RUS	185	
6	Iuliia	Managarova	UKR	Right Wing	27/09/1988	Dniepropetrovsk, UKR	170	
1	Galina	Mekhdieva	RUS	Goalkeeper	17/06/1985	Rostov-On-Don, RUS	180	
7	Mayya	Petrova	RUS	Line Player	26/05/1982	Volgograd, RUS	178	
9	Ana Paula	Rodrigues Belo	BRA	Centre Back	18/10/1987	Sao Luis, BRA	172	
21	Anna	Sedoykina	RUS	Goalkeeper	01/08/1984	Volgograd, RUS	181	
8	Anna	Sen	RUS	Left Back	03/12/1990	Krasnodar, ROU	185	
23	Regina	Shymkute	RUS	Left Back	21/12/1985	Herson, UKR	179	
4	Elena	Slivinskaya	RUS	Left Back	09/05/1980	Rostov-On-Don, RUS	186	
71	Alexandra	Stepanova	RUS	Line Player	21/06/1989	Izhevsk, RUS	180	
13	Anna	Vyakhireva	RUS	Right Back	13/03/1995	Volgograd, RUS	165	



Rostov-Don (RUS)

Coach and key players profiles



Frederic Bougeant coach

- the 42-year old was appointed head coach of Rostov-Don in December 2016 following Jan Leslie's departure
- born in Havre and started his coaching career in the local club Le Havre AC at the age of just 25
- with Le Havre and CJF Fleury Loiret, became runner-up of France seven times combined
- during 2016 also coached the Senegal women's national team

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2012



Ekaterina Ilina right back

- one of the best Russian playmakers and the big revelation of the past season
- moved to Rostov-Don in 2014 from Lada Togliatti just after winning the EHF Cup with that team
- in 2008 became the Junior World Champion with the Russian team in Bratislava
- won her first domestic trophies later than international ones, having become the Russian champion and Russian supercup winner with Rostov in 2015

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2014
OG: G 2016



Anna Vyakhireva right back

- this is her first season at Rostov after moving from Astrakhanochka
- sensationally won the Russian league in the 2015/16 season with Astrakhanochka and was elected the MVP and the best right back of the tournament
- comes from a handball family: her father Viktor is a well-known coach and her elder sister Polina plays for Kuban Krasnodar and for the Russia national team
- one of the most talented and promising players of the Russian handball

OG: G 2016



Alexandrina Cabral Barbosa left back

- 2016/17 is her debut season at Rostov-Don after moving from France's Fleury Loiret HB last summer
- born and raised in Portugal but obtained Spanish citizenship in 2012 and plays for the Spanish national team
- throughout her career, played for a number of clubs in Portugal, Spain, Romania, Germany and France
- wears number 86 because her birth year is 1986

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2009

GROUP C



Playing hall

EgeTrans Arena
Schwarzwaldstrasse 40
74142 Bietigheim Bissingen
Germany
Capacity: 4,510

Club Address:

SG BBM Bietigheim
Mühlwiesenstrasse 10
74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen
Germany

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Facebook: [SGBBM](https://www.facebook.com/SGBBM)
Instagram: [sbbmbietigheimfrauen](https://www.instagram.com/sbbmbietigheimfrauen)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: red
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: white/yellow

Dark

Player shirt: dark blue
Player short: dark blue
Goalkeeper shirt: white/red

SG BBM Bietigheim (GER)

When the former Leipzig and Randers coach, Martin Albertsen, arrived at Bietigheim (close to Stuttgart) in December 2014, the club was close to relegating to the second German division. Since then, a fairy tale with internationally experienced stars has begun, which lifted SSG to the top of the Bundesliga ranking and into the group phase of the EHF Cup in their first international season.

In the previous two years, Bietigheim made some impressive signings, such as the Dutch EURO silver medalists Maura Visser and goalkeeper Tess Wester, former Krim, Randers and Győr player Susann Müller or 2016 Champions League winner, Fernanda da Silva. After de Silva's pregnancy was announced, the Brazilian World Champion was replaced by Danish international Fie Woller. In autumn, German international Luisa Schulze arrived from Leipzig to bolster the high-quality squad. It was no surprise that Bietigheim flew through all three qualification rounds, including eliminating former Champions League winner and Croatian record champions, Podravka Vegeta. SSG's future goals are set high by the qualification for the Champions League and a top position in the newly merged EHF Cup.

"The EHF Cup is a high-level competition. It's a great honour for our club to play against some of the best teams in Europe and the possibility to show Europe our team in the best light. All the groups will be able to display top handball for the spectators," Albertsen says. Albertsen is familiar with all of the group opponents. "Group C will be very exciting and tough. Rostov were one of the favourites to win the Champions League and are now favourites to win the EHF Cup. ÉRD HC and Byasen Trondheim both have delivered several excellent results in this year's EHF Cup, so we know what awaits us."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO) W16:23
2nd leg: vs HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO) W24:20
Aggregate score: 47:36

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs ASC Corona 2010 Brasov (ROU) W37:24
2nd leg: @ ASC Corona 2010 Brasov (ROU) W19:23
Aggregate score: 60:43

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: @ ZRK Naisa Nis (SRB) W15:34
2nd leg: vs ZRK Naisa Nis (SRB) W37:19
Aggregate score: 71:34

Newcomers:

Kim Naidzinavicius (TSV Bayer 04 Leverkusen)
Valentina Salamakha (Siófok KC)
Mia Bilotto (Ringkøbing Håndbold)
Fernanda Da Silva (CSM Bukarest)
Luisa Schulze (HC Leipzig)
Fie Woller (FC Midtjylland)

Left the club:

Paule Baudouin (Fleury Loiret Handball)
Simone Larsen Poulsen (SG Kirchhof)
Fabiana Diniz (retired)

Past achievements

-

Other

German league: - (4th place 2016)

SG BBM Bietigheim (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
93	Jaqueline	Anastacio	BRA	Left Back	09/11/1987	Varinha, BRA	174	3
2	Mia	Biltoft	DEN	Line Player	03/04/1992	Ringkebing, DEN	175	11
11	Aylin	Bok	GER	Centre Back	10/03/1996	Wangen, GER	168	
14	Stine Baun	Eriksen	DEN	Left Back	30/01/1995	Randers, DEN	178	6
17	Nina	Fischer	GER	Right Wing	14/10/1999	Göppingen, GER	168	
89	Fernanda	Franca da Silva	BRA	Left Wing	25/09/1989	Sao Bernardo, BRA	177	16
16	Ann-Cathrin	Giegerich	GER	Goalkeeper	04/01/1992	Erlenbach, GER	181	
18	Mille Heick	Hundahl	DEN	Right Wing	21/09/1990	Thisted, DEN	168	6
5	Antje	Lauenroth	GER	Line Player	03/10/1988	Hablensleben, GER	170	11
6	Linda	Mack	GER	Right Back	02/12/1991	Bietigheim-Bisin., GER	170	11
26	Antje Angela	Malestein	NED	Right Wing	31/01/1993	Spankenburg, NED	173	27
61	Celina	Meißner	GER	Goalkeeper	19/08/1998	Bad Oldeslohe, GER	172	
7	Nina Christin	Müller	GER	Centre Back	14/11/1980	Bremen, GER	180	12
22	Susann	Müller	GER	Right Back	26/05/1988	Saalfeld-Saale, GER	187	18
15	Kim	Naidziniavicius	GER	Centre Back	06/04/1991	Gelnhausen	183	29
9	Alina	Ridder	GER	Left Wing	30/07/1999	Hagen, GER	176	
1	Isabell	Roch	GER	Goalkeeper	26/07/1990	Erlenbach/Main, GER	174	
23	Valentyna	Salamakha	AZE	Goalkeeper	23/04/1986	Kirowograd, UKR	176	
13	Luisa	Schulze	GER	Line Player	14/09/1990	Altenburg	192	6
8	Martine	Smeets	NED	Left Wing	05/05/1990	Geesteren, NED	172	4
27	Lenya	Treusch	GER	Left Wing	27/08/1998	Weinheim, GER	173	
3	Maura	Visser	NED	Left Back	01/06/1985	s-Gravenhage	178	13
33	Tess	Wester	NED	Goalkeeper	19/05/1993	Heehuggwaard, NED	178	
21	Fie	Woller	DEN		17/09/1992	Herning	176	
4	Hanna Maria	Yttereng	NOR	Line Player	20/02/1991	Trondheim, NOR	184	5



