

WOMEN'S



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CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

MEDIA GUIDE

Women's EHF Champions League
2017/18

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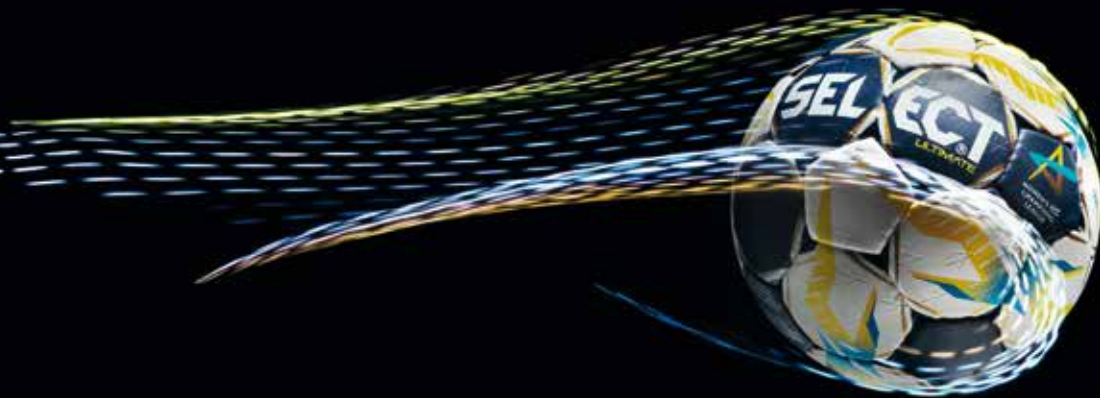


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| Foreword



Dear handball friends,

Welcome to a new season of the Women's EHF Champions League as we mark a very special moment in the history of the men's and women's competitions. Back in 1993/94, the first season of the EHF Champions League was played and this year we will mark the competition's 25th anniversary, looking back on a quarter of a century of sporting highlights.

I would like to welcome the 16 teams from 11 nations to have made it to the group matches phase and congratulate them on joining the elite of European handball on the road to Budapest and the Women's EHF FINAL4 on 12/13 May 2018. Five countries – Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary and Norway – are represented by two teams each in the competitions and we have no fewer than five new teams in the competition: Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub, Brest Handball Bretagne, SG BBM Bietigheim, Vistal Gdynia and Vipers Kristiansand. The defending champions, Györi Audi ETO KC, who won the trophy last May only after an extra-time thriller against HC Vardar, have a tough test ahead of them in Group B. They will meet the reigning EHF Cup champions, Rostov-Don, the emerging French powerhouse

from Brest and FC Midtjylland, the only team to beat the Hungarian champions in both the group stage last season.

Former Midtjylland coach, Helle Thomsen, took over CSM Bucuresti in the summer and with a number of new signings including the star of Romanian handball, Cristina Neagu, the team will be a strong contender in Group A. They join the two-time winners RK Krim Mercator along with Nykøbing and Gdynia. Last season's runners-up, HC Vardar, will face a tough test from the 2011 winners, Larvik, in Group C where they also meet FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria and Thüringer HC. In Group D, we have four balanced sides: Metz, Bietigheim, Vipers as well as the two-time holders, Budućnost.

The start of the season brings a new development with a fresh look and feel for the competition's official website, ehfCL.com. Now mobile responsive, the new website offers all the latest news and results from both the men's and women's competitions as well as features including comprehensive live statistics thanks to a new agreement with Sportradar.

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

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

Michael Wiederer
EHF President

EHF/M media contacts

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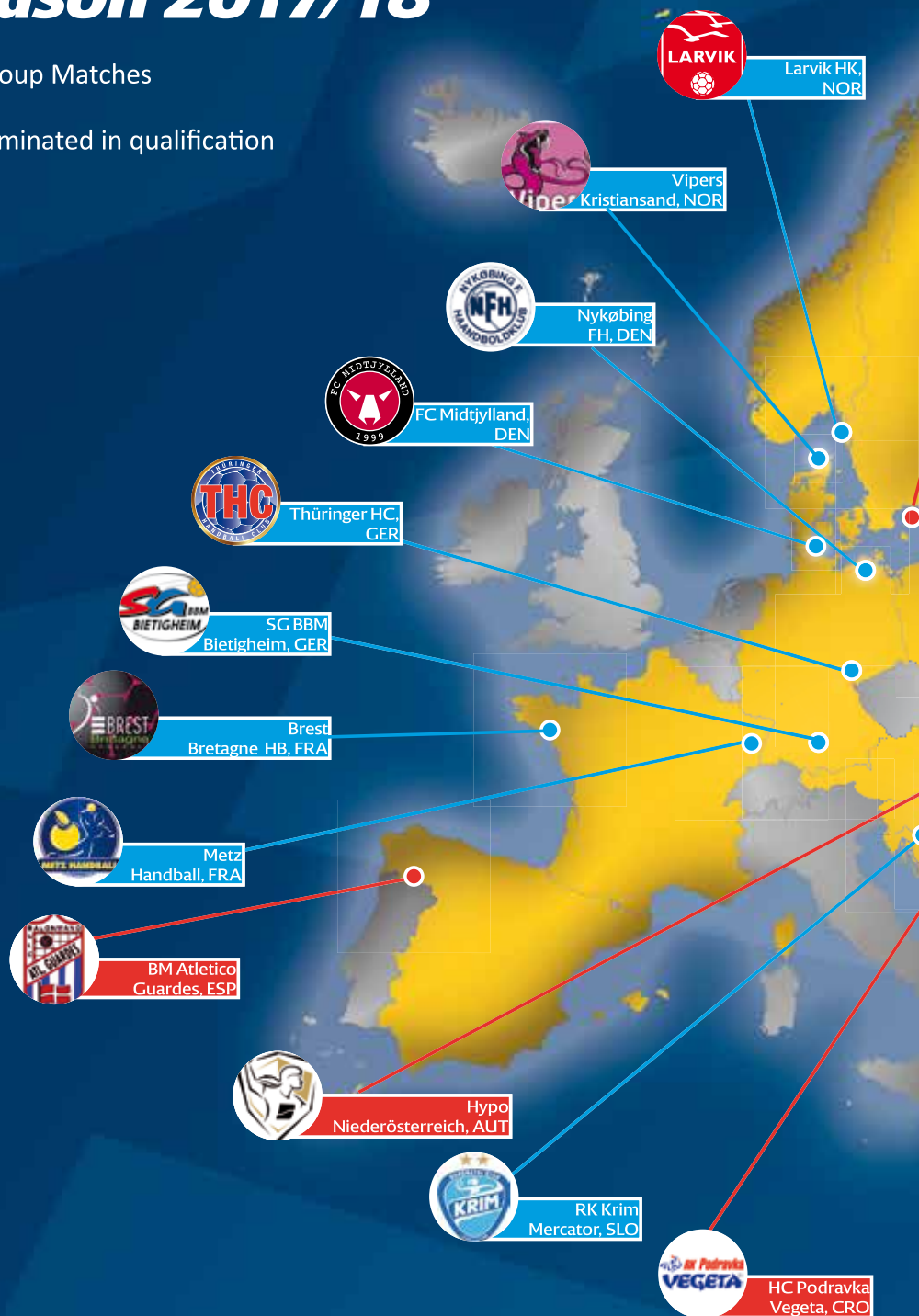
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WOMEN'S EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Season 2017/18

-  Group Matches
-  Eliminated in qualification





Höörs
HK H65, SWE



Vistal
Gdynia, POL



Györi Audi
ETO KC, HUN



HC Gomel
BLR



Rostov-Don,
RUS



WOMEN'S EHF FINAL4
Host City Budapest, HUN



CSM Bucuresti,
ROU



Kastamonu
Belediyesi, TUR



Buducnost,
MNE

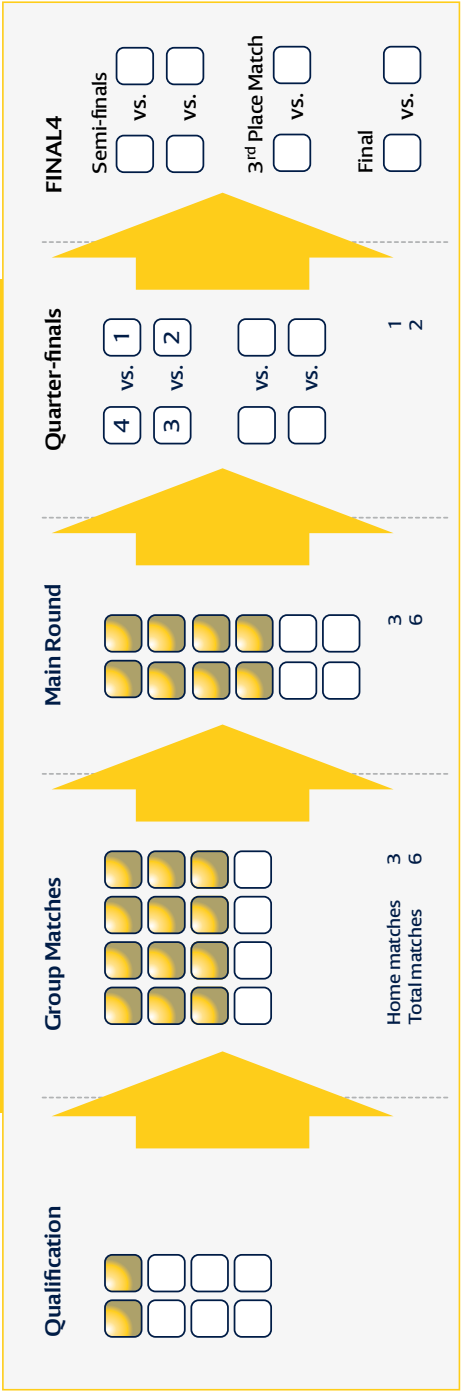


HC Vardar,
MKD




FTC-Rail Cargo
Hungaria, HUN

Women's EHF Champions League 2017/18 playing system



Season 2017/18 playing dates

Qualification 08.-10.09.2017	Group Matches 06.-08.10.2017 (1) 13.-15.10.2017 (2) 20.-22.10.2017 (3) 03.-05.11.2017 (4) 10.-12.11.2017 (5) 17.-19.11.2017 (6)	Main Round 26.-28.01.2018 (1) 02.-04.02.2018 (2) 09.-11.02.2018 (3) 23.-25.02.2018 (4) 02.-04.03.2018 (5) 09.-11.03.2018 (6)	Quarter-finals first leg 06.-08.04.2018 second leg 13.-15.04.2018	FINAL4 12./13.05.2018
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WOMEN'S EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2017/18			WOMEN'S	EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
	Qualification Tournaments	Group Matches	Main Round	Quarterfinals	FINAL4
	2Tournaments	4 groups with 4 teams	2 groups with 6 teams	8 teams	4 teams
	08.-10.09.2017 tournaments <i>played in semi finals and finals in one venue</i>	06.-08.10.2017 (1) 13.-15.10.2017 (2) 20.-22.10.2017 (3) 03.-05.11.2017 (4) 10.-12.11.2017 (5) 17.-19.11.2017 (6)	26.-28.01.2018 (1) 02.-04.02.2018 (2) 09.-11.02.2018 (3) 23.-25.02.2018 (4) 02.-04.03.2018 (5) 09.-11.03.2018 (6)	06.-08.04.2018 first leg 13.-15.04.2018 second leg	12./13.05.2018 tournament <i>played in semi finals and finals</i>
DRAWS:	29 June 2017 in Vienna/AUT	30 June 2017 in Ljubljana/SLO	no draw	no draw	17.04.2018
1	HUN 1	Györi Audi ETO KC Buducnost HC Vardar CSM Bucuresti ----- Larvik Rostov-Don Nyköbing Falster HB Metz Handball ----- SG BBM Bietigheim RK Krim Mercator FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria FC Midtjylland ----- Vistal Gdynia Brest Bretagne HB	1st, 2nd and 3rd placed team from each group	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th placed team of the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League Main Round	4 Winners of WOMEN'S EHF Champions League Quarterfinals
2	MNE 1				
3	MKD 1				
4	ROU 1				
5	NOR 1				
6	RUS 1				
7	DEN 1				
8	FRA 1				
9	GER 1				
10	SLO 1				
11	HUN 2				
12	DEN 2				
13	POL 1				
14	FRA 2				
15	NOR 2	Winners of the 2 Qualification tournaments			
16	GER 2				
17	SWE 1				
18	CRO 1				
19	AUT 1				
20	TUR 1				
21	BLR 1				
22	ESP 1				
	Mecalia Atletico Guardes				

2 groups with 4 teams

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

How to follow and cover the matches

ehfTV.com

Handball fans across Europe will not miss a single match in the new season of both elite European club competitions. All matches starting from group phase of the VELUX EHF Champions League and group matches of the Women's EHF Champions League will be broadcast live on ehfTV.com and the videos of all matches will be also on demand. Furthermore, like in the past season fully produced highlights magazine - "Rewind - the handball show" will feature stories and highlights from all women's top matches will be played out after each playing round. Apart from selected matches of other European Cup competitions in the new season there will also be a renewed focus on coverage of top leagues (SEHA League and Spain's Asobal).

Live ticker

The EHF Live Ticker will track the scores of all matches. Every goal, missed shot and yellow card will be documented and live statistics made available online for the first time at this stage of Europe's elite club competition.

EHF Live on social media

The EHF's social media channels will provide a very different view of the chase for the Women's EHF FINAL4 in Budapest. The social media feed with the behind the scenes look will be provided on four channels - EHF Champions League Facebook page, Instagram, @EHF_Live Twitter account and the EHF_Live on Snapchat.

Online match reports

From the opening matches of the season, the complete team line-up is available online at eurohandball.com and available to download as a PDF document. The online solution introduced already in the 2015/16 season sees the EHF match delegate complete the final team line-up immediately after the technical meeting. This development means that team line-ups are available for commentators and reporters hours before each match throws-off. A short time

after each match, a completed match report will also be available online with details such as goal scorers and number of spectators.

Media portal

All media professionals are invited to register to the EHF Media portal, where they can find all essential information on the EHF club and national teams competitions including media guides and updates.

bit.ly/ehfmediaportal

Media accreditation

The written media and photographer's accreditation procedure in the group matches, main round and quarter-finals is entirely within the responsibility of the participating clubs. TV and Radio accreditations are subject to approval by EHF Marketing GmbH - contact Miguel Mateo Marcellán.

Online information

www.ehfCL.com

www.ehfTV.com

www.ehfFINAL4.com

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

Twitter: [@ehf](#), [@ehfcl](#), [@ehf_live](#)

Facebook: [ehf.champions.league](#)

Official name

The official name of the competition is: Women's EHF Champions League. The full name of the competition should always be used. The three letter abbreviation for the European Handball Federation should always be displayed in capital letters before the name of the competition. Please note: If the season is required, it has to be positioned after "Champions League" e.g. Women's EHF Champions League 2016/17. The wording "Champions League" should be written with a capital letter at the beginning of each word, i.e. Champions League. The remaining letters should be in lower case. The word Champions does not have an apostrophe after the 's'.

Important regulations

What decides when two or more teams have the same number of points

All matches of the WOMEN'S EHF Champions League shall be played in 2 x 30 minutes with a half-time break of 15 minutes.

The matches shall be scored as follows:

- a) win = 2 points
- b) draw = 1 point
- c) loss = 0 points

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

GROUP MATCHES AND MAIN ROUND

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

During the matches of the group:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUARTER-FINALS

If, after completion of the two matches, both teams have won the same number of points (no extra-time will be played), the teams' standings shall be determined by the following criteria:

- a) goal difference
- b) greater number of plus goals scored in away match
- c) penalty throws

RULES FOR EXECUTION OF PENALTY THROWS

- Prior to penalty throwing, each team shall name five players eligible to play at the end of the match by handing the referees a list of numbers. These players shall then take one throw each until a decision (a winner) is reached, alternating with their opponents. Each team is free to determine the sequence in which throwers will take their throws

- The goalkeepers may be freely selected from the match report and exchanged in accordance with the Rules of the game. Goalkeepers may take throws and throwers may play as goalkeepers.

- The referees shall choose the goal at which throws are taken. The team taking the first penalty throw shall be determined by the referees by drawing lots. The team winning the draw may choose whether it wishes to throw first or last.

- If scores are equal after the first round of penalty throwing, it shall be continued until a decision is reached. In the second round, the other team shall start. Again five players shall be named who are eligible to play (the players named before may be named once again).

- In the second round, a decision (a winner) is reached when a goal difference arises after both teams have taken one throw each.

- Eligible players are players entered in the match report who have not been disqualified or suspended at the time of the final whistle.

- Serious infractions committed during penalty throwing shall be sanctioned by disqualification. If a thrower is disqualified or suffers an injury, an eligible substitute player shall be named supplementary.

- While the throws are being taken, only the player taking the throw, the current goalkeeper and the referees may enter the respective half of the playing area.

- If the number of eligible players falls below five, players may be named to take a second throw in the same round.

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and on demand!



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TV stations to broadcast matches all over the world

The matches of the upcoming season will be shown live or delayed almost all over the world. Almost 30 TV stations will broadcast matches live or delayed.

Only in Europe fans will be able to watch matches in 18 countries, but also the handball TV audience in America (USA and Canada), Asia and Africa (countries of Middle East and North Africa) can look forward to a television coverage. In all countries without a right-holding TV station matches are streamed live and free on ehfTV.com.