SG BBM Bietigheim (GER)

Coach and key players profiles



Martin Albertsen coach

- had to finish his active career at the age of 22 after an injury, then became coach of several Danish youth teams
- assistant coach and later head coach of Viborg HK until 2004
- coach of German side HC Leipzig from 2004 to 2006, steering HCL to several trophies
- returned to Denmark and coached Randers (until 2009), again Viborg (2011/12) and Kobenhavn (2013/14)
- signed by Bietigheim in December 2014
- cousin of three times Olympic champion Katrine Frøelund
- TV expert for TV2 at women's EURO events and World Championships

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2004 (as coach)



Tess Wester goalkeeper

- as nearly all Dutch national team players started her career in the youth academy in Papendal
- played for Emmen and Amsterdam, before she went abroad at the age of 18, when she joined German side Oldenburg
- in the 2014/15 season, she scored the "goal of the season" in Germany
- in summer 2015 she transferred to Bietigheim
- awarded best goalkeeper of the 2015 World Championship in Denmark

EURO S 2016, WCh S 2015, U19 WCh B2010, U20 EURO S 2011



Susann Müller right back

- started her career at the youth academy of HC Leipzig
- successor of German record international Grit Jurack on the right back position at Leipzig and the national team
- national champion in three countries: Germany (with HC Leipzig), Denmark (with Randers), Slovenia (with Krim) and additionally Hungarian cup winner with Győr
- top scorer and All-star Team member at the 2013 World Championship, since Michael Biegler took over in April 2016, she was not nominated anymore for the national team
- German handball player of the year in 2013
- married to her Bietigheim teammate Nina Müller (formerly Wörz), with whom she transferred to Bietigheim in 2015

WCh B 2007, U20 WCh G 2008



Maura Visser centre back

- started her international career at the Danish side Kolding at the age of 24 after playing for several Dutch clubs
- transferred to HC Leipzig in 2011, where she already had been coached by Martin Albertsen
- core player of the Dutch national team until 2011, then after a conflict with coach Henk Groener was not nominated anymore
- returned to the Dutch national team in November 2016, after Helle Thomsen took over
- played for Bietigheim since summer 2015 after a short intermezzo at Viborg

EURO S 2016

GROUP C



Playing hall

Erd Arena
Velencei út 39-41
2030 Erd
Hungary
Capacity: 2,200

Club Address:

ÉRD HC
Velencei út 39-41.
H-2030 Erd
Hungary

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Online information:

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Facebook: [handballerd](https://www.facebook.com/handballerd)
Instagram: [handballerd](https://www.instagram.com/handballerd)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Érd HC (HUN)

It is a perfect coincidence that the qualification for the first-ever group phase of the newly merged Women's EHF Cup was secured in the year that ÉRD Handball Club celebrates their 40th anniversary. Now, ÉRD aim for more, after the club, based close to the capital Budapest, have made it to the pinnacle of Hungarian women's handball throughout the previous years. Since 2012, ÉRD consistently qualified for EHF European Cup competitions, highlighted by reaching the 2014/15 semi-final of the 'old' EHF Cup, when they were eliminated from the finals by a team, who they now also face in the group phase: Russian-side Rostov-Don. Additionally, Bietigheim and Byasen are their opponents in Group C.

In qualification this season, ÉRD first ended the hopes of the ambitious French-side Issy, and then eliminated the defending EHF Cup champions and country-fellows, Dunaujvaros, by two clear wins.

"We made it to the group phase despite facing strong teams before; now we have to play against strong opponents. This is a great challenge for our players and a great pleasure for our fans, whose support we count on the future too," says coach Edina Szabo. According to Szabo, the big favourites for winning the title are Rostov. The ÉRD squad is quite international, including Brazilian Larissa Araujo (the only newcomer), team captain of the Serbian national team Katarina Krpez-Szlezak, Spanish international Mireya Gonzalez and 2012 EHF EURO Champion Andjela Bulatovic (Montenegro).

"In addition to maintaining a good role in the well-balanced Hungarian league, it is our season's objective to make it to quarter-final in the EHF Cup," Szabo adds.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs Dunaujvaros KKA (HUN) W29:22
2nd leg: @ Dunaujvaros KKA (HUN) W25:31
Aggregate score: 60:47

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs Issy Paris Hand (FRA) W30:26
2nd leg: @ Issy Paris Hand (FRA) W26:29
Aggregate score: 59:52

Newcomers:

Larissa Araujo (AAU Handebol Concordia)

Left the club:

-

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Semi-final (1): 2014/15
Round 3 (1): 2012/13

Champions League: 2013/14
qualification

Cup Winners' Cup: 2015/16 quarter-
finalist, 2013/14 Last 16

Other

Hungarian league: - (3rd place 4x)
Hungarian cup: - (runners-up 2016)

Érd HC (HUN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
20	Larissa	Munhoz Araujo	BRA	Left Wing	01/07/1992	Curitiba, BRA	167	9	
88	Bianka	Barján	HUN	Centre Back	12/08/1990	Balassagyarmat, HUN	172	5	
6	Dorina	Bernát	HUN	Right Wing	27/02/1998	Budapest, HUN	173		
10	Andjela	Bulatovic	MNE	Centre Back	15/01/1987	Podgorica, MNE	175	4	
19	Bozsana	Fekete	HUN	Left Wing	12/06/1993	Budapest, HUN	168	2	
99	Mireya	Gonzalez Alvarez	ESP	Right Back	18/07/1991	Leon, ESP	178	13	
1	Szvetlana	Gridnyeva	HUN	Goalkeeper	26/08/1973	Stavropolsky, RUS	180		
17	Vanda	Gulyás	HUN	Line Player	04/07/1995	Gyula, HUN	168	2	
54	Barbara Viktória	Gyori	HUN	Goalkeeper	15/03/1997	Budapest, HUN	180		
13	Kinga	Janurik	HUN	Goalkeeper	06/11/1991	Budapest, HUN	176		
26	Yulia	Khavronina	RUS	Right Back	20/05/1992	Astrakhan, RUS	186		
14	Anett	Kisfaludy	HUN	Line Player	31/08/1990	Kapuvár, HUN	182	11	
23	Nikoletta	Kiss	HUN	Right Back	23/07/1996	Budapest, HUN	184		
15	Kinga	Klivinyi	HUN	Left Back	31/03/1992	Budapest, HUN	175	25	
33	Katarina	Krpez Slezak	SRB	Right Wing	02/05/1988	Sombor, SRB	169	32	
90	Zsofia	Németh	HUN	Goalkeeper	10/04/2001	Budapest, HUN	180		
87	Alexa	Plesztovits	HUN	Line Player	17/11/1998	Budapest, HUN	172		
21	Sára	Reizinger	HUN	Left Back	01/10/1999	Budapest, HUN	178		
24	Mariama	Signate	FRA	Left Back	22/07/1985	Dakar, SEN	189	10	
8	Laura	Szabó	HUN	Line Player	19/11/1997	Budapest, HUN	184	6	
5	Kitti	Takács	HUN	Left Wing	08/07/1995	Budapest, HUN	165		
7	Luca	Vajda	HUN	Centre Back	19/09/1996	Nyíregyháza, HUN	174		
73	Olivera	Vukcevic	MNE	Left Wing	06/03/1995	Podgorica, MNE	173		



Érd HC (HUN)

Coach and key players profiles



Edina Szabó coach

- respected member of the Hungarian national team before she left the country with her husband and fellow handball player, Attila Borsos
- became manager of the French national team
- in her first year as a head coach won the EHF Cup with Cornexi beating Győr in the final
- took over Érd in 2010 as the second league team started a long-term project
- led Érd to the knockout stage of the Cup Winners' Cup twice, and the EHF Cup semi-final in 2015, having missed CL qualification a year before

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2005 (as coach)



Kinga Janurik goalkeeper

- made an impressive international debut in the EHF EURO 2016, where her 60 percent save ratio helped Hungary to overcome Montenegro and advance to the main round
- important player in the Junior European Championship in 2009, where she finished as runner-up with her team
- has been playing for Érd since 2010 and played in all her team's international campaigns in the Cup Winners' Cup and EHF Cup
- suffered a minor injury in the EURO but her knee only kept her out of action for some weeks



Kinga Klivinyi left back

- as one of the most prolific Hungarian prospects played for junior and youth national teams and made her first squad debut in 2012 at the age of 19
- in 2009 she finished as runner-up in the top scorer's list of the Youth EURO, a year after she was top scorer of the European Open Championship
- with her 1,75 m height she is not particularly tall for a left back but with her speed and eye for a breakthrough she remains an important source of goals for Érd
- key player as Érd eliminated the title holders scoring 13 goals against Dunaújváros in the qualification phase



Anett Kisfaludy line player

- grew up in Kapuvár, close to Győr and started playing handball there but despite her talent she struggled for playing time and was loaned to various teams
- in Érd she proved she is not only an excellent pivot but also a reliable central defender, together with ex-teammate Klára Szekeres they form the central defence of the Hungarian national team
- vital member of the junior national team that finished as runner-up in the 2009 European Championship
- completing her 7th season with Érd and last year she signed a contract extension until 2018

GROUP C



Playing hall

Trondheim Spektrum
Klostergata 90
N-7030 Trondheim
Norway
Capacity: 5,000

Club Address:

Byasen Trondheim
Ingvald Ystgaards vei 3A
7047 Trondheim
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Facebook: [byaasenhandsball](https://www.facebook.com/byaasenhandsball)
Twitter: [@byaasenhandsball](https://twitter.com/byaasenhandsball)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Byasen Trondheim (NOR)

Being one of the major talent pools for the highly successful Norwegian national women's team, the Trondheim-based club, Byasen, are counting on a nearly all-Norwegian squad in the current season. Ida Alstad and rising top talent Emily Arntzen - one of the discoveries of the tournament - became EHF EURO champions with Norway in December in Gothenburg.

On domestic ground, the five-time Norwegian champion were in the shadow of Larvik in the previous decade, but now hope to leave the arch rivals behind in one of the Norwegian competitions. Byasen play their 19th international season already, highlighted by the Cup Winners' Cup finals in 2006/07, when they were defeated by Romanian-side Valcea.

"We are outsiders in our group, but our young team learns fast and I think that we could have a fair chance to win some matches," says Hogdahl. "Rostov are the strongest team in the group and ERD had a strong result against Dunaujvaros in the third qualification round. Bietigheim seem to be the strongest German team this season. With that, I think we are in the strongest group of all."

In general, the Byasen coach expects the newly merged EHF Cup to bring women's handball one step further. "We think the competition is a good development of the two former tournaments. The group system gives us six games of very good experience. It's also a good preparation for the group stage of the Champions League, which we have high hopes for in the upcoming years."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ H.C. Dunarea Braila (ROU) L25:24
2nd leg: vs H.C. Dunarea Braila (ROU) W34:23
Aggregate score: 58:48

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs Tertnes Bergen (NOR) W33:27
2nd leg: @ Tertnes Bergen (NOR) W26:29
Aggregate score: 62:53

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: vs RK Zagorje (SLO) W32:20
2nd leg: @ RK Zagorje (SLO) W20:25
Aggregate score: 57:40

Newcomers:

Eirin Skogen (Kongsvinger)

Left the club:

Ingrid Odegaard
Maren Gundersen (both retired)

EHF Cup

Quarter-final (4): 1997/98, 2000/01,
2007/08, 2008/09
Last 16 (1): 2004/05, 2010/11

Champions League: 1996/97, 1998/99
quarter-finalist
Cup winners' Cup: 2006/07 runners-up

Other

Norwegian league: 4 titles (1985, 1986,
1988, 1989)
Norwegian cup: 4 titles (1988, 1989,
1991, 2007)

Byasen Trondheim (NOR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
3	Maren	Aardahl	NOR	Line Player	02/03/1994	Trondheim, NOR	183	9
11	Ida	Alstad	NOR	Back	13/06/1985	Trondheim, NOR	172	15
4	Emilie Hegh	Arntzen	NOR	Back	01/01/1994	Skien, NOR	183	34
19	Jenny	Groetan	NOR	Line Player	11/05/1994	Trondheim, NOR	182	16
15	Marie	Henriksen	NOR	Back	31/08/1993	Trondheim, NOR	172	
22	Ida Marie	Nagelhus	NOR	Back	24/01/1996	Trondheim, NOR	169	9
23	Maria	Hjertner	NOR	Right Back	03/07/1996	Trondheim, NOR	178	13
6	Moa	Hogdahl	NOR	Right Back	28/02/1996	Trondheim, NOR	179	6
20	Marit Røsberg	Jacobsen	NOR	Right Wing	25/02/1994	Narvik, NOR	165	28
12	Tonje Haug	Lerstad	NOR	Goalkeeper	09/10/1996	Trondheim, NOR	176	
13	Maja	Magnussen	NOR	Right Wing	30/06/1997	Trondheim, NOR	165	
16	Andrea Austmo	Pedersen	NOR	Goalkeeper	19/04/1994	Trondheim, NOR	176	
21	Marte	Pedersen	NOR	Back	04/02/1998	Trondheim, NOR	169	
24	Eirin	Skogen	NOR	Back	24/10/1997	Trondheim, NOR	175	
9	Teodora	Tomac	CRO	Back	24/10/1988	Trondheim, NOR	174	10
17	Oda	Uthus	NOR	Left Wing	29/07/1996	Trondheim, NOR	170	4
5	Kristin	Venn	NOR	Left Wing	05/03/1994	Trondheim, NOR	168	17
10	Silje	Waade	NOR	Right Back	20/03/1994	Stjørdal, NOR	183	16