See the list of TV stations and countries below:

EUROPE

BEL	Eleven Sports	NOR	Viasat
BIH	Arenasport	POL	NC+
CRO	Arenasport		Eleven Sports
CZE	Sport TV	ROU	Digi Sport
DEN	DR		Telekom Romania
	TV3 Sport	RUS	MatchTV
FRA	beIN Sport	SLO	Sport TV
GER	mdr	SRB	Arenasport
HUN	Sport TV	SVK	Sport TV
MKD	MRT	SWE	Viasat
	Arenasport		
MNE	RTCG		
	Arenasport		

AMERICA

USA	beIN Sports
CAN	beIN Sports

ASIA / AFRICA

MENA	beIN Sports MENA
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Budapest to welcome the four best teams again

The Women's EHF FINAL4, the showpiece event and final weekend of the Women's EHF Champions League, will stay in Budapest for another two years, bringing top European women's handball to Hungary's capital until 2019.

Back in 2016 EHF Marketing and the Hungarian Handball Federation have agreed to prolong the existing cooperation. It was confirmed that the 2018 edition will take place on 12/13 May in the Papp László Budapest Sportaréna. The arena, which seats up to 12,000 spectators for handball events, will also be the venue of choice in 2019.

The first Women's EHF FINAL4 took place in Budapest in 2014 and was won by Győri Audi ETO KC who beat Budućnost in the final.

But the 2015 edition was won by Montenegrin side which defeated Larvik in the final. In 2016 CSM Bucuresti topped the podium after a stunning success and penalty throw shootout against Győr in the final. The Hungarian champions were forced into another thriller in 2017, but this time around they survived the extra-time and beat Vardar by one goal.

Full information at: www.ehfFINAL4.com

Women's EHF FINAL4 Media Accreditation

The accreditation procedure of media representatives for the Women's EHF FINAL4 will start in March 2018.

Women's EHF FINAL4 facts and figures

0 teams have successfully defended their title at the Women's EHF FINAL4 in Budapest – like no men's team have done it at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne.

0 countries have been represented by more than one team in the three Women's EHF FINAL4 events.

1 club – Győr – have won the Women's EHF FINAL4 twice (2013, 2017).

1 club – again Győr – have appeared in three finals. In 2014 they were unable to make it to the final as they failed to qualify for the FINAL4.

1 player – Katarina Bulatovic – has won the Women's EHF FINAL4 with two different clubs: with Győr in 2014 and with Budućnost in 2015, making her the only player to have successfully defended the title.

1 time – in 2017 – all four participants were identical to the year before: Győr, Vardar, Bucuresti and Budućnost.

1 match – the 2016 final Bucuresti vs Győr – was decided in a penalty shoot-out after extra time, with the happy end for the Romanian side.

1 match – the 2017 final Győr vs Vardar – was decided in extra time, with the happy end for the Hungarian side.

2 Champions League debutants made it to Budapest in their first seasons: Vardar (2014) and Bucuresti (2016).

2 players only have been sent off through a direct red card in the 16 FINAL4 matches so far, and both are Russian: Dinamo's Olga Akopian in the third-place match in 2015, and Vardar's Tatiana Khmyrova in the semi-final in 2017.

2 clubs have been part of all four FINAL4 tournaments so far: Budućnost and Vardar.

2

goalkeepers have been awarded Most Valuable Players of the FINAL4 – and both played for the respective winners: Clara Woltering (Budućnost/2015) and Jelena Grubisic (Bucuresti/2016).

3 different countries have won a FINAL4 trophy: Hungary (Győr twice), Montenegro (Budućnost), Romania (Bucuresti).

3 times Vardar and Budućnost have played each other in Budapest: twice in the semi-finals (each time won by Budućnost), once in the third-place match (won by Vardar). The only time they did not play each other was in 2017.

3 times the overall Women's EHF Champions League top scorer was a player of the FINAL4 winning team: Anita Görbicz (Győr/2014/87 goals), Cristina Neagu (Buducnost/2015/102 goals) and Isabelle Gullden (Bucuresti/2016/108 goals). The streak ended in 2017 when Vardar's Andrea Penezic was top scorer with 98 goals but her team lost the final.

3

different countries were represented by the coaches at the helm of the four winners: Spain (Ambros Martin/Győr 2014 and 2017), Montenegro (Dragan Adzic/Buducnost/2015) and Denmark (Kim Rasmussen/Bucuresti/2016).

3 players scored 10 or more goals in a single FINAL4 match: Nora Mørk (10 for Larvik in the final in 2015), Nycke Groot (11 for Midtjylland in the third-place match in 2014) and Isabelle Gullden (15 for Bucuresti in the final in 2016).

4 countries were represented by four referee pairs for the finals: France (Bonaventura/Bonaventura/2014), Hungary (Horvath/Marton, the only male pair so far/2015), Norway (Arntsen/Roen/2016) and Denmark (Christiansen/Hansen/2017).

4 times, meaning: each time, Papp Laszlo Arena has been the venue of the Women's EHF FINAL4. In 2016, the contract with the Budapest arena was extended until 2019.

6 nations were represented by 2017 winners Győr (Hungary, Norway, Brazil, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Tunisia).

7 different clubs from seven different nations have been part of the four Women's EHF FINAL4 events.

10 goals was the biggest gap in any Women's EHF FINAL4 match when Buducnost beat Vardar 27:17 in the semi-final in 2015.

15 goals by Isabelle Gullden (Bucuresti) are the most goals scored by one player in a single match.

16 matches have been played in the Papp Laszlo Arena so far during the four EHF FINAL4 events.

20 goals by Nycke Groot (Midtjylland) are the most goals by one player at a FINAL4 event.

34 goals by current IHF World Handball Player of the Year, Romanian Cristina Neagu (all for Buducnost), make her the overall top scorer of the Women's EHF FINAL4 so far. Next are Andrea Lekic (Vardar) and Katarina Bulatovic (all for Buducnost) with 24 goals each.

41 has been the lowest number of goals in a Women's EHF FINAL4 match since Győr beat Buducnost 21:20 in the semi-final in 2016.

61

has been the highest number of goals in a Women's EHF FINAL4 final so far since Győr beat Vardar 31:30 after extra time in 2017.

71 has been the highest number of goals in a Women's EHF FINAL4 match since Vardar beat Bucuresti 38:31 in the semi-final in 2017.

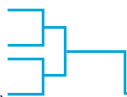
224 has been the highest number of goals at a Women's EHF FINAL4 so far – at the 2017 edition. There were 210 goals in 2014, 199 in 2015, and 202 in 2016. The record for the men's VELUX EHF FINAL4 is 245 goals.

Qualification Tournament 1 (Kristiansand, NOR)

9-10 September 2017

Qualification Tournament 1

Vipers Kristiansand (NOR)
HC Gomel (BLR)
HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO)
Kastamonu Belediyesi GSK (TUR)



Group D

Buducnost (MNE)
Metz Handball (FRA)
SG BBM Bietigheim (GER)
Vipers Kristiansand (NOR)

2nd ranked team - HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO): EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

3rd ranked team - HC Gomel (BLR): EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

4th ranked team - Kastamonu Belediyesi GSK (TUR): EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2 vs Winner of Qualification Round 1: Super Amara Bera Bera (ESP)

Review: Vipers ready for first Champions League adventure

A day after defeating Belarusian champions HC Gomel, Vipers Kristiansand cruised into the Women's EHF Champions League Group Matches with a 42:14 win over Croatian champions HC Podravka Vegeta on Sunday, 10 September.

FINAL:

Vipers Kristiansand (NOR) vs HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO) 42:14 (22:6)

Vipers are ready for their first Champions League adventure in history after a convincing performance in the Kristiansand Aquarama. After defeating HC Gomel 43:19 on Saturday, the Norwegian side won even bigger against Podravka in front of 1,648 spectators on Sunday.

The Vipers defence had a solid grip on Podravka's attacking players, and shots were often saved by Katrine Lunde and Eline Fagerheim in the Vipers goal.

This resulted in wave after wave of fast breaks towards the Podravka goal, and in the established

attack, Vipers were effective from all angles and positions, too. The first eight minutes were fairly equal with Vipers only leading by one or two goals, but as the home team increased their advantage from 5:4 to 10:4, the decision already seemed to be on its way.

The last doubt about the outcome vanished as Vipers turned 10:5 into 20:5, and being 16 goals up at half-time, the Norwegian team continued to cruise towards the huge win throughout the second half. In EHF Champions League Group D, Vipers will be meeting Buducnost from Montenegro, Metz Handball from France and debutants Bietigheim, who won the German league title last season.

PLACEMENT MATCH 3/4:

HC Gomel (BLR) vs Kastamonu Belediyesi GSK (TUR) 29:28 (13:13)

SEMI-FINALS:

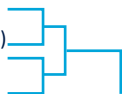
HC Podravka Vegeta (CRO) vs Kastamonu Belediyesi GSK (TUR) 21:17 (11:11)

Qualification Tournament 2 (Nordhausen, GER)

9-10 September 2017

Qualification Tournament 2

Thüringer HC (GER)
 Atletico Mecalía Guardes (ESP)
 H65 Höörs HK (SWE)
 Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT)



Group C

HC Vardar (MKD)
 Larvik (NOR)
 FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria (HUN)
Thüringer HC (GER)

2nd ranked team - H65 Höörs HK (SWE) => EHF Cup, Round 3

3rd ranked team - Hypo Niederösterreich => EHF Cup, Round 3

4th ranked team - Atletico Mecalía Guardes => EHF Cup, Round 2 vs Astrakhanochka (RUS)

Review: Thüringer HC grab group matches ticket

After two impressive performances on home court, Thüringer HC deservedly qualified for the group matches of the Women's EHF Champions League 2017/18. c25 hours after their 31:21 semi-final win against the Spanish champions Mecalía Atlético Guardés, THC won the final of Qualification Group 2 against Swedish champions H65 Höörs 33:24.

Thüringer HC enter their seventh straight Champions League Group Matches now; for coach Herbert Müller it is the 10th Champions League season. After Denmark, France and Hungary, Germany is the fourth nation with two teams in the group matches after champions Bietigheim were seeded

FINAL:

Thüringer HC (GER) vs H 65 Höörs HK (SWE) 33:24 (16:9)

They were briefly shaken early in the second half against Höörs but in the end they took a clear win. Boosted by more than 1,500 fans, Thüringer HC marched on to the group matches.

"All my players showed an impressive weekend," THC coach Herbert Müller praised his side. "Despite the clear result – which I never expected – it was a tough fight for us. But thanks to a genius performance of Lydia Jakubisova and an extraordinary support

from the stands we are looking forward to great Champions League matches now."

Thanks to a brilliant defence performance and a strong last 10 minutes before the break, Thüringer HC were ahead by seven goals at half-time. Höörs were only close at 6:5 after 19 minutes but a time-out by coach Müller guided the tournament hosts to victory. The long-distance shots of new arrival Anne Hubinger and the wing goals of Jakubisova proved that the left-handed players of THC were on the right track, scoring eight of the 16 THC goals in the first half.

With much more determination and efficiency in attack and a more movable defence, Höör clawed their way back into the match. With 14 minutes left on the clock, Höörs had nearly closed the gap (23:20). But THC didn't fall and despite important saves from Höörs goalkeeper Gry Bergdahl, a treble strike of Aguilar, Huber and Jakubisova made it 31:24 to decide the match.

PLACEMENT MATCH 3/4:

Mecalía Atlético Guardés (ESP) vs Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT) 27:29 (11:11, 24:24) after penalty shoot-out

SEMI-FINALS

Thüringer HC (GER) vs Mecalía Atlético Guardés (ESP) 31:21 (13:9)

H 65 Höörs HK (SWE) vs Hypo Niederösterreich (AUT) 32:19 (14:12)

5 debutants, 5 former winners, 2 players eyeing their 5th trophy

FACTS AND FIGURES: All you need to know before the start of the Women's EHF Champions League Group Matches.

With the qualification tournaments done and dusted, boarding has been completed for the Women's EHF Champions League 2017/18. Here are the most important facts and figures prior to the start of the group matches, in which 16 teams coming from 11 nations are taking part.

0 champions have successfully defended their title since the inauguration of the Women's EHF FINAL4 in 2014. The last team to win twice in a row were Györi Audi ETO, becoming the first FINAL4 winners in 2014 after also winning the last version under the old playing system.

1 club can win the EHF Champions League after raising the EHF Cup trophy the previous season: Rostov-Don from Russia.

1 more draw is needed until the Women's EHF FINAL4: the draw for the final event. The 12 teams advancing from the group matches will appear in two groups with clubs from Groups A and B, and Groups C and D, respectively. The final standings of the main round determine the quarter-finals.

1

woman can become the first female winner of the EHF Champions League as a player and as a coach: Irina Dibirova, who won the trophy as a player with Slagelse (2005) and Zvenigorod (2008), and is now coach of Vardar.

2 of the 16 participants in the group matches have been part of all four FINAL4 tournaments so far: Buducnost (MNE) and Vardar (MKD). Also, Györ (HUN/3 times), Bucuresti (ROU/2), Midtjylland (DEN/1) and Larvik (NOR/1) have played at the FINAL4.

2 teams advanced to the group matches as winners of the qualification tournaments: Kristiansand (NOR) and Thüringer HC (GER).

2 former Champions League winners failed to qualify for the group matches: Austrian record champions Hypo Niederösterreich (winners in 1994, 1995, 1998 and 2000) and Croatian record champions Podravka Vegeta (1996).

3 teams per group will proceed to the main round. Groups A and B will compose Group 1 of the main round, Groups C and D form Group 2. Group match results against opponents who also advance, will stand in the main round.

4

(which means all) participants of the Women's EHF FINAL4 in 2017 (and 2016, which had the same lineup) have qualified for the group matches again: Bucuresti, Györ, Buducnost and Vardar.

4 times Kristiansand's goalkeeper Katrine Lunde and Rostov's right back Katarina Bulatovic have won the EHF Champions League trophy to top the individual ranking among players in the current season. Overall record holders are Ausra Fridrikas and Bojana Popovic with six trophies each.

5 former Women's EHF Champions League top scorers are on court in the 2017/18 group matches: Anita Görbicz (Györ/2014: 87 goals, 2012: 133), Zsuzsanna Tomori (Györ/2013: 95), Cristina Neagu (Bucuresti/2015: 102), Isabelle Gullden (Bucuresti/2016:108), and Andrea Penezic (Vardar/2017: 98 goals).

5 teams are making their debut in the group matches: Bietigheim (GER), Gdynia (POL), Kristiansand (NOR), Nykøbing (DEN) and Brest (FRA).

5 nations have two teams each in the group matches. Due to the new system and the nations ranking, Hungary and Denmark automatically have two spots. Also, France, Germany and Norway take part with two teams.

5 former or current Women's EHF Champions League winners (including all winners since 2011) with a total of 9 titles are part of the 2017/18 group stage: Krim (2001, 2003), Larvik (2011), Buducnost (2012, 2015), Györ (2013, 2014, 2017) and Bucuresti (2016).

6

former or current female World Handball Players of the Year are part of the 2017/18 group matches: Cristina Neagu (Bucuresti/2010, 2015, 2016), Eduarda Amorim (Györ/2014), Andrea Lekic (Vardar/2013), Allison Pineau (Brest/2009), Linn-Kristin Koren Riegelhuth (Larvik/2008) and Anita Görbicz (Györ/2005).

10 of the 11 previous seasons (8 consecutive times from the 2006/07-2013/14, plus 2015/16 and 2016/17) Győr have at least qualified for the semi-finals.

11 nations represent the winners of the Women's EHF Champions League: Denmark (6 titles), Austria (4), Hungary (4), Slovenia (2), Montenegro (2), Norway, FYR Macedonia, Spain, Croatia, Russia and Romania (1 each).

11

national champions, and thus 11 nations, are part of the group matches.

11 clubs that were part of the group matches in 2016/17 are back again: Bucuresti, Győr, Buducnost, Vardar, Thüringer HC, Larvik, Rostov, Metz, FTC, Krim and Midtjylland. Five teams from last season failed to qualify again: Esbjerg, Leipzig, Glassverket, Astrakhanocka, Sävehof.

22 times – including the new season – Buducnost have been part of the Women's EHF Champions League.

116 matches (including qualification) will have to be played before we know the winner of the Women's EHF Champions League this season: 8 qualification matches have already taken place, 48 group and main round matches are up next, followed by 8 quarter-finals, and 4 FINAL4 matches.

5,748 goals have been scored during the 2016/17 season, an average of 47,9 per match.