Byasen Trondheim (NOR)

Coach and key players profiles



Arne Högdahl coach

- took over as head coach ahead of the 2016/17 season, succeeding the Dane Claus Mogensen
- has a past career as head coach in Hypo Niederösterreich as well as assistant coach by the Norwegian women's national team
- married to current assistant national coach by Norway and former Swedish international Mia Hermansson Högdahl
- his daughter Moa Högdahl also plays in the Byasen team, as right back
- his main handball philosophy is to make each player unfold her entire potential



Ida Alstad left back

- joined Byasen from Hungarian Győr Audi ETO KC ahead of this season
- joined Győr from Norwegian league club Byasen Trondheim as per New Year 2016
- not part of Norwegian national coach Thorir Hergeirsson's original squad for the 2015 WCh, but was called up before the last 16 phase
- started her career in Trondheim, the city where she was born, but has also had a foreign career in the Danish clubs Holstebro and FC Midtjylland
- has scored over 300 goals for Norway

EC trophies: CWC 2015

OG: G 2012, B 2016, WCh: G 2011, 2015, S 2009, EURO: G 2010, 2014, 2016, S 2012



Emilie Hegh Arntzen left back

- playing her third season with Byasen after joining from another Norwegian league club, Gjerpen in 2014
- has played 14 internationals for Norway and was part of the Norwegian team at the EHF EURO 2016
- got her real break-through in the national team at the EHF EURO 2016 after a promising performance at the Rio Olympics in August 2016
- the high pace, to which she is used in the national team has also helped to add speed to Byasen's attacking play
- her mother, Hanne Hegh also used to play for Norway, while her father, Ketil Arntzen is head coach in her former club, Gjerpen

OG: B 2016, EURO: G 2014, 2016



Silje Waade right back

- used to be a track athlete until the age of 17
- at the same age, 17, she already had her European debut for Byasen, in the EHF Cup
- got her break-through on the international scene at the EHF EURO 2016, where she played her part in Norwegian winning the championship in Sweden
- her height, 183 cm provides her with an obvious advantage against the defender she meets, also very good at using that height, though, and her left-hand shot is extremely efficient

EURO: G 2016



Group D head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group D opponents in the EC

No previous encounters in European competitions

Glassverket vs NFH - Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub

Glassverket vs TuS Metzingen

Glassverket vs Handball Club Lada

Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub vs TuS Metzingen

Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub vs Handball Club Lada

TuS Metzingen vs Handball Club Lada

GROUP D



Playing hall

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

Club Address:

Glassverket
Tverrliggeren 6
3038 Drammen
Norway

Media contact:

Erik Oie
erik.oie@glassverketif.no

Online information:

Website: www.glassverketelite.no
Facebook: [GIF.handball](https://www.facebook.com/GIF.handball)
Twitter: [@glassverketelit](https://twitter.com/glassverketelit)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Glassverket (NOR)

It was a tough lesson, but they learned from their mistakes. After qualifying for the first-ever international group phase in the history of the club, the Norwegian-side, Glassverket IF, had zero points in the EHF Champions League in autumn. After their six defeats against Buducnost, Metz and Thüringer HC, the team from Drammen now have an opportunity to create a different course in the international EHF Cup Group Phase.

"We want to win some matches to prove that we deserve to be part of these international competitions," says coach, Geir Oustorp, prior to his team's match-ups against Lada, Metzingen and Nyköbing in Group D.

"We want to gain international experience and try to get some wins on home turf," adds manager, Erik Øie. "The participation in European Cup competitions helps us to develop the club and therefore, we become more attractive for sponsors, spectators and not forgetting about the prospect for potential new players."

Along with their next challenge of at least six international matches, Glassverket continues to try to keep up with their domestic rivals and record champions, Larvik. GIF's newcomer, June Andenæs, is out for the rest of the season with a serious knee injury.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Champions League Group Matches, Group A

@ Thüringer HC (GER) L24:16 (10:4)
vs Buducnost (MNE) L23:30 (11:13)
vs Metz Handball (FRA) L22:24 (8:15)
@ Metz Handball (FRA) L25:19 (12:10)
vs Thüringer HC (GER) L27:33 (12:15)
@ Buducnost (MNE) L22:21 (14:9)

Qualification Group 1 (Drammen, NOR)

Semi-final: vs Ankara Yenimahalle BSK (TUR) W34:23 (15:9)
Final: Glassverket vs HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO) W28:19 (12:12)

Newcomers:

June Andenæs (Molde)
Marianne Iversen (Flint)
Birna Berg Haraldsdóttir (Sävehof)
Martine Wolff (Nordstrand)
Mette Leipart (Nordstrand)
Amalie Josendal (Njård)

Left the club:

Jeanette Kristiansen (Vipers)
Kari Brattset (Vipers)
Kristin Nørstebo (Vipers)
Martina Thorn (FC Midtjylland)
Monica Iversen (retired)
Hege Bakken Wahlqvist (Tvis Holstebro)
Eline Jarlsrud Rikartsen (Stabæk)

Past achievements

EHF Champions League:
Group matches (1): 2016/17
Qualification (1): 2015/16

Other EC records:
Cup Winners' Cup
Last 16: 2015/16

Norwegian champion: -
Norwegian cup winner: 1974, 1981

Glassverket (NOR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
6	Charlotte	Aasbo	NOR	Left Wing	10/05/1988	Drammen, NOR	160	
4	June	Andenaes	NOR	Line Player	09/06/1983	Gloppen, NOR	176	
11	Linn	Andresen	NOR	Left Wing	16/06/1997	Bærum, NOR	170	
35	Lisa Forsberg	Bernhardsen	NOR	Line Player	16/04/1990	Fredrikstad, NOR	179	
7	Line	Bjoernsen	NOR	Right Wing	03/07/1992	Stavanger, NOR	179	
31	Anna Aasprong	Brekke	NOR	Centre Back	21/07/1998	Drammen, NOR	173	
19	Trine	Bronsta	NOR	Centre Back	04/09/1993	Drammen, NOR	170	
15	Nina	Bull-Engelstad	NOR	Left Wing	01/09/1989	Drammen, NOR	165	
17	Emilie	Christensen	NOR	Centre Back	13/04/1993	Oslo, NOR	176	
21	Line	Ellertsen	NOR	Right Back	04/06/1998	Stavanger, NOR	174	
9	Birna Berg	Haraldsdottir	ISL	Centre Back	21/06/1993	Reykjavik, ISL	181	
22	Ane Landaas	Hovland	NOR	Line Player	22/03/1998	Drammen, NOR	169	
32	Pernille	Hyggen	NOR	Right Wing	16/04/1998	Drammen, NOR	165	
23	Marianne	Iversen	NOR	Centre Back	01/01/1987	Drammen, NOR	175	
5	Monica	Iversen	NOR	Line Player	12/03/1985	Drammen, NOR	179	
16	Silje Meese	Johanesen	NOR	Goalkeeper	02/10/1997	Drammen, NOR	181	
10	Amailie	Josendal	NOR	Left Wing	01/06/1994	Bærum, NOR	170	
12	Marte	Langeli	NOR	Goalkeeper	02/09/1997	Drammen, NOR	179	
2	Mette	Leipart	NOR	Left Wing	26/05/1992	Oslo, NOR	167	
3	Tiril	Merg	NOR	Centre Back	02/09/1993	Bærum, NOR	181	
33	Magdalena	Mitrovic	GER	Left Back	28/07/1999	Wiesbaden, GER	183	
13	Pia Christine	Narvesen	NOR	Right Wing	16/07/1988	Drammen, NOR	160	
34	Anna	Riakhina	NOR	Left Back	25/02/1998	Arkhangelsk, RUS	176	
1	Guro	Rundbraten	NOR	Goalkeeper	18/04/1990	Hønefoss, NOR	170	
18	Martine	Wolff	NOR	Line Player	20/06/1996	Oslo, NOR	175	



Glassverket (NOR)

Coach and key players profiles



Geir Oustorp coach

- took over as head coach at the start of this season, replacing Kenneth Gabrielsen who has left for league rivals Vipers Kristiansand
- very familiar with the club, as he started working there as assistant coach last season
- has a past career as a top handball player himself, including the Norwegian national team
- particularly known for his calm way of being around his team
- works as a policeman besides his handball coaching job
- also made himself known to all Handball Norway as expert commentator on Norwegian TV 3 at the EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden



Guro Rundbraten goalkeeper

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



Birna Berg Haraldsdottir right back

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



Line Bjoernsen right wing/back

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

GROUP D



Playing hall

Scandlines Arena
Nr. Boulevard 4 A
4800 Nykøbing
Denmark
Capacity: 1,515

Club Address:

NFH - Nykøbing Falster
Håndboldklub
Guldborgsund Håndbold ApS
Ryttervænget 12
4800 Nykøbing Falster, Denmark

Media contact:

Henrik Hansen
nfh@mail.dk

Online information:

Website: www.nfh.dk
Facebook: [nfhaandboldklub](https://www.facebook.com/nfhaandboldklub)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

NFH - Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub (DEN)

Right in their first international season, Nykøbing have made their dream of the group phase come true. After six straight wins in the qualification the Danish side now will face Lada, Metzingen and Glassverket in group D of the Women's EHF Cup.

Their coach Niels Agesen knows the old format of the competition quite well, as he had steered his former club Team Tvis Holstebro to three finals of the old format, winning two of them in 2013 and 2015. "But being part of the group games in this new system with a new club is a very good experience and I look forward to it," says Agesen. In contrast to their former coach, Holstebro failed on the way to the group phase. It was Nykøbing's major international goal to proceed among the best 16 teams. "Now we want more of course" says the coach, who expects tight matches: "I think we are in a very equal group, and look forward to play those close matches. We can finish from position 1 to 4, so hopefully it will be interesting to follow."

Nykøbing count on a nearly all-Scandinavian squad, which was bolstered with the Swedish internationals Johanna Westberg (from Randers) and Rio All Star Team member Nathalie Hagman (from Holstebro). Another star of the team is Daniosh international Kristina Kristiansen, who had won the EHF Cup also twice under the helm of Agesen in Holstebro. For the Nykøbing's coach, Russian side Rostov are the main favourites to win the first ever trophy in the new format, "but also Erd and Brest can go all the way".

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Indeco Conversano (ITA) W24:36
2nd leg: vs Indeco Conversano (ITA) W36:22
Aggregate score: 72:46

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: @ Pogon Baltica Szczecin (POL) W29:35
2nd leg: vs Pogon Baltica Szczecin (POL) W33:28
Aggregate: 68:57

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: @ Lugi HF (SWE) W23:25
2nd leg: vs Lugi HF (SWE) W29:20
Aggregate score: 54:43

Newcomers:

Johanna Westberg (Randers)
Nathalie Hagman (Team Tvis Holstebro)
Lærke Nolsøe (Team Tvis Holstebro)
Ditte Vind (Odense)
Sarah Iversen (Odense)
Louise Kristensen (Odense)
Pernille Larsen (København)
Celine Lundbye (Lyngby)

Left the club:

Nadja Mortensen
Nanna Willumsen
Simone Toftdahl
Barbara Arenhart (Vac)
Karol de Souza (Vac)
Line Werngren (Roskilde)
Deonise Fachinello Cavaleiro (Odense)

Past achievements

-

Other

Danish league: - (6th place 2016)

Alternative playing hall

Arena Naestved
Ved Stadion 11
4700 Naestved
Denmark
Capacity: 3,176

NFH - Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub (DEN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
88	Mariana	Costa	BRA	Right Wing	14/10/1992	Sao Paulo/SP, BRA	170	
21	Leonora	Demaj	KOS	Right Back	25/08/1997	Hvidovre		2
6	Mette Bjorholm	Gravholt	DEN	Line Player	12/12/1984	Egtved, DEN	172	17
4	Nathalie	Hagman	SWE	Left Back	19/07/1991	Farsta, SWE	167	31
15	Pernille Holst	Holmsgaard	DEN	Left Back	06/09/1984	Pandrup, DEN	184	3
11	Sarah	Iversen	DEN	Line Player	10/04/1990	Frederiksberg, DEN	177	12
2	Louise	Kristensen	DEN	Right Wing	04/09/1992	Århus, DEN	174	18
49	Celine Lundbye	Kristiansen	DEN	Left Back	24/05/1996	Gentofte, DEN	178	9
79	Kristina	Kristiansen	DEN	Centre Back	13/07/1989	Hoje Taastrup, DEN	163	32
10	Nadja Michell	Mortensen	DEN	Left Wing	05/01/1991	Guldborgsund, DEN	170	
7	Emma Ejrup	Navne	DEN	Left Back	18/12/1997	Lolland, DEN	176	3
22	Laerke Nolsoe	Pedersen	DEN	Left Wing	19/02/1996	Aalborg, DEN	164	34
1	Mette	Sahlholdt	DEN	Goalkeeper	22/07/1977	Svendborg, DEN	179	
16	Ditte Folden	Vind	DEN	Goalkeeper	02/01/1994	Assens, DEN	187	
3	Emelie	Westberg	SWE	Back	06/04/1990	Nacka, SWE	179	12
5	Johanna	Westberg	SWE	Left Back	06/04/1990	Nacka, SWE	186	21



NFH - Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub (DEN)

Coach and key players profiles



Niels Agesen coach

- head coach since the summer of 2015, when he joined from league colleagues TTH Holstebro
- led the Holstebro women from the second best league in Denmark to the top of Danish women's handball
- won the women's EHF Cup twice with Holstebro, in 2013 and 2015
- known for being extremely dedicated and for a continuous wish for improvement in his team

EC trophies (as coach): EHF Cup 2013, 2015



Nathalie Hagman right back

- joined Nykøbing ahead of the 2016/17 season from TTH Holstebro
- can also play the right wing, which she has done a lot in the Swedish national team, but in Nykøbing, she is mainly used in the back court line
- has played 95 internationals and scored 249 goals for Sweden, whom she also represented at the EHF EURO 2016 on home ground
- her shot, her explosivity and her ability to break through the opposing defence are her strongest assets.
- awarded Women's Handball Player of the Year 2015 in Denmark as well as in Sweden.