Teams by age average

Rostov-Don	30,0
CSM Bucuresti	29,7
HC Vardar	27,7
Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub	26,3
Vipers Kristiansand	25,7
Brest Bretagne Handball	25,5
Thüringer HC	25,5
RK Krim Mercator	25,4
SG BBM Bietigheim	25,1
Győri Audi ETO KC	24,6
FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria	23,6
FC Midtjylland	23,5
Larvik	23,2
Vistal Gdynia	22,5
Metz Handball	22,3
Buducnost	21,5
CL average	25,0

Teams by height average

HC Vardar	179
Buducnost	178
SG BBM Bietigheim	177
CSM Bucuresti	177
FC Midtjylland	177
Metz Handball	177
Vipers Kristiansand	176
Rostov-Don	176
Thüringer HC	176
RK Krim Mercator	176
NFH - Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub	176
Győri Audi ETO KC	175
FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria	173
Larvik	171
Vistal Gdynia	170
Brest Bretagne Handball	169
CL average	176,0

Facts and figures

Youngest



04/05/2002

Tyra Bessert

Thüringer HC

Tyra Bessert	Thüringer HC	GER	04/05/2002
Gréta Hadfi	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria	HUN	28/09/2001
Lara-Sophie Fichtner	Thüringer HC	GER	17/07/2001
Nikolett Tóth	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria	HUN	13/07/2001
Ann Kynast	SG BBM Bietigheim	GER	06/06/2001
Ivana Godec	Buducnost	MNE	11/05/2001
Kincső Gerhath	Györi Audi ETO KC	HUN	20/01/2001
Anastasija Babovic	Buducnost	MNE	13/12/2000
Sara Afentaler	Györi Audi ETO KC	HUN	08/12/2000
Agathe Quiniou	Brest Bretagne Handball	FRA	31/10/2000
Jana Scheib	SG BBM Bietigheim	GER	10/10/2000
Tamara Pal	Györi Audi ETO KC	HUN	01/09/2000
Frederikke Glavind Hedegaard	FC Midtjylland	DEN	21/08/2000
Jovana Micevska	HC Vardar	MKD	26/07/2000
Daphne Gautschi	Metz Handball	SUI	09/07/2000

Shortest



157 cm

Ayaka Ikehara

NFH - Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub

Ayaka Ikehara	Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub	JPN	157
Vivien Moharos	Györi Audi ETO KC	HUN	158
Emma Cecilie Uhrskov Friis	FC Midtjylland	DEN	160
Reka Imrei	Györi Audi ETO KC	HUN	160
Aneta Labuda	Vistal Gdynia	POL	160
Magdalena Stanulewicz	Vistal Gdynia	POL	162
Oxana Tsvirinko	Rostov-Don	RUS	162
Kristina Kristiansen	Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub	DEN	163
Elodie Manach	Brest Bretagne Handball	FRA	163
Laerke Nolsoe Pedersen	Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub	DEN	164
Louise Sand	Brest Bretagne Handball	SWE	164
Jagoda Blaszkowska	Vistal Gdynia	POL	164
Pauline Coatanea	Brest Bretagne Handball	FRA	165
Marie Prouvensier	Brest Bretagne Handball	FRA	165
Marion Maubon	Metz Handball	FRA	165
Nina Schilk	Thüringer HC	GER	165

Players by countries

 **NOR:**
44



 **FRA:**
44



 **DEN:**
32



 **HUN:**
30



 **GER:**
29



 **MNE:**
24



 **POL:**
19



 **RUS:**
18



 **SLO:**
15



 **SWE:**
13



 **NED:**
11



 **ROU:**
9



Oldest


19/09/1974
Sergeja Stefanisin

RK Krim Mercator

Sergeja Stefanisin	RK Krim Mercator	SLO	19/09/1974
Mette Sahlholt	Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub	DEN	22/07/1977
Sandra Pouchart	Brest Bretagne Handball	FRA	29/11/1978
Inna Suslina	HC Vardar	RUS	05/01/1979
Kristine Lunde Borgesen	Vipers Kristiansand	NOR	30/03/1980
Katrine Lunde	Vipers Kristiansand	NOR	30/03/1980
Paula Claudia Ungureanu	CSM Bucuresti	ROU	30/03/1980
Elena Slivinskaya	Rostov-Don	RUS	09/05/1980
Nina Christin Müller	SG BBM Bietigheim	GER	14/11/1980
Lydia Jakubisova	Thüringer HC	SVK	14/10/1981
Sabine Englert	FC Midtjylland	GER	27/11/1981
Sophie Herbrecht	Brest Bretagne Handball	FRA	13/02/1982
Alina Iordache	CSM Bucuresti	ROU	22/03/1982
Iulia Vasilica Curea	CSM Bucuresti	ROU	08/04/1982
Mayya Petrova	Rostov-Don	RUS	26/05/1982

Tallest


192
Luisa Schulze

SG BBM Bietigheim

192
Kristine Breistøl

Larvik



Luisa Schulze	SG BBM Bietigheim	GER	192
Kristine Breistøl	Larvik	NOR	192
Gabriela Dias Moreschi	Larvik	BRA	190
Eva Kiss	Györi Audi ETO KC	HUN	189
Inna Suslina	HC Vardar	RUS	188
Cecilie Greve	Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub	DEN	187
Astride N'Gouan	Brest Bretagne Handball	FRA	187
Susann Müller	SG BBM Bietigheim	GER	187
Zsuzsanna Tomori	Györi Audi ETO KC	HUN	187
Misa Marincek	RK Krim Mercator	SLO	187
Johanna Westberg	Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub	SWE	186
Ana Gros	Metz Handball	SLO	186
Jana Krause	Thüringer HC	GER	186
Klára Szekeres	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria	HUN	186
Eduarda Amorim Taleska	Györi Audi ETO KC	BRA	186
Andrea Penezic	HC Vardar	CRO	186

Players by countries


CRO:
6

CZE:
2

GRE:
1

BRA:
6

UKR:
2

AZE:
1

SRB:
5

BUL:
1

JAP:
1

ESP:
5

ITA:
1

MKD:
5

BLR:
1

AUT:
3

SVK:
1


Group A preview

CSM SET TO KICKSTART A WINNING CAMPAIGN



With a long term plan and heavy investment, CSM Bucuresti established themselves as one of the powerhouses of the Women's EHF Champions League. After becoming the first Romanian side to win the trophy two years ago and reaching the WOMEN'S EHF FINAL4 in Budapest last season, the "tigresses" are looking again at a shot to win it all this year.

If one had the chance to put together a dream team, it would hardly look better than what CSM has lined up on the field for this season. The Romanian side has upgraded in almost every position, especially with Cristina Neagu making her long awaited comeback in Romania. Playing for the first time in her home town, Neagu, who represented Buducnost in the last four seasons, will surely attract a lot of fans in the "Polivalenta" and also make life miserable for the opposing defences.



A 9-meter line with Neagu, Isabelle Gullden and Amanda Kurtovic could be branded as unstoppable, but CSM, who also has other new names, like Nathalie Hagman, Marit Malm Frøfjord, Sabina Jacobsen and Aneta Udrisioiu needs time to gel. Easier opponents like NFK Nykøbing, Vistal Gdynia and RK Krim Mercator should be what the Romanian powerhouse needs to unleash their full potential in the latter stages of the competition.



The race for the other two qualifying places for the Main Round phase of the Women's EHF Champions League is wide open. While RK Krim Mercator have won the competition two times, both Vistal Gdynia and NFK Nykøbing are rookies. Krim have largely kept their core intact, retaining Bulgarian playmaker Elisabeth Omegire, who impressed during last season. Tamara Mavsar and Alja Koren are likely to bring their experience to the table, while new transfer Charlotte Adler has impressed in the Women's EHF Cup two seasons ago.



A team that was close to winning the Women's EHF Cup last season, but was ultimately stopped in the semifinals, NFK Nykøbing has enjoyed an impressive 2017. After three hard-fought games in the Danish league final, Niels Agesen's side won their first-ever title and are now looking forward for their first season in the Women's EHF Champions League. However, with nine players out, eight new players and a change of coach, there is a certain random feeling about this year's Nykøbing. Losing Nathalie Hagman, their best scorer, who left for CSM Bucuresti, is surely a blow, but the youth and exuberance of the new players surely transform the Danish champions into a tough team.

It is Vistal Gdynia's first ever participation in the European top competition, after the Polish side won their second domestic title. With a team made up of 18 Polish players and one Brazilian one, Gdynia's lack of experience at the highest level could prove costly in this group. A Polish team has not progressed from the Group phase in the last 16 seasons, with MKS Montex Lublin being eliminated in the Quarter Final phase.

Adrian Costeiu

Group A head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group A opponents in the EC

CSM Bucuresti vs RK Krim Mercator 2-0-0 (52:47) 4:0

04.02.2017 RK Krim Mercator vs CSM Bucuresti, EHF Champions League – Main Round
03.03.2017 CSM Bucuresti vs RK Krim Mercator, EHF Champions League – Main Round

21:24 (9:14)
28:26 (14:12)

CSM Bucuresti vs NFH – Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

CSM Bucuresti vs Vistal Gdynia

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

NFH – Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub vs RK Krim Mercator

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

NFH – Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub vs Vistal Gdynia

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

RK Krim Mercator vs Vistal Gdynia

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

GROUP A

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Romania

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CSM-Bucuresti-Oficial

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: light
orange
Player short: black
GK shirt: light yellow

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green

CSM Bucuresti



Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the City Sport Club (CSM) in the Romanian capital, the 2016 Champions League winners have heavily bolstered their squad, with current IHF World Handball Player of the Year Cristina Neagu the star attraction. CSM Bucuresti is a sports club with a number of successful sections alongside handball and the new club president is former middle distance runner and Olympic champion Gabriela Szabo.

When Bucharest made it to Budapest in 2016 as debutants by eliminating the previously unbeaten Rostov-Don, it was a major surprise, but the surprises did not end there. Thanks to a historic performance from playmaker Bella Gullden, CSM beat Győr to take the trophy after the one and only penalty shootout in a Women's EHF Champions League Final, a feat which the club hope to repeat this season.

"We have the best CSM squad ever," says team captain Oana Manea. Mainly thanks to the transfer of Cristina Neagu the hopes and dreams in Romania are larger than ever. The chances are good, but Győr, Rostov and Vardar have the same objective. "You cannot lower the bar, when you have won this competition once," says manager Nicolae Luca.

CSM needed three coaches last season to make it to Budapest, but already before interim solution Per Eriksson was signed, Bucuresti had announced the arrival of Dane Helle Thomsen for 2017/18. Previously, she had coached FC Midtjylland and the Swedish team in parallel, so she has the experience to cope with the situation she is currently in, also coaching a world class Dutch national team. Thomsen brought her former Swedish players Nathalie Hagman and Sabrina Jacobsen to Bucharest, who both arrive from Denmark.

Norwegian world and EURO champions Amanda Kurtovic and Marit Malm Frafjord, also 2012 Olympic champion, will also add significant class to the attack. The Scandinavian style of play will continue with Thomsen at the helm and these players should fit in nicely. But no other player will have to deal with the weight of expectation Cristina Neagu will feel this season.

**Playing hall**

Sala Polivalenta Ioan
Kunst Ghermanescu
Calea Piscului Nr. 10, sector 4
Bucharest
Romania
Capacity: 5,000

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 3
Winners (1): 2015/16
Semi-final (1): 2016/17 (3rd)

Other

EHF Cup: Last 16 2011/12

Romanian league: 3 titles (2015, 2016, 2017)
Romanian cup: 2 titles



5 MATCHES
Longest winning run

33 GOALS
Most goals

71 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	33:21 (14:13) v MKS Selgros Lublin POL, 16.10.2015
Biggest defeat	33:25 (11:13) v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN, 04.11.2016 28:22 (12:10) v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN, 06.02.2016
Longest winning run	5 matches (31.03.2016 – 16.10.2016)
Longest unbeaten run	5 matches (31.03.2016 – 16.10.2016) 5 matches (11.11.2016 – 12.02.2017)
Longest losing run	3 matches (22.10.2016 – 04.11.2016)
Longest run without win	3 matches (22.10.2016 – 04.11.2016)
Most goals	33 v MKS Selgros Lublin POL 33:21W (h), 16.10.2015 33 v Team Esbjerg DEN 33:25W (h), 12.02.2017 33 v Larvik NOR 35:33L (a), 25.02.2017 33 v HC Vardar MKD 33:38L (a), 06.05.2017
Most goals opponent	38 v HC Vardar MKD 33:38L (a), 06.05.2017
Most goals both teams	71 v HC Vardar MKD 33:38L (a), 06.05.2017
Fewest goals	21 v HC Vardar MKD 22:21L (a), 09.01.2016 21 v FC Midtjylland DEN 24:21L (a), 22.10.2016
Fewest goals opponent	17 v IK Sävehof SWE 17:28W (a), 23.10.2015
Fewest goals both teams	42 v Rostov-Don RUS 20:22W (a), 11.11.2016

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2015/16 CSM Bucuresti ROU	16	10	1	5	416:387	+29		21:11	Winner
2016/17 CSM Bucuresti ROU	16	10	1	5	427:407	+20		21:11	Third Place
Total:	32	20	2	10	843:794	+49		42:22	



Helle Thomsen

coach

- the fourth Danish coach in three years for CSM, after Mette Klit, Kim Rasmussen and Jakob Vestergaard trained the Romanian powerhouse
- since September 2016 has been Netherlands women's national team coach, with whom she won the silver medal at the EHF EURO 2016
- won consecutive EURO medals as she was co-coach when Sweden claimed bronze at the 2014 edition of the championship
- with handball running in the family, started playing at the age of five
- an active coach, can rarely be seen sitting on the bench and is constantly adjusting her team's play

EC trophies: EHF Cup: 2011 (as assistant coach)
EURO: B 2014, S 2016 (as coach)

Newcomers:

Cristina Neagu (Buducnost)
Marit Malm Frafjord
Amanda Kurtovic (both Larvik)
Sabina Jacobsen (FC Midtjylland)
Nathalie Hagman (Nykøbing)
Aneta Udristiou (HC Dunarea Braila)

Left the club:

Cristina Varzaru (retired)
Aurelia Bradeanu (retired)
Carmen Martin
Linnea Torstensson (both Nice)
Cristina Nan (HC Dunarea Braila)
Simone Bohme (Siofok)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
11	Camille	Ayglon	FRA	Right Back	21/05/1985	Avignon, FRA	180
14	Bianca	Bazaliu	ROU	Left Back	30/07/1997	Slatina, ROU	179
5	Iulia Vasilica	Curea	ROU	Left Wing	08/04/1982	Bacau, ROU	172
3	Marit Malm	Frafjord	NOR	Line Player	25/11/1985	Tromso, NOR	182
87	Jelena	Grubisic	CRO	Goalkeeper	20/01/1987	Zagreb, CRO	184
4	Isabelle	Gulldén	SWE	Centre Back	29/06/1989	Sävedalen, SWE	178
37	Nathalie	Hagman	SWE	Right Wing	19/07/1991	Farsta, SWE	167
12	Alina	Iordache	ROU	Goalkeeper	22/03/1982	Bucuresti, ROU	177
9	Sabina	Jacobsen	SWE	Left Back	24/03/1989	Lund, SWE	181
10	Line Anna	Jørgensen	DEN	Right Back	31/12/1989	Hvidovre, DEN	186
24	Amanda	Kurtovic	NOR	Right Back	25/07/1991	Karlskrona, SWE	176
71	Anastasiya	Lobach	BLR	Line Player	25/06/1987	Minsk, BLR	178
22 c	Oana Andreea	Manea	ROU	Line Player	18/04/1985	Bucharest, ROU	176
77	Majda	Mehmedovic	MNE	Left Wing	25/05/1990	Bar, MNE	169
8	Cristina	Neagu	ROU	Left Back	26/08/1988	Bucharest, ROU	180
29	Gnonsiane	Niombila	FRA	Centre Back	09/07/1990	Villeurbanne, FRA	172
2	Aneta	Udrisioiu	ROU	Right Wing	22/06/1989	Dr. Severin, ROU	166
30	Paula Claudia	Ungureanu	ROU	Goalkeeper	30/03/1980	Brasov, ROU	181



Paula Ungureanu

goalkeeper

- twice named the best handball player of the year in Romania, in 2012 and 2014
- Romania's first choice in goal for many years, but retired from her international career after 2016
- following a ligament tear in 2010, took a two-year hiatus and had a baby, Paul, in 2012
- her husband is a football goalkeeper, has followed her almost everywhere she played

EURO: B 2010, WCh: S 2005, B 2015



Jelena Grubisic

goalkeeper

- played with Lokomotiva Zagreb for eight seasons and five seasons for Krim
- joined Győr shortly before the 2014/15 season to replace pregnant Katrine Lunde, but got injured shortly after and signed for CSM before 2015/16
- had her EC debut (Cup Winner's Cup 2002/03) when she was 15 with Lokomotiva; her national team debut was at the WCh 2007
- MVP of the EHF FINAL4 in 2016

EC trophies: CL 2016



Majda Mehmedovic

left wing

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

EC trophies: CL 2012, 2015, Cup Winners' Cup 2010

OG: S 2012, EHF EURO: G 2012



Cristina Neagu

left back

- one of only two players ever, and the only female in history, to be named IHF World Handball Player of the Year three times (2010, 2015 and 2016)
- EURO 2010 top scorer (53 goals) and All-star member; EURO 2014 & 2016 All-star left back; joint CL 2014/15 top scorer (102); WCh 2015 top scorer (63), All-star left back & MVP
- missed nearly two years on court after a shoulder injury and a torn knee ligament
- born and bred in Bucharest, in 2017/18 she will play at an elite level in her home city for the first time, where she is expected to draw big crowds of supporters

EC trophies: CL 2015

EURO: B 2010; WCh: B 2015



Isabelle Gullden

centre back

- played for three clubs in her whole career: Sävehof, Viborg and CSM Bucuresti
- her uncle, Christer, was an Olympic wrestler, who came close to the bronze medal in 1988, her boyfriend, Swedish goalkeeper Linus Persson plays in CSM's men's team
- scored all 27 goals from as many penalty throws at the EHF EURO 2014
- EHF Player of the Month for April and May 2016
- MVP & top scorer (58 goals) of the EURO 2014; top scorer of the CL 2015/16 (108)

EC trophies: CL 2016, Cup Winners' Cup 2014

EURO: S 2010, B 2014



Oana Manea

line player

- in 2008 diagnosed with ventricular extrasystole and stopped playing for 6 months
- can gather the team behind her, one of the reasons she has been also named captain both at clubs (Olthim, CSM) or the national team
- her father, Dumitru, was a football coach at Sportul Studentesc, a 1st league team
- considers to become a full-time make-up artist after finishing her career

EC trophies: CL 2016, Cup Winners' Cup 2007, Champions Trophy 2007

EURO: B 2010, WCh: B 2015



Amanda Kurtovic

right back

- Olympic, EHF EURO and WCh gold medallist, who also won the CL with Larvik when she was only a teenager
- has a brother, William, who plays football in the first league in Norway for Sandefjord
- born in Sweden, but left the country when she was only six as her father had a contract in Norway
- her father, Marinko, is a handball coach, training Norwegian men's team OIF Arendal

EC trophies: CL 2016

WCh: S 2005, B 2015, EURO: B 2010



Nathalie Hagman

right wing

- also played football as a child, but chose handball
- won the EHF Cup and Cup Winners' Cup with Holstebro in 2015 and 2016, finishing as top scorer of both competitions
- has a twin sister, Gabrielle, who also plays handball, in the Swedish second league
- can also feature as a playmaker thanks to her speed and handball IQ

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2015, CWC 2016

EHF EURO: S 2010, B 2014

GROUP A

**Club Address**

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

Media contact

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www.nfh.dk



nfhaandboldklub

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
GK shirt: dark blue

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: orange

Nykøbing Falster HB



After their very first appearance in an international competition, where they made it straight to the EHF Cup 2016/17 Semi-finals, Nykøbing Falster Håndboldklub became Danish champions for the first time. Now, they make their maiden voyage in the EHF Champions League – with two sisters, an almost all-Scandinavian squad and a new coach.