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2015, Cup Winners' Cup 2016
EURO: S 2010, B 2014



Kristina Kristiansen centre back

- joined Nykøbing in the summer of 2015 from Holstebro
- left her home near Copenhagen at the age of 17 to move to the other end of the country to play for Holstebro, whom she represented for eight years
- her speed, her way of reading the game and making her teammates good as well as her own shot – especially her underarm shot – are her main assets
- her ability to find Mette Gravholt on the line all the time is almost legendary.
- used to be a key player in the Danish national team, but at the recent EHF EURO 2016, she only got court time in the semi-final against the Netherlands
- nicknamed Mulle by the entire Handball Denmark

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2015
WCh: B 2013



Mette Gravholt line player

- joined Nykøbing in the summer of 2015 from Viborg HK
- has European experience from Viborg as well as from Holstebro, with whom she won the EHF Cup in 2013
- played 47 internationals for Denmark, scoring 115 goals, but has not appeared in the national team since the 2015 World Championship in Denmark
- particularly good at making herself available to passes from her back court players and is very effective from the circle
- has her main qualities in the attack

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013

GROUP D



Playing hall

Paul Horn Arena
Europastraße 50
72072 Tübingen
Germany
Capacity: 2,408

Club Address:

TuS Metzingen
Bachstraße 7
72555 Metzingen
Germany

Media contact:

Ferenc Rott
tor.sten50@gmx.de

Online information:

Website: www.handball-tussies.com
Facebook: [tussiesmetzingen](https://www.facebook.com/tussiesmetzingen)
Twitter: [@TusSiesHandball](https://twitter.com/TusSiesHandball)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: pink
Goalkeeper shirt: green

TuS Metzingen (GER)

The "TusSies" (girls) were one of the big sensations in the previous international season. Right in their first appearance in the EHF European Cup competitions, Metzingen made it to the last final of the old version of the EHF Cup, but failed against experienced Hungarian side Dunaujvaros.

In contrast to the defending champions, who were eliminated on their way to the group phase, the 2016 German runners-up are still part of the newly merged competition. Before this season, some experienced players such as Nicole Dinkel or Patricia Stefani retired, but Hungarian born coach Csaba Konkoly managed to build up a new team, which at least hopes to proceed to the quarter-finals. Metzingen's top stars are Anna Loerper, team captain of the German national team, and Dutch goalkeeper Jasmina Jankovic, who was silver medallist at the EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden. Thanks to his good contacts in his home country, Konkoly arranged the transfer of one of the biggest Hungarian talents Luca Szekerczes from FTC.

Besides, Serbian international Marija Obradovic, arriving from Krim, has Champions League experience. In the premiere group phase of the Women's EHF Cup, Metzingen will face two Scandinavian opponents (Glassverket, Nykøbing) and Russian powerhouse Togliatti.

"It's a very strong and attractive group with four teams at the same level," says Konkoly, adding: "Every game will be very close and small things will make the difference. To keep our chance for the quarter-final alive, it is very important for us to win the home matches." In general, the new format of the EHF Cup is ideal for his club, says Konkoly.

"It is very exciting for us because of more famous competitors. We hope the fans will enjoy the matches. It's the first time for our club to be part of an international group phase and I'll hope my team will earn good experiences," he said.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Ankara Yenimahalle BSK (TUR) L33:27
2nd leg: vs Ankara Yenimahalle BSK (TUR) W36:23
Aggregate score: 63:56

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs DHK Banik Most (CZE) W30:22
2nd leg: @ DHK Banik Most (CZE) W25:29
Aggregate score: 59:45

Newcomers:

Delaila Amega (Quintus)
Annika Ingenpaß (BVB Dortmund)
Marija Obradovic (Krim Ljubijana)
Luca Szekerczes (FTC Budapest)
Stina Karlson (Skövde HV)

Left the club:

Nicole Dinkel (retired)
Alexandra Kubasta (retired)
Patricia Stefani (retired)
Bernadette Temes (Vac)
Sabine Stockhorst (retired)

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Runners-up (1): 2015/16

Other

German league: - (runners-up 2016, bronze 2015)
German cup: - (runners-up 1978, 1980)

TuS Metzingen (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
5	Delaila	Amega	NED	Centre Back	21/09/1997	Heerhugowaard, NED	169	1
66	Katharina	Beddies	GER	Left Wing	07/02/1994	Reutlingen, GER	163	15
93	Julia	Behnke	GER	Line Player	28/03/1993	Mannheim, GER	180	13
21	Ina	Großmann	GER	Left Wing	21/08/1990	Holzgerlingen, GER	170	
20	Annika	Ingenpaß	GER	Line Player	08/08/1996	Kempen, GER	177	
23	Jasmina	Jankovic	NED	Goalkeeper	06/12/1986	Doboj, BIH	168	
14	Stina	Karlsson	SWE	Centre Back	04/07/1994	Jönköping, SWE	173	4
10	Anna	Loerper	GER	Centre Back	18/11/1984	Kempen, GER	165	20
15	Tonje	Loseth	NOR	Left Back	01/01/1991	Bergen, NOR	180	15
54	Celine	Michielsen	NED	Line Player	22/05/1994	Breda, NED	172	11
1	Wendy	Obein	FRA	Goalkeeper	26/09/1986	POISSY, FRA	185	
51	Marija	Obradovic	SRB	Left Back	06/08/1992	Beograd, SRB	176	5
9	Luca	Szekerczes	HUN	Right Back	18/06/1994	Bonyhád, HUN	175	17
25	Silvia	Szücs	SVK	Left Back	29/04/1993	Kosice, SLO	185	
31	Kelly	Vollebregt	NED	Right Wing	01/01/1995	Delft, NED	165	4
22	Maren	Weigel	GER	Right Wing	22/05/1994	Stuttgart, GER	177	2
12	Carla	Weiß	GER	Goalkeeper	05/01/1998	Karlsruhe, GER	185	
2	Marlene	Zapf	GER	Right Wing	06/01/1990	Landau, GER	170	15



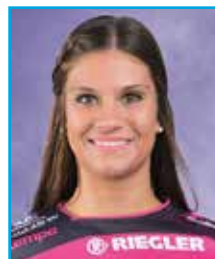
TuS Metzingen (GER)

Coach and key players profiles



Csaba Konkoly coach

- started his coaching career in the youth and junior teams of Audi ETO Győr, where he formed dozens of talents, including Anita Görbicz
- from 2007 until 2011 he was head coach of Győr, steering the club four times to Champions League semi-finals and the 2009 finals against Viborg
- parallel he was first coach of the Hungarian junior national team and later assistant coach of the women's national team, including the semi-finals at the 2008 Olympic Games
- from 2011 on, he was coach at the Hungarian top club Vac
- since summer 2015, he is at the helm in Metzingen



Julia Behnke line player

- born in Mannheim, like Uwe Gensheimer
- started her career at TSG Ketsch, before she transferred to SSG Bietigheim in 2011
- after three year she joined Metzingen, where she became German NT player
- part of all younger age category events (EURO and World Championships) with Germany
- shares the line player position with Dutch Celine Michiels



Anna Loerper centre back

- played for Bayer Leverkusen from 2003 until 2011, where she became national team player
- transferred to Danish side Team Tvis Holstebro, where she played until 2013
- after one season at Oldenburg, she signed for Metzingen, where she became EHF Cup finalist in her first season
- team captain of Metzingen and the German national team
- awarded German handball player of the year 2015



Luca Szekerczes right back

- one of the biggest Hungarian talents
- joined Metzingen at the start of the season, arriving from Champions League participant FTC
- arrived at Germany due to the connections of Hungarian born TUS coach Csaba Konkoly
- All-star Team member at the Women's 19 EURO 2013 and the U20 World Championship 2014
- Had her debut in the Hungarian women's team this summer
- part of the EURO 2016 squad

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2005, EHF Cup 2013

WCh: B 2007

GROUP D



Playing hall

Sportkomplex USK "Olimp"
Primorsky bouvar 49
445860 Togliatti
Russia
Capacity: 2,700

Club Address:

Handball Club Lada
Alsu Lateyeva
Primorsky bouvar 49,
445860 Togliatti
Russia

Media contact:

Alsu Lateeva
handballclub-lada@inbox.ru

Online information:

Website: www.handball.ru
Facebook: [HCLadaTogliatti](https://www.facebook.com/HCLadaTogliatti)
Twitter: [LadaTogliatti](https://twitter.com/LadaTogliatti)
Instagram: [lada_tlt](https://www.instagram.com/lada_tlt)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: green-gecko
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: fire-red
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: red

Handball Club Lada (RUS)

None of the 16 group phase participants of the new Women's EHF Cup have more international silverware in their cabinet than Handball Club Lada. The six-time Russian champions (all under the helm of Evgenii Trefilov) were twice EHF Cup winners (in 2012 and 2014) and won the Cup Winners' Cup in 2002. In addition, the club from Russian car capital Togliatti was a Champions League finalist in 2007 and reached the final of the Cup Winners' Cup in May 2016, when they were defeated by Holstebro. But in contrast to Danish side, who lost in the third EHF Cup qualification round to Germany's Oldenburg, Lada are in the group phase.

But the All-Russian squad nearly stumbled in the first qualification round, progressing due to a superior number of away goals compared to Norwegian side Kristiansand. In the second round, the Lada motor was running perfectly and Levon Akopyan's team eliminated three-time Champions League winners Viborg in style. Lada are in a state of full transition. Olympic gold medallists Olga Akopyan, Tatiana Erokhina and Irina Bliznova retired after their Rio 2016 success.

Ekaterina Kudriavtseva is ruled out with a knee injury for the whole season and Veronika Garanina is pregnant. Thus - as is traditional - new players from the never-ending Lada talent pool are getting their chance to make their first steps. "All the teams in our group are very serious and strong. The Danish team plays in a strong domestic league, in which even the last team can beat the first team," says head coach Akopyan. "Glassverket had a good experience in the Champions' League this season. And Metzingen count on a lot of players from different countries," he adds.

"We have no foreign players at all. Almost 80 per cent of our squad are pupils of Togliatti's local handball school. But our target is to take the first or second place and reach the quarter-final." For the Lada coach, all 16 teams at this stage of the competition have a similar chance of progressing to the finals, as "all deserve to be in the group phase".

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs Viborg HK (DEN) W29:26
2nd leg: @ Viborg HK (DEN) W22:28
Aggregate score: 57:48

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs Vipers Kristiansand (NOR) W29:23
2nd leg: @ Vipers Kristiansand (NOR) L32:26
Aggregate score: 55:55, Lada won on away goals rule

Newcomers:

Julia Arefieva (Zvezda Zvenigorod)
Irina Snopova (Astrakhanochka Astrakhan)
Olesya Tsivka (Kuban Krasnodar)

Left the club:

Olga Akopyan
Tatiana Erokhina
Irina Bliznova (all end of career)
Yana Kostomakha
Julia Golubeva (HC Gomel)
Natalia Chigirina (Astrakhanochka)
Daria Denikaeva (end of career)

Past achievements

EHF Cup:

Winners (2): 2011/12, 2013/14

Champions League: 2006/07 runners-up,
2007/08 semi-finalist
Cup Winners' Cup: 2001/02 winners,
2015/16 runners-up

Other

Russian league: 6 titles (2002, 2003, 2004,
2005, 2006, 2008)
Russian cup 1 title (2006)

Handball Club Lada (RUS)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Goals
69	Yulia	Arefyeva	RUS	Right Back	23/08/1995	Budyonnovsk, RUS	187	
47	Valentina	Barynina	RUS	Left Wing	22/10/1996	Togliatti, RUS	171	
11	Daria	Dmitrieva	RUS	Centre Back	09/08/1995	Togliatti, RUS	178	21
14	Veronika	Garanina	RUS	Left Back	16/05/1992	Togliatti, RUS	175	
20	Violetta	Goletc	RUS	Left Back	24/01/1997	Togliatti, RUS	178	4
64	Anastasiia	Golikova	RUS	Right Back	23/07/1997	Togliatti, RUS	175	
3	Polina	Gorshkova	RUS	Left Wing	22/11/1989	Togliatti, RUS	172	18
23	Varvara	Iureva	RUS	Line Player	29/06/1998	Togliatti, RUS	180	
7	Julia	Kakmolja	RUS	Line Player	08/03/1986	Togliatti, RUS	174	9
55	Ksenia	Karpacheva	RUS	Centre Back	30/04/1994	Sengiley, RUS	176	
57	Anna	Krasnova	RUS	Right Wing	29/01/1995	Togliatti, RUS	168	
9	Ekaterina	Kudriavtseva	RUS	Left Back	24/11/1999	Togliatti, RUS	186	
34	Elizaveta	Malashenko	RUS	Centre Back	26/02/1996	Togliatti, RUS	182	21
28	Alena	Nosikova	RUS	Left Wing	09/09/1993	Togliatti, RUS	176	8
12	Margarita	Orlova	RUS	Goalkeeper	16/11/1998	Togliatti, RUS	181	
36	Anastasia	Portyagina	RUS	Left Back	09/04/1995	Togliatti, RUS	188	
8	Daria	Samokhina	RUS	Left Wing	12/08/1992	Togliatti, RUS	175	20
21	Aleksandra	Sannikova	RUS	Right Wing	26/01/1993	Togliatti, RUS	166	2
25	Olga	Sherbak	RUS	Back	14/03/1998	Sevastopol, RUS	177	
77	Irina	Snopova	RUS	Right Back	07/06/1995	Volgograd, RUS	182	9
71	Daria	Terekhova	RUS	Left Wing	19/03/1997	Togliatti, RUS	172	
94	Olesya	Tsivka	RUS	Goalkeeper	28/07/1994	Sochi, RUS	178	
92	Elena	Utkina	RUS	Goalkeeper	29/05/1990	Volgograd, RUS	180	