Despite the burden of playing the Danish league in parallel with Europe's premier club competition, there is more joy than pressure for Nykøbing: "For us, being part of the Champions League so early is a big sensation," says club manager Henrik Hansen. The fans in Power Arena were truly frenetic when NFH played their debut season in the EHF Cup 2016/17, so they will climb the ladder together with team and the club.

Nine players and coach Niels Agesen left (to Randers), eight new players and coach Jakob Larsen arrived, so it will be a tough job to put all the pieces of the puzzle together. But the start of the season has been quite positive, as NFH beat the big favourites from Odense in the Danish league, before a close defeat to domestic runners-up Midtjylland.

A team that beats the likes of former CL finalists Lada Togliatti (Russia) or EHF Cup finalists TuS Metzingen (Germany), then defeats former European cup winners FC Midtjylland in the finals of the Danish league, seems to have enough international class. Additionally, thanks to the EHF Cup 2016/17 season, NFH know what a tough group phase feels like.

Kristina Kristiansen is one of the best-known Danish handball players on and off the court – and she feels home at Nykøbing now. Some weeks ago, Kristina Kristiansen (nicknamed 'Mulle') extended her contract at NFH until 2022, when she will be 33 years old. Kristiansen played at Holstebro before and won the EHF Cup twice, in 2012/13 and 2014/15.

**Playing hall**

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

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 1

Other

EHF Cup: semi-final 2016/17

Danish league: 1 title (2017)



0

MATCHES

Longest winning run

0

GOALS

Most goals

0

GOALS

Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	N/A
Biggest defeat	N/A
Longest winning run	N/A
Longest unbeaten run	N/A
Longest losing run	N/A
Longest run without win	N/A
Most goals	N/A
Most goals opponent	N/A
Most goals both teams	N/A
Fewest goals	N/A
Fewest goals opponent	N/A
Fewest goals both teams	N/A

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
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N/A



Jakob Larsen

coach

- joined Nykøbing on a three-year contract this summer from men's league club GOG
- born in Greenland and a former key player in Greenland's national team
- was a versatile back court player, and an uncompromising defender in his playing days
- coaching women for the first time in his career
- living together with former national team player and CL winner Kamilla Kristensen, with whom he has two sons

Newcomers:

Cecilie Greve (Randers HK/DEN)
 Mie Sørensen (Viborg HK/DEN)
 Mathilde Nielsen (Odense HC/DEN)
 Tiril Merg (Glassverket/NOR)
 Angelica Wallén (Skuru/SWE)
 Ayaka Ikehara (MIE violet' IRIS/JPN)
 Sofie Olsen (Ajax København/DEN)
 Anna Lagerquist (Lugi Lund/SWE)

Left the club:

Mette Sahlholdt
 Pernille Holmsgaard
 Mette Gravholt
 Nadia Kongsted (all end of career)
 Nathalie Hagman (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)
 Louise Kristensen (Aarhus United/DEN)
 Emma Navne (TMS Ringsted/DEN)
 Ditte Vind (Aarhus United/DEN)
 Mariana Cost (CS Magura Cismadie/ROU)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
32	Cecilie	Greve	DEN	Goalkeeper	19/01/1992	Holbæk, DEN	187
21	Ayaka	Ikehara	JPN	Right Wing	24/09/1990	Okinawa, JPN	157
11	Sarah	Iversen	DEN	Line Player	10/04/1990	Frederiksberg, DEN	177
49	Celine	Kristiansen	DEN	Right Back	24/05/1996	Gentofte, DEN	178
79	Kristina	Kristiansen	DEN	Centre Back	13/07/1989	Hoje Taastrup, DEN	163
19 C	Anna	Lagerquist	SWE	Line Player	16/10/1993	Lund, SWE	174
8	Tiril	Merg	NOR	Back	02/09/1993	Bærum, NOR	181
2	Matilde	Nielsen	DEN	Left Wing	09/02/1995	Farsø, DEN	182
24	Sofie Amalie	Olsen	DEN	Right Back	16/02/1995	Frederiksberg, DEN	178
22	Laerke Nolsoe	Pedersen	DEN	Left Wing	19/02/1996	Aalborg, DEN	164
1	Mette	Sahlholdt	DEN	Goalkeeper	22/07/1977	Svendborg, DEN	179
12	Mie	Soerensen	DEN	Goalkeeper	21/05/1994	Aalborg, DEN	175
39	Angelica	Wallén	SWE	Right Back	11/04/1986	Sundsvall, SWE	172
3	Emelie	Westberg	SWE	Back	06/04/1990	Nacka, SWE	179
5	Johanna	Westberg	SWE	Back	06/04/1990	Nacka, SWE	186



Cecilie Greve

goalkeeper

- joined Nykøbing in the summer of 2017 on a three-year contract from league rivals Randers HK
- has played 39 internationals for Denmark
- replacing veteran keeper and former Danish international Mette Iversen Sahlholdt
- not only has international experience from her national team career, but also European experience at club level from HC Odense and Randers HK

WCh: B 2013



Laerke Nolsoe

left wing

- joined Nykøbing from league rivals Holstebro in the summer of 2016
- has played 62 youth internationals for Denmark
- has also caught the eye of senior national coach Klavs Bruun Jørgensen, who has included her in his squad a few times
- compensates for her modest height (164cm) with speed and technical skill, as well as a varied shot from the wing



Johanna Westberg

left back

- joined Nykøbing from Randers HK in 2016
- has played 45 internationals for Sweden, scoring 69 goals
- a tall (186 cm) back court player with a hard and varied shot
- also particularly good at finding the line player and the left wing
- her twin sister Emelie is also playing in the Nykøbing team



Emelie Westberg

left back

- twin sister of teammate and fellow back Johanna Westberg
- joined Nykøbing from Lugi HF in the summer of 2015
- has played four internationals for Sweden
- at 178 cm, she is a tall back court player and possesses a fine shot
- however her main strengths are in the defence, and it is here that she has shown her greatest value to Nykøbing



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
- 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



Anna Lagerquist

line player

- joined Nykøbing this summer from Swedish league club Lugi HF in Lund on a two-year contract; born in Lund and had previously represented Lugi for all her career
- spotted by Nykøbing due to her brilliant performances in the Swedish national team at the EHF EURO 2016 on home ground back in December
- has played 15 internationals and scored 17 goals for Sweden
- despite only weighing 60kg, strong in defence and recently has also developed her attacking play considerably



Angelica Wallen

right back

- joined in the summer of 2017 on a two-year contract from Swedish league club Skuru
- despite being right-handed, she is seen as the successor to right back Nathalie Hagman, who has left for CSM Bucuresti
- has plenty of knowledge about Danish handball from Esbjerg (2010-13) and Randers (2013-15), also had a year in French handball playing for Toulon (2015/16)
- has played 78 internationals for Sweden

EURO: S 2010



Ayaka Ikehara

right wing

- joined Nykøbing this summer
- the first Japanese international in the Danish women's league
- has played 11 internationals for Japan and scored 15 goals
- replacing, Louise Kristensen who has left for new league club Aarhus United
- a fast and technically-skilled wing with a great variety of shots

GROUP A

**Club Address**

RK Krim Mercator
Center Stožice
Vojkova Cesta 100
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

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www.rkkrim.com



rkkrim

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: dark blue
GK shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: black
GK shirt: black

RK Krim Mercator



They have won the Women's EHF Champions League twice, and four years ago Krim reached the semi-final. However, since then a major transition has happened. Young coach Uroš Bregar rejuvenated the squad and, after a surprisingly strong group phase last season, the Slovenian side hope for a longer and better season this time around.

They were the biggest surprise of last season's group phase, as they made it through to the main round with six points thanks to two victories against Larvik. They went on to lose all their main round matches, but they gained respect. "Our goal is to make steps forward. We proved that we are on the right track. We hope that we will be able to fulfil our primary goals in domestic and international competitions and to walk an additional mile towards our long term goal," says Tina Kravanja, Krim's Secretary General. The group phase matches against Gdynia and Nykøbing will be an indication of what the future holds.

Krim are not used to facing teams of equal quality in the Slovenian league, so the Champions League is their main competition. However, the plan of Krim to develop young, hungry talent works well when they are allowed to focus on one competition. "To be a part of the Champions League, is a big honour for us," says Kravanja.

Jelena Despotovic and Tamara Mavsar are the biggest names to join Krim, but that is balanced against Vesna Milanović Litre and Laura Kamdop leaving. The team is expected to be on the same level as last season. "We have a young and ambitious team, which wants to prove the improvement. We want to stand up against strong teams and get stronger," says team captain Miša Marinček.

After one season at Vardar, when the team unluckily lost the Champions League final against Győr, Tamara Mavsar returns to Krim, where she had been playing since she was 17. The left wing learnt a lot at Skopje, and is expected to be one of the best strikers in the Ljubljana-based team.

**Playing hall**

Sportna dvorana Kodeljevo
Gortanova 21
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Capacity: 2,400

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 23
Winners (2): 2000/01, 2002/03
Runners-up (3): 1998/99, 2003/04, 2005/06
Semi-final (1): 2012/13
Quarter-final (4): 1996/97, 1997/98, 2004/05, 2006/07
Last 16 (1): 1995/96
Main Round (6): 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15
Group Matches (4): 1999/00, 2001/02, 2007/08, 2015/16

Other

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

Slovenian league: 22 titles (1995 – 2015, 2017)
Slovenian cup: 24 titles



6 MATCHES
Longest winning run

41 GOALS
Most goals

76 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	36:12 (18:3) v Anagennisi Artas GRE (h), 25.01.1997
Biggest defeat	39:20 (19:8) v Buducnost MNE (a), 15.03.2015
Longest winning run	6 matches (04.01.2003 – 22.02.2003) 6 matches (08.01.2005 – 19.02.2005)
Longest unbeaten run	7 matches (20.02.2000 – 10.02.2001)
Longest losing run	16 matches (09.11.2014 – 20.11.2015)
Longest run without win	16 matches (09.11.2014 – 20.11.2015)
Most goals	41 v H/K Dinamo Volgograd RUS 41:33W (h), 13.01.2007
Most goals opponent	47 v WHC Vardar SCBT MKD 29:47L (h), 06.03.2015
Most goals both teams	76 v 'Buducnost' MNE 36:40L (h), 04.03.2011 76 v WHC Vardar SCBT MKD 29:47L (h), 06.03.2015
Fewest goals	15 v Buducnost MNE 30:15L (a), 09.02.2014
Fewest goals opponent	12 v Anagennisi Artas GRE 36:12W (h), 25.01.1997
Fewest goals both teams	34 v ESBF Besancon FRA 19:15W (h), 02.01.1999

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 Krim Electa Ljubljana SLO	8	4	0	4	197:178	+19	8:8	1/4-finals	
1997/98 Krim Electa Ljubljana SLO	8	4	0	4	210:218	-8	8:8	1/4-finals	
1998/99 Krim Electa Ljubljana SLO	12	6	1	5	298:287	+11	13:11	Runner-up	
1999/00 Krim Electa NR Ljubljana SLO	6	2	1	3	153:146	+7	5:7	3rd Gr. B	
2000/01 RK Krim Neutro Roberts SLO	12	6	3	3	302:270	+32	15:9	Winner	
2001/02 RK Krim Neutro Roberts SLO	6	3	0	3	148:151	-3	6:6	3rd Gr. D	
2002/03 Krim ETA N. Roberts Ljubljana SLO	12	10	0	2	357:302	+55	20:4	Winner	
2003/04 Krim Ljubljana Slovenia SLO	12	7	0	5	344:309	+35	14:10	Runner-up	
2004/05 Krim Ljubljana SLO	8	7	0	1	222:185	+37	14:2	1/4-finals	
2005/06 Krim Ljubljana Slovenia SLO	12	8	0	4	312:285	+27	16:8	Runner-up	
2006/07 RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana SLO	8	5	0	3	245:231	+14	10:6	1/4-finals	
2007/08 RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana SLO	6	2	1	3	175:180	-5	5:7	3rd Gr. B	
2008/09 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	6	0	6	383:386	-3	12:12	4th MR Gr. 2	
2009/10 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	7	1	4	364:334	+30	15:9	3rd MR Gr. 1	
2010/11 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	6	0	6	364:356	+8	12:12	3rd MR Gr. 1	
2011/12 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	4	2	6	290:312	-22	10:14	3rd MR Gr. 2	
2012/13 RK Krim Mercator SLO	14	8	0	6	355:355	0	16:12	1/2-finals	
2013/14 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	5	1	6	300:295	+5	11:13	4th MR Gr. 2	
2014/15 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	2	0	10	305:374	-69	4:20	6th MR Gr. 1	
2015/16 RK Krim Mercator SLO	6	0	0	6	160:208	-48	0:12	4th Gr. A	
2016/17 RK Krim Mercator SLO	12	4	0	8	294:345	-51	8:16	5th MR Gr. 2	
Total:	214	106	10	98	5778:5707	+71	222:206		



Uros Bregar

coach

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

Newcomers:

Jelena Despotovic (Debrecen/HUN)
 Olga Perederiy (Iuventa Michalovce/SVK)
 Tamara Mavsar (Vardar Skopje/MKD)
 Tjaša Stanko (RK Zagorje/SLO)
 Maria Adler (Odense/DEN)
 Lamprina Tsakalou (O.F.N. Ionias/GRE)
 Sanja Gregorc
 Aneja Beganović (RK Ljubljana/SLO)

Left the club:

Vesna Milanovic Litre (Kisvarda)
 Tamara Georgijev (Kisvarda)
 Laura Kamdop (Fleury Loiret Handball)
 Nina Jericek (retired)
 Mirjeta Bajramoska (HC Vardar)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
9	Ana	Abina	SLO	Left Back	30/07/1997	Ljubljana, SLO	175
23	Maria	Adler	SWE	Left Back	28/05/1992	Lund, SWE	182
71	Ines	Amon	SLO	Left Wing	13/07/1992	Celje, SLO	169
13	Polona	Baric	SLO	Left Wing	15/05/1992	Izola, SLO	165
14	Aneja	Beganovic	SLO	Line Player	09/11/1997	Ljubljana, SLO	172
5	Aneta	Benko	CRO	Right Wing	29/07/1985	Zagreb, CRO	174
80	Jelena	Despotovic	MNE	Left Back	30/04/1994	Podgorica, MNE	183
6	Tija	Gomilar Zickero	SLO	Right Wing	12/05/2000	Ljubljana, SLO	168
22	Sanja	Gregorc	SLO	Line Player	14/08/1990	Ljubljana, SLO	178
20	Alja	Koren	SLO	Right Back	11/12/1990	Celje, SLO	185
16 C	Misa	Marincek	SLO	Goalkeeper	18/02/1985	celje, SLO	187
8	Tamara	Mavsar	SLO	Left Wing	01/04/1991	Ljubljana, SLO	178
17	Elizabeth	Omoregie	BUL	Centre Back	29/12/1996	Athens, GRE	173
21	Amra	Pandzic	SLO	Goalkeeper	20/09/1989	Ljubljana, SLO	177
77	Olga	Perederiy	UKR	Line Player	12/04/1994	Zaporozhye, UKR	175
15	Tjasa	Stanko	SLO	Centre Back	05/11/1997	Maribor, SLO	174
12	Sergeja	Stefanisin	SLO	Goalkeeper	19/09/1974	Ljubljana, SLO	184
34	Lamprini	Tsakalou	GRE	Centre Back	07/08/1993	Arta, GRE	170
18	Nina	Zulic	SLO	Centre Back	04/12/1995	Ljubljana, SLO	169



Misa Marincek
goalkeeper

- enjoying second spell with Krim after having also played for Ptuj, Zalec, Olimpija and Kärnten (Austria)
- returned to Krim for the 2013/14 season
- shares playing time with experienced Sergeja Stefanisin as the No. 1 goalkeeper



Tamara Mavsar
left wing

- born in Ljubljana, where she began her handball journey at Krim
- made her CL debut at age 17 and was named among the best up-and-coming CL players in 2012/13
- has returned to Krim after one season with Vardar
- was part of the Vardar team that made it to the 2016/17 CL final



Polona Baric
left wing

- named best Slovenian women's player in 2015
- current Slovenia national team member
- started with gymnastics but soon made first handball steps under supervision of her father Tone Baric, who is a handball coach



Jelena Despotovic
left back

- highly talented Montenegrin, who learned to play handball at Buducnost
- was part of the Montenegro national team that won the EHF EURO 2012
- left Buducnost after dropping on the pecking order after the arrival of Cristina Neagu
- has joined Krim after two seasons with Debrecen; known as excellent shooter and tenacious defender

EURO: G 2012



Elizabeth Omoregie **centre back**

- widely considered among the most talented players of her generation
- versatile player across the back court as well as on the wing
- made her CL debut in 2014/15 aged 17, was named Rookie of Round 4, and scored 34 goals that season for Krim
- voted EHF Player of the Month in November 2016
- born in Athens, Bulgarian national team player, studying economics



Olga Perederiy **line player**

- made senior debut aged 16, playing in the EHF Cup for Zaporozhye
- spent five seasons as a rotation player at Rostov-Don
- going into her first CL season after failed attempts with Rostov and her latest club, Iuventa Michalovce
- regular Ukrainian national team member



Alja Koren **right back**

- had her first CL experience with Celje in 2005/06
- first played for Krim from 2009-2012 before joining Erd un Hungary for two seasons
- made transition to right back before the 2014/15 season, can now play both positions
- better known by her maiden name: Peraica



Aneta Benko **right wing**

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

GROUP A

**Club Address**

Vistal Gdynia
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Poland

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[piilkarecznagdynia](https://www.facebook.com/piilkarecznagdynia)

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
GK shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green

Vistal Gdynia



Last season Vistal Gdynia became Polish champions for the second time in their history, and now for the first time they will be part of the EHF Champions League Group Phase. The main goal for the nearly all-Polish squad will be to gain experience at the highest level.