Handball Club Lada (RUS)

Coach and key players profiles



Levon Akopyan coach

- the 72-year-old started his coaching career back in 1972
- coached a number of Soviet and Russian teams and led them to six titles of the national champion
- has been working at Lada since the summer of 2013
- assistant to Evgenii Trefilov in the Russia national team, he was a member of the coaching staff in the team that won gold at the 2016 Olympics



Elena Utkina goalkeeper

- born in Volgograd and started her career at the local club Dinamo
- moved to Lada in the summer of 2015
- took part in 2016 EHF EURO in Sweden as a member of the Russian team
- won the gold medal at the Summer Universiade in Gwangju in 2015

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 1995, EHF Cup 2014



Daria Dmitrieva centre back

- the only 2016 Olympic champion in Lada's current roster
- born in Togliatti and started to play handball there, but moved to Volgograd at the age of 14
- with Dinamo-Sinara Volgograd, she became the Russian champion three straight times: in 2012, 2013 and 2014
- moved back to her home town in 2015, signing with Lada

OG: G 2016



Polina Gorshkova left wing

- the fast winger has been Lada's captain since 2014
- born and raised in Togliatti, she has played for Lada during the whole of her career
- has been a member of the Russia national team for a few years, but missed the 2016 Olympics due to an injury

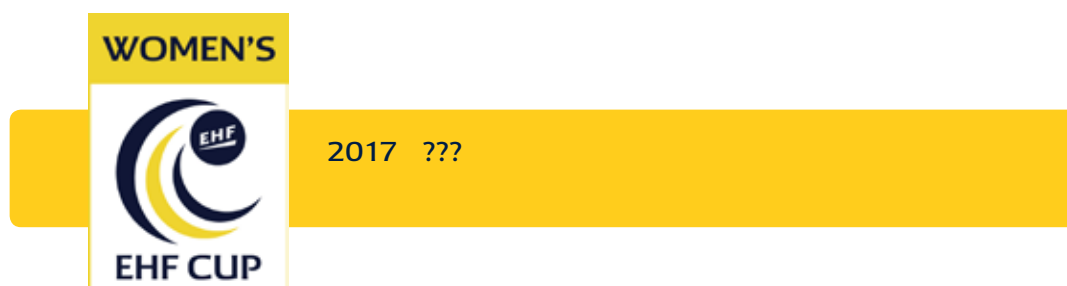
EC trophies: EHF Cup 2012, 2014

2016/17 top scorers after qualification rounds

Rank	Name & nation	Club	Goals
1	Özel Yeliz (TUR)	Ankara Yenimahalle BSK (TUR)	19
2	Rotondo Laura Celeste (ITA)	Indeco Conversano (ITA)	18
3	Geschke Angie Birgit (GER)	VfL Oldenburg (GER)	17
	Loerper Anna (GER)	TuS Metzingen (GER)	17
5	Kristiansen Kristina (DEN)	NFH - Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub (DEN)	16
6	Bozovic Ivana (MNE)	MKS Selgros Lublin (POL)	15
	Jensen Annette (DEN)	TTH Holstebro (DEN)	15
	Nusser Larissa (NED)	SERCODAK Dalfsen (NED)	15
9	Tiron Bianca Elena (ROU)	H.C. Dunarea Braila (ROU)	14
10	Escribano Sanchez-Mateos Beatrix (ESP)	Nantes Loire Atlantique HB (FRA)	13
	Klivinyi Kinga (HUN)	ÉRD HC (HUN)	13
	Levchenko Yevgenia (UKR)	IUVENTA Michalovce (SVK)	13
	Malashenko Elizaveta (RUS)	Handball Club Lada (RUS)	13
14	Arntzen Emilie Hegh (NOR)	Byasen Trondheim (NOR)	12
	Gjeorgjievaska Elena (MKD)	Alba Fehérvár KC (HUN)	12
	Molid Mari Kristine Søbstad (NOR)	Randers HK (DEN)	12
	Zhilinskayte Viktoriya (RUS)	Kuban (RUS)	12
18	Dmitrieva Daria (RUS)	Handball Club Lada (RUS)	11
	Holta Malin (NOR)	Nantes Loire Atlantique HB (FRA)	11
	Jacobsen Marit Røsberg (NOR)	Byasen Trondheim (NOR)	11
	Kuznetsova Polina (RUS)	Kuban (RUS)	11
	Mendy Claudine (FRA)	Alba Fehérvár KC (HUN)	11
	Pedersen Laerke Nolsoe (DEN)	NFH - Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub (DEN)	11

(**Bold text** indicates players that are still active in the competition)

Past winners



Previous EHF Cup winners

1994	Viborg HK	DEN
1995	Debreceni VSC	HUN
1996	Debreceni VSC	HUN
1997	Robit Olimpija Ljubljana	SLO
1998	Dunaferr SE	HUN
1999	Viborg HK	DEN
2000	El Ferrobús Mislata	ESP
2001	MKS Montex Lublin	POL
2002	Ikast Bording EH	DEN
2003	Slagelse FH	DEN
2004	Viborg HK	DEN
2005	Cornexi Alcoa	HUN
2006	FTC Budapest	HUN
2007	Zvezda Zvenigorod	RUS
2008	Dinamo Volgograd	RUS
2009	Itxako Navarra	ESP
2010	Randers HK A/S	DEN
2011	FC Midtjylland Handball	DEN
2012	HC Lada Togliatti	RUS
2013	Team Tvis Holstebro	DEN
2014	HC Lada Togliatti	RUS
2015	Team Tvis Holstebro	DEN
2016	Dunaujvárosi KKA	HUN

Previous Cup Winners' Cup winners

1994	Tus Walle Bremen	GER
1995	Dunaferr SE	HUN
1996	Giessen Lützellinden	GER
1997	Istochnik Rostov	RUS
1998	Baekkelaget Oslo	NOR
1999	Baekkelaget Oslo	NOR
2000	L'Elia Valencia	ESP
2001	Motor Zaporozhye	UKR
2002	HC Lada Togliatti	RUS
2003	ESBF Besançon	FRA
2004	Ikast Bording EH	DEN
2005	Larvik HK	NOR
2006	ZRK Budućnost MONET	SCG
2007	CS Oltchim Vâlcea	ROU
2008	Larvik HK	NOR
2009	FCK Handbold A/S	DEN
2010	Budućnost T-Mobile	MNE
2011	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungária	HUN
2012	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungária	HUN
2013	HYPO Niederösterreich	AUT
2014	Viborg HK	DEN
2015	FC Midtjylland	DEN
2016	Team Tvis Holstebro	DEN

Women's EHF Cup 2016/17 Group Phase

Media Guide

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