Nykøbing are making their EHF Champions League debut and Bucuresti are at this stage for only the third time, although the Romanian side have won the Champions League already. Only Krim provide experienced opposition for Gdynia, having more than 20 appearances in this competition. All this means that Gdynia are not that far behind two of the three teams in terms of experience. However, last year Krim showed that their transition is already successful and Nykøbing were strong in the EHF Cup 2016/17, so the Polish champions are clearly below the rest in terms of (international) experience.

“Our opponents are very strong and have great experience in the Champions League. We want to present the best version of ourselves, gain experience and snatch some points,” says Gdynia manager Krystian Gańczka. “We hope that this Champions League experience will pay off in future, because we have a very young team,” he added. In general, the chances to make it to the main round seem to be limited, but Krim showed last season that a young team are able surprise the favourites when they get into a flow.

The left-handed Polish international transferred to Germany, joining 2016 EHF Cup semi-finalists TusSies Metzingen. Alicja Pekala is the only new arrival for Gdynia, and the right wing will take some responsibility in the right back position too.

She replaces Paweł Tetelewski as Gdynia coach this season. Truszyńska played most of her career in Gdansk and made more than 110 appearances for the Polish national team. In 2008, the 46-year-old started her coaching career.

**Playing hall**

**Hala Sportowo Widowiskowa
w Gdyni**
Kazimierza Gorskiego 8
Gdynia
Poland
Capacity: 4,800

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 2
Qualification (1): 2012/13

Other

Challenge Cup: semi-finals 2009/10
Cup Winners' Cup: Last 16 2012/13
EHF Cup: round 2 2010/11

Polish league: 2 titles (2012, 2017)

Polish cup: 3 titles



0

MATCHES

Longest winning run

0

GOALS

Most goals

0

GOALS

Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	N/A
Biggest defeat	N/A
Longest winning run	N/A
Longest unbeaten run	N/A
Longest losing run	N/A
Longest run without win	N/A
Most goals	N/A
Most goals opponent	N/A
Most goals both teams	N/A
Fewest goals	N/A
Fewest goals opponent	N/A
Fewest goals both teams	N/A

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
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N/A



Agnieszka Truszyńska

coach

- was an important back player for Montex Lublin in the club's first years of glory (1993-95) and a legend for AZS AWF Gdansk, where she played from 1995 to 2005
- won the Polish league title twice – with Montex in 1995 and AZS AWF Nata Gdansk in 2004
- played 112 matches from 1994 to 2003 with the Poland national team
- Vistal is the first senior team she has coached however, she led the junior squad in Gdynia for several years
- coach of the Poland women's junior side, which participated in the W17 ECh in FYR Macedonia in the summer of 2017

Newcomers:

Alicja Pekala (MTS Kwidzyn)

Left the club:

Monika Kobylińska (TuS Metzingen)
Kinga Lalewicz (Energa AZS Koszalin)
Gabriela Urbaniak (Energa AZS Koszalin)
Aleksandra Dorsz (Kram Start Elbląg)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
87	Jagoda	Blaszkowska	POL	Left Wing	07/01/1998	Gdynia, POL	164
71	Martyna	Boryslawska	POL	Left Back	22/03/1995	Plock, POL	180
12 c	Malgorzata	Gapska	POL	Goalkeeper	03/09/1983	Gdansk, POL	176
22	Kinga	Gutkowska	POL	Left Back	14/06/1995	Kwidzyn, POL	165
3	Katarzyna	Janiszewska	POL	Right Back	26/10/1995	Sztum, POL	166
10	Oliwia	Kaminska	POL	Goalkeeper	09/09/1998	Tczew, POL	181
16	Weronika	Kordowiecka	POL	Goalkeeper	13/09/1995	Warszawa, POL	176
24	Natalia	Kowalczyk	POL	Centre Back	08/02/1998	Brodnica, POL	175
19	Joanna	Kozłowska	POL	Left Back	19/01/1995	Sztum, POL	183
77	Patrycja	Kulwinska	POL	Line Player	31/03/1989	Gdansk, POL	176
4	Aneta	Labuda	POL	Right Back	07/01/1995	Zary, POL	160
7	Kornelia	Malecka	POL	Right Back	24/03/1999	Reszel, POL	180
49	Patricia	Matieli	BRA	Centre Back	11/11/1998	Sao Paulo, BRA	168
5	Alicja	Pekala	POL	Right Wing	17/09/1992	Kwidzyn, POL	179
37	Marta	Slwinska	POL	Centre Back	06/03/1998	Gdynia, POL	178
14	Magdalena	Stanulewicz	POL	Left Wing	17/09/1992	Gdansk, POL	162
66	Joanna	Szarawaga	POL	Line Player	02/04/1994	Debno, POL	185
78	Paulina	Uscinowicz	POL	Left Back	16/10/1999	Gdansk, POL	183
18	Aleksandra	Zych	POL	Right Back	28/07/1993	Walbrzych, POL	182



Malgorzata Gapska

goalkeeper

- the team captain has won the Polish league title with three teams – Gdansk (2004), Lublin (2009, 2010) and Gdynia (2012, 2017)
- 2017/18 marks her debut in the CL, at the age of 34 - it is likely her last season as a player; played for Poland at the WCh 2007 and 2013, and the EHF EURO 2014
- so well-known by her nickname 'Ryba' (fish) that barely anyone in Polish handball uses her real name
- passionate about training young goalkeepers as one of the founders of 'Fabryka Bramkarek' (Goalkeeper Factory)



Magdalena Stanulewicz

left wing

- should get much more playing time in the 2017/18 season
- has been part of Vistal's European campaigns since the 2011/12 season
- has several other interests outside handball, including as a body builder and personal trainer, and working with school children
- has played for the new Poland B national team



Joanna Kozłowska

left back

- an ambitious and serious player, yet extremely modest and a very good student at the same time
- well known for her strength and quality, especially in defence
- played for Poland at the EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden, but only in defence



Patricia Matieli

centre back

- the third Brazilian player to have worn the Vistal Gdynia jersey
- before moving to Poland, played for FC Sao Paulo, Sao Caetano, Santo Andre and Sao Bernardo do Campo
- according to Przegląd Sportowy, was the best centre back of the 2016/17 season in the Polish league

**Patrycja Kulwinska****line player**

- known by her nickname 'Owen', as she loves football and Michael Owen was her childhood idol
- became a mother in December 2016 and therefore missed the EHF EURO that same month
- has been part of the Poland national team since 2009 and was a key player in the Kim Rasmussen era from 2010 to 2016
- known for her irony, sense of humour and giving great interviews

**Joanna Szarawaga****line player**

- the only Vistal player with CL experience, gained during her time with MKS Lublin
- was supposed to make her CL debut in 2013 against Buducnost, but was injured in the last training before the game
- according to Przegląd Sportowy, was the best line player in the Polish league in 2016/17
- likely to participate in the WCh in Germany this year, for which Poland received a wild card

**Aleksandra Zych****right back**

- played for Poland at the EHF EURO 2014 and WCh 2015, where they reached the semi-finals
- first-choice right back following the transfer of Monika Kobylinska to Metzingen
- Vistal Gdynia is her first senior team after SMS Gliwice sports school
- also plays beach handball and won the Polish Beach Handball Championship in 2016
- regarded as the best left-handed Polish player in the Polish league

**Katarzyna Janiszewska****right wing**

- at the age of only 16, she was a key member of the Poland national team at the U20 WCh 2012 in Czech Republic, playing in a much older age group than her own
- fast and physically strong, known for finishing actions under physical pressure from opponents
- played at the EHF EURO 2014 and 2016, being the first choice in her position at the second tournament
- best right wing of the 2016/17 Polish League according to the sport publication Przegląd Sportowy

Group B preview



GROUP WITH TWO CURRENT EUROPEAN TITLE HOLDERS

Just like a year ago, Györi Audi ETO KC, FC Midtjylland and Rostov-Don were drawn into the same group of the EHF Champions League. Together with the ambitious debutant Brest Bretagne Handball, they again formed a very strong and competitive quartet. It features two current European title holders - Györ enter the competition as its winner, and Rostov, who had an unsuccessful campaign at the continental top flight last autumn, went on to win the EHF Cup.

Last season, Györ once again proved to be an absolute European powerhouse. For the third time in five years, the Hungarian team grabbed the most prestigious continental trophy. Previously they had managed it during the two successive years (2013 and 2014) – and now definitely hope to repeat the trick. In summer, the team coached by Ambros Martin lost the veteran line player Heidi Løke who came back to her home country Norway and now plays for Storhamar IL. However, Györ made up for this loss by signing another 35-year-old, Anja Althaus from Vardar, who notably scored six goals against the Hungarian team in the Champions League final last season.



Rostov were so much disappointed by the setback in the European top flight last season that they fired the head coach Jan Leslie midway through the season. And with his successor Frederic Bougeant, the Russian team redeemed themselves by winning the EHF Cup as well as the national league. Now the star-studded Rostov set their goals high in the Champions League. To strengthen the squad, they brought in a number of quality players including the famous Katarina Bulatovic from Buducnost as well as 2016 Olympic Champion Marina Sudakova and Brazilian goalkeeper Mayssa Pessoa. The latter is a replacement for the veteran Katrine Lunde who opted to move to Vipres Kristiansand in her home country Norway.



Midtjylland did not win any international trophies last season, yet their EHF Champions League campaign was quite a success. The Danish team survived not just in the group phase – where they notably beat both Györ and Rostov at home - but also in the Main Round and fought hard against the future finalist Vardar in the quarter-final. In summer, the club parted ways with a number of key players such as Sweden's Sabina Jacobsen who moved to CSM Bucuresti as well as the Danish internationals Stine Jorgensen and Trine Ostergaard Jensen who were lured by domestic rivals HC Odense. At the same time, eight new players joined the team, and now the head coach Kristian Kristensen needs to integrate them as soon as possible.



Brest are the least experienced team in Group B, yet the French do not hide their ambitions. After a successful debut in the EHF Cup last season, where they reached the quarter-final, the team of Laurent Bezeau aim to advance to the main round in their maiden EHF Champions League campaign.

Sergey Nikolaev

Group B head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group B opponents in the EC

Györi Audi ETO KC vs Brest Bretagne Handball

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

Györi Audi ETO KC vs Rostov-Don 3-0-1 (107:95) 6:2

15.02.2003	Rostov-Don vs Györi Graboplast ETO, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	26:22 (12:9)
22.02.2003	Györi Graboplast ETO vs Rostov-Don, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	25:17 (10:6)
22.10.2016	Rostov-Don vs Györi Audi ETO KC, EHF Champions League – Group C	27:28 (14:12)
19.11.2016	Györi Audi ETO KC vs Rostov-Don, EHF Champions League – Group C	32:25 (15:12)

Györi Audi ETO KC vs FC Midtjylland 6-1-4 (295:285) 13:9

12.05.2002	Györi Graboplast ETO vs Ikast Bording EH, EHF Cup – Final	30:25 (15:13)
20.05.2002	Ikast Bording EH vs Györi Graboplast ETO, EHF Cup – Final	36:23 (21:13)
09.11.2008	Györi AUDI ETO KC vs Ikast-Brandø EH, EHF Champions League – Group A	25:27 (15:11)
03.01.2009	Ikast-Brandø EH vs Györi AUDI ETO KC, EHF Champions League – Group A	26:27 (13:16)
12.02.2012	Györi AUDI ETO KC vs FC Midtjylland, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	35:27 (17:13)
24.02.2012	FC Midtjylland vs Györi AUDI ETO KC, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	24:29 (14:17)
03.05.2014	Györi Audi ETO KC vs FC Midtjylland, EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Semi-final	29:26 (16:11)
25.10.2015	Györi Audi ETO KC vs FC Midtjylland, EHF Champions League – Group C	21:26 (11:11)
22.11.2015	FC Midtjylland vs Györi AUDI ETO KC, EHF Champions League – Group C	22:22 (12:10)
15.10.2016	Györi Audi ETO KC vs FC Midtjylland, EHF Champions League – Group C	31:19 (16:7)
12.11.2016	FC Midtjylland vs Györi Audi ETO KC, EHF Champions League – Group C	27:23 (15:10)

FC Midtjylland vs Brest Bretagne Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

Rostov-Don vs FC Midtjylland 1-0-1 (49:45) 2:2

29.10.2016	Rostov-Don vs FC Midtjylland, EHF Champions League – Group C	26:20 (13:12)
06.11.2016	FC Midtjylland vs Rostov-Don, EHF Champions League – Group C	25:23 (13:10)

Rostov-Don vs Brest Bretagne Handball 2-0-0 (54:40) 4:0

04.03.2017	Brest Bretagne Handball vs Rostov-Don, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	21:26 (11:13)
11.03.2017	Rostov-Don vs Brest Bretagne Handball, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	28:19 (13:8)

GROUP B

**Club Address**

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Kiskutliget
92027 Győr
Hungary

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Györi-Audi-ETO-KC



@GyoriaudiETO

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: red

Dark

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

Györi Audi ETO KC



No club has yet to win the Women's EHF FINAL4 two years in a row, but defending champions Györ have put themselves in a strong position to change that with their summer transfer activity.

After signing players such as Stine Oftedal and Anja Althaus, Hungarian powerhouse look primed to challenge for their fourth title. In 2014, when the event premiered at Papp Laszlo Sportrena in Budapest, Györ were the first winners and defended their 2013 title, which they had won in the old format of two finals against Larvik. It is safe to say Györ belong to the top contenders again this season and they expect nothing less than gold.

Goalkeeper Kari Aalvik Grimsbø, left back Zsuzsanna Tomori and playmaker Nycke Groot underwent surgeries over the summer and while Tomori is already back training with the team, Groot and Grimsbø are expected to return by the time the group matches begin.

Anja Althaus had said farewell to elite handball after losing the 2017 final with HC Vardar, ready to move on to the next chapter in her life, until a phone call changed everything. The 35-year-old German line player received an offer from Györ to reconsider her retirement and she admitted: "This is a challenge I could not say no to. To play for Györ was my dream since I began to play handball," added the two-time EHF Champions League winner (2009, 2010 with Viborg).

With a quick integration of the new players, Györ's target for the season is clear.

"We want to defend our position among the best women's club teams, to be part of the FINAL4 and to repeat the success of last season," says club president Csaba Bartha, adding: "We know our group matches opponents, such as EHF Cup winners Rostov, very well, we are expecting very tough matches against them, but we are already looking forward to the pleasure of taking part in the competition."

**Playing hall**

AUDI Arena Győr
Toth Laszlo utca
9027 Győr
Hungary
Capacity: 5,000

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 15
Winners (3): 2012/13, 2013/14, 2016/17
Runners-up (3): 2008/09, 2011/12, 2015/16
Semi-finals (4): 2006/07, 2007/08, 2009/10, 2010/11
Quarter-finals (1): 2014/15
Group Matches (2): 2000/01, 2005/06
Qualification (1): 2004/05

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2005/06, Semi-final 2002/03
EHF Cup: Runners-up 1998/99, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2004/05
Hungarian league: 13 titles (1957, 1959, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)
Hungarian cup: 12 titles



13 MATCHES
Longest winning run

41 GOALS
Most goals

73 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	37:16 (17:9) v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT (h), 08.11.2015
Biggest defeat	39:28 (20:12) v Spartak Kiev UKR (a), 17.02.2001
Longest winning run	13 matches (13.10.2012 – 06.04.2013)
Longest unbeaten run	22 matches (05.05.2013 – 23.11.2014)
Longest losing run	3 matches (11.02.2001 – 07.01.2006)
Longest run without win	4 matches (28.01.2001 – 07.01.2006) 4 matches (20.03.2011 – 02.10.2011)
Most goals	41 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 41:22W (h), 05.10.2013
Most goals opponent	39 v Spartak Kiev UKR 39:28L (a), 17.02.2001
Most goals both teams	73 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 33:40W (a), 13.01.2008
Fewest goals	18 v Larvik NOR 18:24L (h), 20.03.2011 18 v WHC Vardar SCBT 24:18L (a), 04.04.2015
Fewest goals opponent	14 v SD Itxako ESP 14:20W (a), 14.11.2009
Fewest goals both teams	34 v SD Itxako ESP 14:20W (a), 14.11.2009

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2000/01 Győri Graboplast ETO HUN	6	1	2	3	156:168	−12	4:8	4th Gr. D	
2005/06 Győri ETO Kezilabda Club HUN	6	3	0	3	154:169	−15	6:6	3rd Gr. D	
2006/07 Győri Audi ETO KC HUN	10	6	0	4	291:267	+24	12:8	1/2-finals	
2007/08 Győri Audi ETO HUN	14	11	0	3	415:366	+49	22:6	1/2-finals	
2008/09 Győri Audi ETO KC HUN	16	11	1	4	454:415	+39	23:9	Runner-up	
2009/10 Győri AUDI ETO KC HUN	14	8	2	4	355:337	+18	18:10	1/2-finals	
2010/11 Győri AUDI ETO KC HUN	14	10	1	3	387:334	+53	21:7	1/2-finals	
2011/12 Győri AUDI ETO KC HUN	16	10	1	5	472:422	+50	21:11	Runner-up	
2012/13 Győri Audi ETO KC HUN	16	15	0	1	435:346	+89	30:2	Winner	
2013/14 Győri Audi ETO KC HUN	14	12	2	0	408:337	+71	26:2	Winner	
2014/15 Győri Audi ETO KC HUN	14	10	1	3	385:313	+72	21:7	1/4-finals	
2015/16 Győri Audi ETO KC HUN	16	12	1	3	436:357	+79	25:7	Runner-up	
2016/17 Győri Audi ETO KC HUN	16	13	1	2	481:390	+91	27:5	Winner	
Total:	172	122	12	38	4829:4221	+608	256:88		



Ambros Martín

coach

- born in Lanzarote, Canary Islands, joined Győr in 2012
- previously coached top Spanish side Estrella Itxako for seven years, winning the EHF Cup in 2009
- also eliminating Győr in the semi-final on the way to the CL final in 2010/11 during that spell
- in his first season with Győr he won their first European trophy
- steered the national team of Romania to the 5th place at the EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014, 2017, EHF Cup 2009

Newcomers:

Csenge Fodor (NEKA)
Anja Althaus (HC Vardar)
Stine Bredal Oftedal (Issy Paris Hand)
Anne Mette Hansen (København Håndbold)
Sára Afentaler
Binó Boglárka
Tamara Pál
Fanni Szilovics
Emőke Varga (all from Győri Audi ETO KC youth team)

Left the club:

Asma Elghaoui (Siófok)
Gabriella Tóth (loaned to Érd)
Júlia Hársfalvi (loaned to DVSC-TVP)
Rita Lakatos (loaned to Váci NKSE)
Dorina Korsós (loaned to Tus Metzingen)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
4	Sara	Afentaler	HUN	Back	08/12/2000	Siklós, HUN	182
20	Anja	Althaus	GER	Line Player	03/09/1982	Magdeburg, GER	177
18	Eduarda	Amorim Taleska	BRA	Back	23/09/1986	Blumenau, BRA	186
1	Boglarka	Bino	HUN	Goalkeeper	11/10/1999	Szombathely, HUN	184
33	Bernadett	Bodi	HUN	Wing	09/03/1986	Szeged, HUN	175
31	Yvette	Broch	NED	Line Player	21/12/1990	Monster, NED	184
32	Csenge	Fodor	HUN	Wing	23/04/1999	Keszthely, HUN	166
17	Kincső	Gerhath	HUN	Back	20/01/2001	Gyor, HUN	177
13	C Anita	Görbicz	HUN	Centre Back	13/05/1983	Veszprem, HUN	173
85	Kari Aalvik	Grimsbø	NOR	Goalkeeper	04/01/1985	Bergen, NOR	180
27	Cornelia Nycke	Groot	NED	Centre Back	04/05/1988	Alkmaar, NED	170
8	Anne Mette	Hansen	DEN	Back	25/08/1994	Glostrup, DEN	177
21	Reka	Imrei	HUN	Wing	21/09/1999	Esztergom, HUN	160
73	Eva	Kiss	HUN	Goalkeeper	10/07/1987	Debrecen, HUN	189
3	Jana	Knedlikova	CZE	Wing	22/06/1989	Praha, CZE	167
19	Vivien	Moharos	HUN	Wing	09/06/1999	Tatabánya, HUN	158
10	Nora	Mørk	NOR	Back	05/04/1991	Oslo, NOR	167
15	Stine Bredal	Oftedal	NOR	Centre Back	25/09/1991	Oslo, NOR	168
14	Tamara	Pal	HUN	Centre Back	01/09/2000	Debrecen, HUN	170
57	Szidonia	Puhalak	HUN	Wing	05/07/1996	Szeged, HUN	177
2	Fanni	Szilovics	HUN	Back	18/02/2000	Pécs, HUN	179
23	Zsuzsanna	Tomori	HUN	Back	18/06/1987	Budapest, HUN	187
6	Emöke	Varga	HUN	Line Player	09/03/2000	Csorna, HUN	179



Kari Aalvik Grimsbo

goalkeeper

- joined Györ from Danish Team Esbjerg during the 2014/15 season, as Croatian Jelena Grubisic, a replacement for pregnant Katrine Lunde, got injured; before joining Esbjerg, had a long career in Byasen
- due to injury in the 1st match at the EURO 2014 missed the Norwegian triumph
- started her career at the age of 5, had her debut for Byasen in the Norwegian league at the age of 17

EC trophies: CL 2017

OG: G 2008, 2012, B 2016, WCh: G 2011, 2015, S 2007, B 2009, EURO: G 2006, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2016



Anita Görbicz

left wing/centre back

- being among the best players in the world over the last decade, passed the 800-goal milestone in the CL in 2016/17 season
- the team captain and World Handball Player of Year (2005) was waiting to secure one of big prizes at either club or national level for many years until 2013
- 2011/12 CL top scorer, voted for the best centre back at three WCh in a row (2003-07)
- missed almost the entire 2014/15 season due to maternity leave, but returned back to a top shape in 2016/17 and was her team's key to the third title in five years

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014, 2017

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



Eduarda Amorim Taleska

left back

- 2014 IHF Player of the Year
- Brazilian international arrived in Europe in 2006 first joining Kometal Skopje in FYR Macedonia, transferred to Györ in 2009
- most important defensive player of her team
- All-star left back at the WCh 2013 and the CL 2013/14 and All-star defender in 2015/16 and 2016/17 in the CL

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014, 2017

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



Nycke Groot

centre back

- Dutch playmaker made an immediate impact in Györ becoming the focal point of the team's attacks in the 2015/16 season, when Györ finished as runners-up in the CL
- has had her entire career at top level in Denmark until she joined Györ in the summer of 2015 (started in Team Tvis Holstebro and since 2011 in FC Midtjylland)
- helped FCM reach the FINAL4 in 2014 and was the tournament's top scorer (20 goals)
- CL All-star centre back 2015/16, player of the year in the Danish league in 2014, EHF Player of the Month for December 2016, EHF EURO 2016 All-star centre back and MVP

EC trophies: CL 2017

EURO: S 2016, WCh: S 2015



Anja Althaus

line player

- first German player who had played in FYR Macedonia before she joined Győr in the summer of 2017, originally wanted to retire after the 2016/17 season
- switched from being a designer in advertising to a hairdresser, and is known as stylist to her teammates in both her club and the national team
- won two CL titles with Viborg (2009, 2010)
- one of the most famous German players with over 200 caps for Germany and more than 500 goals; best defensive player of the EHF EURO 2012

EURO: S 2016, WCh: S 2015



Yvette Broch

line player

- joined Győr in the summer of 2015 from Metz, also played in her native Netherlands for Amsterdam and for Alcobendas in Spain
- EHF EURO 2016 All-star Team line player as she helped Netherlands reach the final
- Dutch international also known for being the runner-up in Holland's Next Top Model in 2008

EC trophies: CL 2017
EURO: S 2016, WCh: S 2015



Nora Mørk

right back

- best scorer of the Norwegian team at the EHF EURO 2014 (41 goals); voted the best right back of the EHF EURO 2014 & 2016 and the CL 2015/16 & 2016/17 season
- her twin sister and former Larvik teammate Thea plays on the left wing
- joined Larvik in the 2009/10 season and debuted in the national team in 2010 as 19-year-old, in 2016 she transferred to Győr
- in 2015/16 had her record-breaking CL season with 93 goals

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2017
OG: B 2016, EURO: G 2010, 2014, 2016, WCh: G 2015



Bernadett Bodi

right wing

- debuted for Győr in the 2002/03 season
- returned in 2013 after spending time with Randers in Denmark and various Hungarian teams
- her personal best in the CL is 35 goals she recorded in the 2016/17 season

EC trophies: CL 2014, 2017

GROUP B

**Club Address**

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

Media contact

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www.rostovhandball.ru



RostovHandball



@HCRostovDon

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow-black
Player short: yellow
GK shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: black-yellow
Player short: black
GK shirt: dark red

Rostov-Don



They started as one of the main contenders to win the Women's EHF Champions League in 2016/17, but the dream was over after the group phase.

With Frederic Bougeant as their new coach, Rostov-Don restarted in the EHF Cup, won the trophy, finished the Russian Super League season undefeated – and are now eager to make it to the winners' podium again.

For the 2016/17 group phase, they were drawn into the 'group of death' with the two 2016 finalists: Győr and Bucuresti, plus Danish side FC Midtjylland. Despite having one of the best squads in the competition, Rostov failed to qualify for the main round, with one possible reason being that their Russian Olympians had run out of power. Now, everybody at Rostov-Don is sure and confident that they learned their lesson the hard way – and they have the chance to take revenge against Győr and Midtjylland in the group phase this season.

It is hard for any team to replace world class goalkeeper Katrine Lunde, but Rostov found a former world champion: Brazilian Mayssa Pessoa, from Vardar. Aside from Pessoa's arrival, Katarina Bulatovic carries a lot of hope to strengthen the right side of the attack together with Anna Vyakhireva, while fellow new arrival Marina Sudakova was part of the Olympic gold medalist team. Thus, the squad looks even stronger than in the previous years.

Two seasons ago, they won all 12 matches in the group phase and main round, before they were eliminated by the team that went on to become champions, CSM Bucuresti, in the quarter-final. Rostov have therefore already been close to the final destination. This season, the goal of reaching the FINAL4 is a realistic one. Aside from Győr, Vardar and Bucuresti, Rostov have the strongest squad in the competition on paper.

If you look at the two current Women's EHF Champions League players who can win their fifth trophy this season, Bulatovic seems to have the better base for it.

Just like the Montenegrin back, Norwegian (and former Rostov) goalkeeper Katrine Lunde has won the Champions League four times, but with her new club, Kristiansand, it would be a real surprise if she makes it to Budapest.

**Playing hall**

Rostov-on-Don Palace of Sports
344082, Khalturinskiy lane
344029 Rostov-on-Don
Russia
Capacity: 3,500

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 6
Quarter-finals (1): 2015/16
Group Matches (1): 2016/17
Qualification (3): 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14

Other

EHF Cup: winners 2016/17, runners-up 2014/15, quarter-final 2009/10
Cup Winners' Cup: semi-final 2012/13, 2013/14, quarter-final 2010/11

Russian league: 5 titles (1990, 1991, 1994, 2015, 2017)
Russian cup: 9 titles



9 MATCHES
Longest winning run

38 GOALS
Most goals

67 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	38:21 (21:12) v Fleury Loiret Handball FRA, 20.02.2016
Biggest defeat	32:25 (15:12) v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN, 19.11.2016
Longest winning run	9 matches (17.10.2015 – 06.02.2016)
Longest unbeaten run	12 matches (17.10.2015 – 28.02.2016)
Longest losing run	4 matches (31.03.2016 – 22.10.2016)
Longest run without win	4 matches (31.03.2016 – 22.10.2016)
Most goals	38 v Fleury Loiret Handball FRA 38:21W (h), 20.02.2016
Most goals opponent	32 v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN 32:25L (a), 19.11.2016
Most goals both teams	67 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 31:36W (a), 20.11.2015
Fewest goals	20 v CSM Bucuresti ROU 20:22L (h), 11.11.2016
Fewest goals opponent	20 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 20:22W (a), 30.10.2015
	20 v FC Midtjylland DEN 26:20W (h), 29.10.2016
Fewest goals both teams	42 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 20:22W (a), 30.10.2015
	42 v CSM Bucuresti ROU 20:22L (h), 11.11.2016

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2015/16 Rostov-Don RUS	14	11	1	2	405:348	-57		23:5	1/4-finals
2016/17 Rostov-Don RUS	6	1	0	5	142:151	-9		2:10	4th Gr. C
Total:	20	12	1	7	547:499	+48		25:15	



Fred Bougeant

coach

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

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2012, EHF Cup 2017 (as coach)

Newcomers:

Mayssa Pessoa (HC Vardar)
Katarina Bulatovic (Buducnost)
Marina Sudakova (Kuban)
Oxana Cvirinko (Odense Håndbold)

Left the club:

Katrine Lunde (Vipers Kristiansand)
Lotte Grigel (DVSC-TVP)
Olga Chernovnenko
Maria Basarab (both break from handball)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
10	Olga	Bashkirova	RUS	Left Wing	11/01/1995	Novotsimlyanskaya, RUS	178
17	Vladlena	Bobrovnikova	RUS	Left Back	24/10/1987	Krasnodar, RUS	180
99	Viktoriya	Borshchenko	UKR	Left Wing	05/01/1986	Herson, UKR	170
32	Katarina	Bulatovic	MNE	Right Back	15/11/1984	Kragujevac, SRB	186
86	Alexandrina	Cabral Barbosa	ESP	Left Back	05/05/1986	Lisbon, POR	175
84	Mayssa	Pessoa	BRA	Goalkeeper	11/09/1984	Joao Pessoa, BRA	177
28	Siraba	Dembele	FRA	Left Wing	28/06/1986	Dreux, FRA	172
33	Ekaterina	Ilina	RUS	Centre Back	07/03/1991	Togliatti, RUS	175
23	Regina	Kalinichenko	RUS	Left Back	21/12/1985	Herson, UKR	179
19	Kseniya	Makeeva	RUS	Line Player	19/09/1990	Ufa, RUS	182
6	C Iuliia	Managarova	RUS	Right Wing	27/09/1988	Dniepropetrovsk, RUS	170
18	Valeriia	Maslova	RUS	Right Back	23/01/2001	Rostov-On-Don, RUS	187
1	Galina	Mekhdieva	RUS	Goalkeeper	17/06/1985	Rostov-On-Don, RUS	180
7	Mayya	Petrova	RUS	Line Player	26/05/1982	Volgograd, RUS	184
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, RUS	185
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
15	Marina	Sudakova	RUS	Right Wing	17/02/1989	Volgograd, RUS	166
22	Oxana	Tsvirinko	RUS	Left Wing	12/07/1988	Krasnodar, RUS	162
13	Anna	Vyakhireva	RUS	Right Back	13/03/1995	Volgograd, RUS	165



Anna Sedoykina

goalkeeper

- moved to Rostov from Dinamo Volgograd in 2015
- born in Volgograd, she played for Dinamo for 15 years, winning five Russian championship titles
- interrupted her career from 2012 to 2014 because of maternity leave
- won an Olympic gold medal in 2016 after superb performances in the early matches before she was sidelined due to an injury

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008, 2017

EURO: B 2008; OG: G 2016; WCh: G 2009



Siraba Dembele

left wing / centre back

- captain of the France national team, who arrived from HC Vardar in the summer of 2016
- Rostov is the eighth club in her career – she previously played for five different French clubs, spent one season with Danish Randers and was in FYR Macedonia with Vardar for three seasons
- started to play handball at the age of 10 together with her elder sister Kamion

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2017

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



Alexandrina Barbosa

left back

- 2017/18 is her second season at Rostov-Don after she moved from France's Fleury Loiret HB in the summer of 2016
- third top scorer of the EHF Cup and top scorer for Rostov in the 2016/17 season (58 goals)
- born and raised in Portugal, but obtained Spanish citizenship in 2012 and is a key member of the Spain national team
- played for a number of clubs in Portugal, Spain, Romania, Germany and France throughout her career

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2009, 2017

EURO: S 2014



Ekaterina Ilina

centre back

- one of the best Russian playmakers and member of the 2016 Olympic squad that claimed the gold medal
- moved to Rostov-Don in 2014 from Lada Togliatti just after winning the EHF Cup
- two-time Russian champion with Rostov

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2014, 2017

OG: G 2016



Kseniya Makeeva

line player

- 2017/18 is her third season with Rostov-Don
- began her career at Dinamo Volgograd, where she won the Russian championship six times
- spent the 2014/15 season with Romanian club HCM Baia Mare
- plays for the Russia national team, but missed the 2016 Olympic tournament due to an injury

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008, 2017

WCh: G 2009



Katarina Bulatovic

right back

- Serbia-born shooter arrived at Rostov in 2017 after three years with Buducnost
- has won four CL titles with three different clubs – Slagelse, Buducnost and Győr
- played for the Montenegro national team and was key in their biggest achievements, as top scorer at both the London Olympics (silver medal) and EURO (gold) in 2012
- awarded Montenegrin Sports person of the Year in 2012 and 2014

EC trophies: CL 2007, 2012, 2014, 2015, Cup Winners' Cup 2010

EURO: G 2012, OG: S 2012



Anna Vyakhireva

right back

- joined Rostov from Astrakhanochka in 2016; won the Russian league with both Astrakhanochka in 2016 and Rostov in 2017
- comes from a handball family: her father Viktor is a well-known coach, and her elder sister Polina (Kuznetsova) plays for Vardar and for the Russia national team
- 2016 Olympic gold medallist and MVP of the tournament
- one of the most talented and promising players in Russian handball

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2017

OG: G 2016



Iuliia Managarova

right wing

- moved to Rostov in 2013 and quickly became one of the fan favourites
- quiet and humble off the court, but a natural leader in the game with a powerful shot and great scoring abilities
- key member of the Ukraine national team before changing citizenship with the hope of playing for Russia
- has been domestic champion in three countries: Ukraine with Smart Krivy Rog, Romania with Oltchim and Russia with Rostov-Don

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2017

GROUP B

**Club Address**

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Denmark

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FCMHaandbold

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: purple
GK shirt: blue/red/yellow

Dark

Player shirt: purple
Player short: purple
GK shirt: blue/red/yellow

FC Midtjylland



They will play two familiar faces and a debutant – and again FC Midtjylland are starting with the hope of at least making it to the main round. “We are in the group of death this season again,” says team captain Veronica Kristiansen.

In the group matches of the 2016/17 season, FCM eliminated big favourites Rostov Don. This season, they will face the Russians again. And they will have the chance of beating Győr again, what the Danish runners-up managed last season, too. The quarter-finals against eventual finalists Vardar were the end of the road. Another quarter-final berth is the big dream of the former EHF Cup and Cup Winners’ Cup champions.

As former team captain and defence boss Sabrina Jacobsen has joined several fellow Swedish players at CSM Bucuresti, Midtjylland will have to change the middle block. With experienced Dane Trine Troelsen and tall Norwegian Tonje Löseth, two strong defenders have come to FCM and are supposed to form the middle block with Swedish line player Linn Blohm.

Two FCM top players - Stine Jørgensen and Trine Østergaard - have joined the team of former national team coach Jan Pytlick, and the first duel in the Danish league ended in a 24:17 defeat for Midtjylland. Like champions Nykøbing, FCM are supposed to be the hunter, not the hunted this season. But having tough competition in the domestic league can strengthen a squad for the Champions League.

The Norwegian left back Veronica Kristiansen, EHF EURO winner in 2014 and 2016 and world champion in 2015 - will carry a huge responsibility as new team captain, succeeding Sabrina Jacobsen. The 27-year-old Kristiansen arrived two years ago from Glassverket and continues a long history of Norwegian top players at Ikast, like for example Gro Hammerseng-Edin or Katja Nyberg.

**Playing hall**

IBF Arena
Stadion Allé 2b
7430 Ikast
Denmark
Capacity: 2,250

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 10
Semi-finals (2): 2002/03, 2013/14
Quarter-finals (3): 1998/99, 2004/05, 2016/17
Main Round (4): 2003/04, 2008/09, 2011/12, 2015/16
Group Matches (1): 2003/04
Qualification (1): 2014/15

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: winners 2003/04, 2014/15, semi-finals 1999/2000
EHF Cup: winners 2001/02, 2010/11, runners-up 2006/07, semi-finals 2007/08, 2012/13
City Cup: winners 1997/98, runners-up 1996/97, semi-finals 1994/95

Danish league: 4 titles (1998, 2011, 2013, 2015)
Danish cup: 3 titles



5

MATCHES

Longest winning run

38

GOALS

Most goals

67

GOALS

Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	34:18 (16:10) v Motor Zaporoshje UKR (h), 14.11.1998
Biggest defeat	24:38 (14:19) v Viborg HK DEN (h), 07.02.2009
Longest winning run	5 matches (22.02.2004 – 30.01.2005)
Longest unbeaten run	6 matches (22.02.2004 – 12.02.2005)
Longest losing run	7 matches (18.01.2009 – 21.03.2009)
Longest run without win	9 matches (03.01.2009 – 21.03.2009)
Most goals	38 v Team Esbjerg DEN 38:26W (h), 29.01.2017
Most goals opponent	38 v Viborg HK DEN 24:38L (h), 07.02.2009
Most goals both teams	67 v CBM Astroc Sagunto ESP 37:30L (a), 19.02.2005
Fewest goals	15 v Buducnost MNE 22:15L (a), 03.11.2013
	15 v HC Vardar MKD 15:25L (h), 08.11.2015
Fewest goals opponent	17 v Byasen NOR 17:19W (a), 01.10.2011
Fewest goals both teams	36 v Byasen NOR 17:19W (a), 01.10.2011

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1998/99 Ikast FS DEN	8	4	2	2	198:173	+25	10:6	10:6	1/4-finals
2002/03 Ikast Bording EH DEN	10	5	0	5	266:266	0	10:10	10:10	1/2-finals
2003/04 Ikast Bording EH DEN	6	3	0	3	162:159	+3	6:6	6:6	3rd Gr. B
2004/05 Ikast Bording EH DEN	8	5	1	2	233:226	+7	11:5	11:5	1/4-finals
2008/09 Ikast-Brande EH DEN	12	3	1	8	325:367	-42	7:17	7:17	4th MR Gr. 1
2011/12 FC Midtjylland DEN	12	6	0	6	290:283	+7	12:12	12:12	4th MR Gr. 1
2013/14 FC Midtjylland DEN	14	8	1	5	365:349	+16	17:11	17:11	Fourth Place
2015/16 FC Midtjylland DEN	12	4	1	7	286:309	-23	9:15	9:15	5th MR Gr. 2
2016/17 FC Midtjylland DEN	14	6	0	8	345:344	+1	12:16	12:16	1/4-finals
Total:	96	44	6	46	2470:2476	-6	94:98		



Kristian Kristensen

coach

- has been working as assistant coach in the club for two years
- started in August 2016 as a temporary head coach as Helle Thomsen left, shortly after he was made permanent head coach
- has the highest coaching exam in Europe, EHF Master Coach
- has experience as men's as well as women's coach in several clubs in Denmark as well as abroad
- in between, he had found time to work as a TV commentator beside his coaching job

Newcomers:

Trine Troelsen (Silkeborg-Voel)
 Jessica Ryde (H 65 Höör)
 Tonje Løseth (TuS Metzingen)
 Annika Jakobsen (Skanderborg Håndbold)
 Julie Gantzel Pedersen (Ringkøbing Håndbold)
 Helene Fauske (Stabæk IF)
 Mathilde Bjerregaard (Silkeborg-Voel)
 Anne Mette Pedersen (København Håndbold)

Left the club:

Stine Jørgensen (Odense Håndbold)
 Trine Østergaard (Odense Håndbold)
 Martina Thörn (Randers HK)
 Rut Jönsdóttir (Team Esbjerg)
 Simone Petersen (Aarhus United)
 Sabina Jacobsen (CSM Bucuresti)
 Elin Lindén (VästeråsIrsta HF)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
6	Nanna	Andersen	DEN	Line Player	11/06/1999	Silkeborg, DEN	184
24	Mie	Augustesen	DEN	Left Wing	19/07/1988	Hedensted, DEN	179
17	Mathilde	Bjerregaard	DEN	Left Wing	09/08/1993	Århus, DEN	185
7	Linn	Blohm	SWE	Line Player	20/05/1992	Stockholm, SWE	180
27	Louise	Burgaard	DEN	Right Back	17/10/1992	Esbjerg, DEN	178
14	Louise	Ellebaek	DEN	Left Back	10/03/1998	Morsø, DEN	183
16	Sabine	Englert	GER	Goalkeeper	27/11/1981	Aschaffenburg, GER	183
8	Helene	Gigstad Fauske	NOR	Centre Back	31/01/1997	Bærum, NOR	176
15	Emma	Uhrskov Friis	DEN	Left Wing	31/10/1999	Herning, DEN	160
13	Julie	Gantzel	DEN	Line Player	13/04/1994	Ikast-Brande, DEN	173
9	Helene	Kindberg Hansen	DEN	Right Back	13/01/1998	Stockholm, SWE	179
4	Frederikke	Hedegaard	DEN	Right Wing	21/08/2000	Aarhus, DEN	173
19	Annika	Jakobsen	DEN	Right Wing	25/02/1997	Horsens, DEN	169
18	Laura Cecilie	Jensen	DEN	Centre Back	02/05/1999	Billund, DEN	171
11	Naja Nissen	Kristensen	DEN	Left Wing	10/08/1999	Ikast-Brand, DEN	177
10	C Veronica	Kristiansen	NOR	Centre Back	10/07/1990	Stavanger, NOR	172
25	Tonje	Loeseth	NOR	Left Back	01/01/1991	Bergen, NOR	180
23	Anne Mette	Pedersen	DEN	Right Wing	25/10/1992	Galten, DEN	174
12	Clara Bak	Pedersen	DEN	Goalkeeper	01/02/1999	Ikast-Brande, DEN	177
20	Sabine	Pedersen	DEN	Line Player	05/05/1986	Aalborg, DEN	176
1	Jessica	Ryde	SWE	Goalkeeper	18/05/1994	Lund, SWE	185
5	Trine	Troelsen	DEN	Left Back	02/05/1985	Ringkøbing-Skjern, DEN	172



Sabine Englert

goalkeeper

- former German national team player started playing at the age of five in Aschaffenburg, in the same mixed team with Nantes winger Dominik Klein
- only a few days after signing the contract with FCM in the early spring 2008, she played in her future home, the Ikast Brande Arena, with Hypo NÖ
- on the same occasion she sustained a knee injury, but since then, she has had happier memories of the hall

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2015 EHF Cup 2011, Challenge Cup: 2005
WCh: B 2007



Ema Friis

left wing

- has played in FCM all her career, got the chance in the league team in 2016/17 as Danish international Fie Woller left for soon-to-be German champions Bietigheim
- being only 17-year-old, but has already has plenty of experience at senior level
- last season played in her first matches in the CL, scoring 16 goals
- good at both ends of the court, but particularly excels on her speed and versatility in the attack



Tonje Loeseth

left back

- joined FCM this summer on a three-year contract from German Bundesliga club TuS Metzingen
- apart from being good in the attack, she is also a solid central defender; in both positions is replacing Danish international Stine Jørgensen, who has left for Odense
- has played five internationals for Norway
- her strongest assets are her height (180cm), her physical strength, and her constant will to work hard



Helene Fauske

left back

- joined FCM this summer from Norwegian league side Stabæk on a three-year contract
- the 20-year-old has 53 youth internationals and two B internationals on her CV already; considered one of the greatest talents in Norwegian women's handball
- was Stabæk's top scorer in the league in the 2016/17 season
- a versatile back court player, but also already a strong defender and a good reader of the game



Veronica Kristiansen

centre back

- joined Midtjylland from Glassverket in the summer of 2015
- her sister Jeanette is playing for Norwegian top club Vipers Kristiansand
- versatile playmaker with a fine eye for her teammates and good at making herself dangerous too; in Midtjylland almost entirely known under her nickname Vicki
- Midtjylland is her first foreign club after a career in four different Norwegian clubs

OG: B 2016, EURO: G 2014, 2016, WCh: G 2017



Sabine Pedersen

line player

- playing her fourth season in FCM after joining from league rivals and neighbours Viborg HK
- school teacher
- better in attack than in defence; gets extra responsibility, at least in the first part of this season, as her partner at the circle, Swedish international Linn Blohm, is sidelined through injury
- her success rate from the line and her fighting spirit are her greatest assets



Louise Burgaard

right back

- made her first appearances in the Danish league at 17 with KIF Vejle; joined FCM from Viborg in 2015, played also for Team Tvis Holstebro (summer 2013)
- debuted in the Denmark national team at 19, later became a regular in the squad
- won her first senior Danish titles with Viborg – Danish cup and Danish championship 2013/14

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



Anne Mette Pedersen

right wing

- re-joined FCM from league rivals København on a three-year contract in 2017
- has returned to the club of her early youth, as she played for FCM until she was 20
- has played 27 internationals for Denmark and scored 29 goals replacing another Danish international, Trine Østergaard, who has left for league rivals Odense
- strong defender and reliable when it comes to shooting from the wing

GROUP B

**Club Address**

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Brest Bretagne Handball Official



@BBH_Officiel

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
GK shirt: blue

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: fuchsia

Brest Bretagne Handball



After a successful maiden voyage in the previous EHF Cup season, Brest Bretagne are set for their debut in the Women's EHF Champions League. With the centre back position brilliantly composed of Allison Pineau and Marta Mangue, the French runners-up are aiming for the main round.

Facing defending champions Győr, EHF Cup winners Rostov-Don and Women's EHF FINAL4 2013 participants Midtjylland, Brest were drawn in an experienced and tough group for their debut season. However, finishing second in the French league for the first time and a run to the EHF Cup Quarter-finals leaves no doubt this side is ready for Europe's top flight. Rostov-Don ended their hopes last season, so revenge is on the cards against the Russian side when they meet in the opening round on 7 October.

"It is an honour to be part of the Champions League for the first time, which was one of our long-term goals," says coach Laurent Bezeau, adding: "It is important for us to participate because we want to offer the best possible show, with the best teams and the best players in the world, to our fans. "It is also essential for the success of our economic and sporting project to permanently have high-level handball in our arena."

The home matches and the away match at Ikast will be crucial for the French runners-up, as Rostov and Győr are formidable opponents. Typically for French sides, the defence will be the cornerstone of success, backing up the impressive attack.

Two Swedish newcomers - goalkeeper Filippa Idehn (Esbjerg) and left wing Louise Sand (Sävehof) have experience at this level and were part of the bronze medal-winning Swedish national team at EHF EURO 2014. Besides being a brilliant keeper, Idehn is famous for playing in shorts, while Sand is exceptionally efficient in counter attacks.

The team also possesses arguably the best playmaker duo in the competition. Allison Pineau was World Handball Player of the Year 2009 and both her and Marta Mangue have been named in several All-star teams at major tournaments. They are classic playmakers but can also shoot from distance and take on defenders.

**Playing hall**

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

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 1

Other

EHF Cup: quarter-finals 2016/17

French league: - (runners-up 2017)



EHF Champions League club records

0	MATCHES
	Longest winning run
0	GOALS
	Most goals
0	GOALS
	Most goals both teams

Biggest win	N/A
Biggest defeat	N/A
Longest winning run	N/A
Longest unbeaten run	N/A
Longest losing run	N/A
Longest run without win	N/A
Most goals	N/A
Most goals opponent	N/A
Most goals both teams	N/A
Fewest goals	N/A
Fewest goals opponent	N/A
Fewest goals both teams	N/A

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
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N/A



Laurent Bezeau

coach

- led Brest to become the first club to win the French cup while playing in the second league and has been key to the team's success
- arrived in Brest in 2009, before leaving in 2012 to coach the Tunisia national team, then returning one season later
- confesses he does not usually sleep the night before games, as there are too many questions in his head that he cannot answer

Newcomers:

Louise Sand (Sävehof)
Filippa Idehn (Esberg)
Pauline Coatanea (Nantes)
Jovana Stojkovic (Nantes)
Sladjana Pop-Lazic (Metz)
Lindsay Burlet (Metz)
Sophie Herbrecht (Chambray)

Left the club:

Alice Durand
Nabila Tizi
Deborah Danguieger (Issy Paris)
Marine Desgrolard (Chambray)
Stéphanie Akoa N'sama (end of career)
Gaëlle Le Hir (end of career)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
23	Elodie	Affreingue	FRA	Right Back	01/10/1997	Paris, FRA	174
13	Lea	Breneol	FRA	Centre Back	09/01/1997	Brest, FRA	172
66	Lindsay	Burlet	FRA	Right Back	06/06/1994	Villepinte, FRA	180
55	Pauline	Coatanea	FRA	Right Wing	06/07/1993	Saint-Renan, FRA	165
8	Maud Eva	Copy	FRA	Left Wing	06/11/1992	Brest, FRA	174
16	Cleopatre	Darleux	FRA	Goalkeeper	01/07/1989	Mulhouse, FRA	176
6	Lauryl	Derrien	FRA	Centre Back	16/07/1999	Brest, FRA	166
5	Melinda	Geiger	ROU	Right Back	28/03/1987	Baia Mare, ROU	174
10	Sophie	Herbrecht	FRA	Centre Back	13/02/1982	Mulhouse, FRA	174
12	Filippa	Idéhn	SWE	Goalkeeper	15/08/1990	Sofia, Jönköping, SWE	183
22	Eva	Jarrige	FRA	Right Back	17/02/2000	Clermont Ferrand, FRA	181
11	Amandine	Lagattu	FRA	Left Wing	10/02/1999	Brest, FRA	168
77	Marion	Limal	FRA	Left Back	12/01/1987	Fontaine les Dijon, FRA	184
2	Sarah	Lobe Eleme	FRA	Left Back	02/01/1998	Troyes, FRA	171
29	Elodie	Manach	FRA	Centre Back	27/02/1990	Brest, FRA	163
99	Marta	Mangué	ESP	Left Wing	23/04/1983	Las Palmas, ESP	170
9 C	Astride	N'Gouan	FRA	Line Player	09/07/1991	Saint Denis, FRA	187
7	Allison Marie	Pineau	FRA	Centre Back	02/05/1989	Chartres, FRA	181
20	Sladana	Pop-Lazic	SRB	Line Player	26/07/1988	Belgrade, SRB	178
78	Sandra	Pouchart	FRA	Goalkeeper	29/11/1978	Landivisau, FRA	180
17	Marie	Prouvensier	FRA	Right Wing	09/02/1994	Dijon, FRA	165
1	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
18	Louise	Sand	SWE	Left Wing	27/12/1992	Gothenburg, SWE	164
21	Jovana	Stoiljkovic	SRB	Left Back	30/09/1988	Belgrade, SRB	180
4	Amandine	Tissier	FRA	Centre Back	10/09/1993	Sable-Sur-Sarthe, FRA	179
3	Alicia	Toublanc	FRA	Right Wing	03/05/1996	Saint-Brieuc, FRA	168



Cléopatre Darleux

goalkeeper

- arrived in Brest in 2012, but left due to financial problems in the club only to return in the summer of 2016, when the team regained its spot in France's first league
- has played for five different clubs: Issy-Paris, Metz, Nice, Brest and Viborg in Denmark for two years
- had to wear glasses for four years after suffering an abscess in the eye, before being allowed to remove them in 2015



Filippa Idehn

goalkeeper

- one of the very few professional goalkeepers who used to play in shorts
- aged 27, she played with Danish club Esbjerg from 2015 to 2017
- wanted to come to France in order to give her career a new energy boost
- played in Sävehof with fellow Sweden national team member Louise Sand from 2009 to 2015

EURO: B 2014



Louise Sand

left wing

- has been crazy about playing handball all her life and only wanted a ball as a present for her confirmation
- at 164 cm, she is not among the tallest on a court, but more than compensates for that with her outstanding technique
- one of two Swedish recruits for the 2017/18 season, alongside Filippa Idehn
- previously played for Sävehof, since 2009, and has been a member of the Sweden national team since 2012

EURO: B 2014



Jovana Stojkovic

left back

- arrived in France from Serbia in 2012, playing for Le Havre and Nantes before joining Brest in the summer of 2017
- has been among the top scorers in the French league since her arrival
- played the World Championship 2013 Final at home with Serbia, where the team finished with the silver medal
- replacing Stéphanie Daudé, who decided to retire

WCh: S 2013



Sophie Herbrecht

centre back

- at the age of 35, had decided to retire and changed her mind when Brest called her
- will be compensating for Allison Pineau's absence, who will be out until December 2017 due to an ankle injury
- despite being a professional player for nearly 20 years, the 2017/18 season will be her first chance to play in the Champions League
- last player remaining from the 2003 world champion team that still plays handball

EC trophies: CWC 2003

WCh G 2003; EURO B 2002, B 2006



Sladjana Pop-Lazic

line player

- another Serbian player who joined Brest in the summer of 2017; just like Stoilkovic, she first arrived in France in 2012
- played in Besançon for three seasons before joining Metz in 2015, and played the CL for the first time in 2016/17
- scored 39 goals in Metz's 2016/17 European campaign
- coach Laurent Bezeau sees her as one of the best line players in the French league



Melinda Geiger

right back

- arrived in the summer of 2016 from Baia Mare, alongside Allison Pineau; the pair played together in Romania and are now reunited in France
- an important player in the Romania national team, who won the bronze medal at the WCh 2015
- Brest is her second adventure abroad, after a 2012 stint with Thüringer HC
- started playing handball at 12 without knowing much about the sport – just because she was curious

WCh: B 2015



Pauline Coatanéa

right wing

- one of the top players to have joined Brest from Nantes in the summer of 2017; the second being Jovana Stoilkovic
- born in Brest, she moved to Nantes in 2012 before returning to her hometown, where her family live
- aged 24, she was elected best right wing of the Junior WCh 2012
- made her national team debut in March 2017

Group C preview



VARDAR SET TO LAUNCH ANOTHER TITLE BID FROM TOUGH GROUP

Having failed to win Europe's premier club competition in four successive FINAL4 appearances, Macedonian pride HC Vardar are poised for another shot at glory. However, they first have to win as many points as they can in a tough preliminary group including former champions Larvik and the unpredictable FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria.

A heart-breaking 31:30 defeat by Györi Audi ETO in last season's spectacular final will undoubtedly still be on Vardar's minds when they meet FTC Rail cargo Hungary at home in next season's opener.

It was the closest the Macedonian giants came to winning Europe's elite club competition and the narrow miss was all the more disappointing after the men's team won their maiden Champions League title on the back of spectacular VELUX EHF FINAL4 wins against FC Barcelona and PSG Handball.

In a bid to reach the showpiece event for a fifth time in a row and possibly break the jinx, Vardar have reinforced their already star-studded roster by signing towering Serbian line player Dragana Cvijic. With her compatriot Andrea Lekic and Croatian Andrea Penezic still leading an impressive back-court, Vardar should have little trouble in getting through to the main round.

However, winning maximum points for the second group stage of the competition may not be plain sailing, with former champions Larvik, FTC Rail Cargo Hungary and Thüringer all capable of staging an upset on their day.

With Vardar clear favourites to win the group, the latter three sides are expected to slug it out for the two remaining main round berths. Larvik, who were knocked out in the quarter-finals in the last two seasons after reaching the FINAL4 in 2015, will again rely on their lethal winger Linn-Kristin Koren Riegelhuth to lead the charge.

With some of their ageing stalwarts making way for upcoming young talents, notably after the retirement of Gro Hammerseng-Edin and her spouse Anja, Larvik will not be among the favourites in the 2017/18 competition. In fact, they can expect a bumpy ride in the group matches as they face a tight three-way battle with FTC and Thüringer for a pair of main round berths.

The Hungarian side have kept a largely unchanged squad, having added Laura van der Heijden from Team Esbjerg while several fringe players have left the club. Thüringer had to come through a qualification tournament, having finished ahead of unfancied Swedes H 65 Höörs HK, the once mighty Hypo Niederösterreich and Spain's Mecalía Atlético Guardes, but will certainly wish to avoid crashing out in the next stage. A main round appearance would emulate Thüringer's achievement in the previous two seasons and that will certainly be the minimum requirement as the German side were last eliminated in the group matches in 2012/13.

Zoran Milosavljevic

Group C head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group C opponents in the EC

HC Vardar vs Larvik 2-1-1 (118:104) 5:3

11.10.2013	WHC Vardar SCBT vs Larvik, EHF Champions League – Group D	27:27 (12:15)
16.11.2013	Larvik vs WHC Vardar SCBT, EHF Champions League – Group D	29:31 (15:15)
02.04.2016	HC Vardar vs Larvik, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	34:20 (16:9)
10.04.2016	Larvik vs HC Vardar, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	28:26 (11:13)

HC Vardar vs FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria 1-1-0 (64:51) 3:1

14.10.2016	HC Vardar vs FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria, EHF Champions League – Group B	27:27 (17:14)
13.11.2016	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria vs HC Vardar, EHF Champions League – Group B	24:37 (12:21)

HC Vardar vs Thüringer HC 4-1-1 (168:146) 9:3

02.02.2014	WHC Vardar SCBT vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	31:25 (16:13)
08.03.2014	Thüringer HC vs WHC Vardar SCBT, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	24:24 (12:15)
25.10.2014	WHC Vardar SCBT vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Group B	26:21 (12:10)
22.11.2014	Thüringer HC vs WHC Vardar SCBT, EHF Champions League – Group B	21:20 (10:12)
12.02.2017	Thüringer HC vs HC Vardar, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	29:31 (13:18)
11.03.2017	HC Vardar vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	36:26 (19:12)

Larvik vs Thüringer HC 4-0-0 (121:83) 8:0

04.04.2015	Thüringer HC vs Larvik, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	26:29 (11:14)
11.04.2015	Larvik vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	36:18 (17:9)
09.01.2016	Larvik vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	28:19 (14:7)
14.02.2016	Thüringer HC vs Larvik, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	20:28 (11:13)

Larvik vs FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria 4-0-4 (230:219) 8:8

08.11.1998	Larvik HK vs HERZ - FTC Budapest, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	33:23 (16:11)
15.11.1998	HERZ - FTC Budapest vs Larvik HK, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	33:24 (17:11)
11.01.2004	Larvik HK vs FTC Budapest, EHF Champions League – Group D	29:22 (13:15)
07.02.2004	FTC Budapest vs Larvik HK, EHF Champions League – Group D	29:26 (18:16)
21.10.2012	FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria vs Larvik, EHF Champions League – Group C	28:24 (16:12)
17.11.2012	Larvik vs FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria, EHF Champions League – Group C	30:23 (16:13)
16.01.2016	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria vs Larvik, EHF Champions League – Main Round	30:27 (19:14)
20.02.2016	Larvik vs FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria, EHF Champions League – Main Round	37:31 (20:15)

FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria vs Thüringer HC 3-1-0 (123:108) 7:1

01.11.2015	Thüringer HC vs FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria, EHF Champions League – Group B	27:30 (13:18)
07.11.2015	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Group B	32:28 (19:12)
04.02.2017	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria vs Thüringer HC, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	32:24 (15:10)
05.03.2017	Thüringer HC vs FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	29:29 (15:17)

GROUP C



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ZRK-Vardar-SCBT



@zrkvardar

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: red/black
Player short: red
GK shirt: black

HC Vardar



After Vardar's men's team became Champions League winners last season, and the women's team were finalists, the Vardar women will be hoping to go all the way this time. But they know that the climb is steep, despite the addition of a new line player who knows exactly what is needed to win the competition.

Vardar's men's team won the VELUX EHF Champions League last season, while the Kometal Gjorce Petrov Skopje women's team took the trophy in 2002, thus, Skopje is the only city in the world of handball with Champions League winners in both genders. The man behind Vardar's current success is Russian club owner Sergey Samsonenko. He announced that he would leave the club after this season.

"We have six new players and four of them are Macedonians. This is very good for the team and country," says manager Ana Stojkov. Vardar want to encourage more Macedonian kids to play handball, with the success of their men's and women's teams. "We want to promote handball in Macedonia and we want to promote Macedonia in Europe", said Stojkov.

"The objective for this season is to play in the final of the FINAL 4 and to make that one extra step forward," stated Vardar's new team captain, Montenegrin wing Jovanka Radicevic. For Vardar, playing in group C means that they will have manageable opponents in the group phase (Larvik, THC and FTC) and that they will avoid the other big names such as Győr, Bucuresti or Rostov in the main round.

But one of those powerhouses is a potential opponent in the quarter-finals. In general, the squad seems to be prepared to make it to Budapest - but as all know, anything can happen, once you are there. A lot will depend on how coach Irina Dibirowa prepares the team for tough tests, as their domestic league is relatively weak. Dibirowa will also receive a vital help from her new assistant Jose Garcia Parrondo, who only recently played in the VELUX EHF Champions League.

The powerful Serbian Dragana Cvijic has won the EHF Champions League twice already, in 2012 and 2015, with her former club Buducnost. Now it is her dream to repeat this feat with Vardar. Cvijic is hard to stop when she has the ball, and she will be trying hard to replace Anja Althaus.



Playing hall

Jane Sandanski
Bubl. Avnoj b.b
1000 Skopje
FYR Macedonia
Capacity: 5,500

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 5
Runners-up (1): 2016/17
Semi-finals (3): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16
(third rank at EHF FINAL4)

Other

EHF Cup: Last 16: 2012/13

Macedonian league: 5 titles (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)
Macedonian cup: 5 titles



8

MATCHES

Longest winning run

47

GOALS

Most goals

76

GOALS

Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	22:45 (9:22) v HC Leipzig GER (a), 19.11.2016
Biggest defeat	42:28 (19:16) v Metz Handball FRA (a), 05.03.2017
Longest winning run	8 matches (29.10.2016 – 12.02.2017)
Longest unbeaten run	10 matches (8.5.2016 – 12.02.2017)
Longest losing run	2 matches (22.11.2014 – 30.01.2015)
	2 matches (10.04.2016 – 07.05.2016)
	2 matches (26.02.2017 – 05.03.2017)
Longest run without win	3 matches (16.11.2014 – 30.01.2015)
Most goals	47 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 29:47W (a), 06.03.2015
Most goals opponent	42 v Metz Handball 42:28L (a), 05.03.2017
Most goals both teams	76 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 29:47W (a), 06.03.2015
Fewest goals	17 v Buducnost MNE 23:17L (a), 19.10.2014
	17 v Buducnost MNE 27:17L (a), 09.05.2015
Fewest goals opponent	17 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 17:35W (a), 03.11.2013
Fewest goals both teams	40 v Buducnost MNE 23:17L (a), 19.10.2014

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2013/14 WHC Vardar SCBT MKD	14	9	3	2	393:333	+60	21:7		Third Place
2014/15 WHC Vardar SCBT MKD	16	9	2	5	435:403	+32	20:12		Third Place
2015/16 HC Vardar MKD	16	11	0	5	456:399	+57	22:10		Third Place
2016/17 HC Vardar MKD	16	12	1	3	519:439	+80	25:7		Runner-up
Total	62	41	6	15	1803:1574	+229	88:36		



Irina Dibirova (Poltoratskaya)

coach

- legendary Russian handball player with numerous trophies
- retired from handball in 2010
- became Vardar's fourth coach in 2016/17 steered the team to the silver medals in the CL
- her husband is Timur Dibirov who is playing in Vardar's men squad
- just before the 2017/18 season club announced she will also cooperate with a retired Spanish international Roberto Garcia Parrondo

EC trophies: CL 2005,2008, EHF Cup 2007, Cup Winners' Cup 2002
OG: S 2008, WCh: G 2001,2005,2007, EURO: S 2006, B 2008 (all as player)

Newcomers:

Polina Kuznetsova (Kuban/RUS)
Teodora Keramichieva (RK Vardar SCJS/MKD)
Dragana Cvijic (Buducnost/MNE)
Jovana Szadovska (CS Magura Nadie/ROU)
Mirjeta Bajramoska (RK Krim Mercator/SLO)
Jovana Micevska (HC Vardar junior team)

Left the club:

Camilla Herrem (Sola/NOR)
Sanja Damjanovic (Siofok/HUN)
Mayssa Raquel de Oliveira Pessoa (Rostov Don/RUS)
Tamara Mavsar (RK Krim Mercator/SLO)
Dziyana Ilyina (ROU)
Anja Althaus (Györi Audi ETO KC/HUN)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
13	Mirjeta	Bajramoska	MKD	Left Back	22/11/1984	Bitola, MKD	179
27	Andrea	Canadija	CRO	Line Player	09/10/1993	Sinj, CRO	174
72	Dragana	Cvijic	SRB	Line Player	15/03/1990	Beograd, SRB	183
24	Teodora	Keramichieva	MKD	Left Back	14/01/1996	Skopje, MKD	176
71	Tatiana	Khmyrova	RUS	Right Back	06/02/1990	Volgograd, RUS	178
5	Andrea	Klikovac	MNE	Right Back	05/05/1991	Podgorica, MNE	175
8	Polina	Kuznetsova	RUS	Left Wing	10/06/1987	Shopokov, RUS	168
64	Alexandra	Lacrabere	FRA	Right Back	27/04/1987	Pau, FRA	177
15	Barbara	Lazovic	SLO	Right Back	04/01/1988	Brezice, SLO	183
77	Andrea	Lekic	SRB	Centre Back	06/09/1987	Beograd, SRB	178
12	Amandine	Leynaud	FRA	Goalkeeper	02/05/1986	Aubenas, FRA	178
16	Jovana	Micevska	MKD	Goalkeeper	26/07/2000	Skopje, MKD	171
23	Andrea	Penezic	CRO	Left Back	13/11/1985	Zagreb, CRO	186
83	Marija	Petrovic	SRB	Line Player	18/03/1994	Nis, SRB	185
4 C	Jovanka	Radicevic	MNE	Right Wing	23/10/1986	Podgorica, MNE	170
91	Sara	Ristovska	MKD	Right Wing	09/09/1996	Skopje, MKD	169
7	Jovana	Sazdovska	MKD	Left Wing	27/06/1993	Skopje, MKD	177
31	Inna	Suslina	RUS	Goalkeeper	05/01/1979	Tashkent, RUS	188



Amandine Leynaud

goalkeeper

- played in the CL for seven years straight with the club she began handball with, Metz
- moved to Valcea, Romania in 2012, where she suffered a knee injury
- “Doudou” has been one of the crucial players in Vardar’s squad in 2015/16
- CL All-star team nominee in 2015/16 and 2016/17
- in the four seasons she spent with Vardar won three bronze and one silver medal in the CL

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



Polina Kuznetsova

left wing

- signed two-year contract with HC Vardar; played for six different clubs in Russia before (Akva, Rostov-Don, Lada, Zvezda, Astrakhanochka and Kuban)
- won the CL in 2008 together with Irina Dibirova and has four titles from the Russian championship
- best left wing in the All-star teams at the WCh 2007, EURO 2012 and 2016 Olympics
- her sister Anna Vyakhireva plays for HC Rostov Don

EC trophies: CL 2008, EHF Cup 2007

OG: G 2016, EURO: S 2006, WCh: G 2005, 2007



Andrea Penezic

left back

- won the Slovenian title and cup four times with Krim Mercator
- best left back in the All-Star Team at the WCh 2011
- became Croatian player of the year six times with Lokomotiva and Podravka
- together with Cristina Neagu was the CL top scorer of the 2014/15 season with 102 goals; with 98 goals claimed the same title in the 2016/2017 season
- EHF Player of the Month in March 2016 and CL All-star team nominee in 2015/16 and 2016/17



Andrea Lekic

centre back

- competed in karate and reached the blue belt before moving on to ball sports including volleyball, basketball, football and tennis
- 2013 World Handball Player of the Year, All-star team at the EHF EURO 2012
- organises her own handball camp every other year
- her only CL title is from her time with Győr in 2012/13
- won three consecutive bronze medals in the CL and one silver medal

EC trophies: CL 2013, WCh: S 2013



Dragana Cvijic

line player

- started handball at the age of 10, first as goalkeeper, later as a left back, in 2007 at Crvena Zvezda switched to a line player
- joined Buducnost in 2011 just in time to help them on the way to the CL title
- Serbian national team player voted the best line player of the WCh 2013
- signed a two-year contract with HC Vardar, the fourth club in her career

EC trophies: CL 2012, 2015
WCh: S 2013



Alexandra Lacrabere

right back

- extended for one more year her contract with Vardar, her tenth club
- best player of the French championship in the 2011/12 season
- best scorer in the French championship in 2011/12 (125 goals) and in 2013/14 (129)
- besides France, spent one season in Russia with Zvezda Zvenigord and one in Spain with Akaba Bera Bera

OG: S 2016, WCh: S 2011, EURO: B 2006, 2016



Barbara Lazovic

right back

- arrived from Krim together with Andrea Penezic in the summer of 2014
- before she joined Vardar she played only for Krim, apart from a year-long stint with Zajecar, Serbia
- married to Vuk Lazovic, a handball player from Serbia
- contemplated a switch to Serbia, but remained loyal to the Slovenian national team
- won two bronze and silver medal with Vardar in the CL and became CL All-Star nominee in the 2015/16 season



Jovanka Radicevic

right wing

- as the daughter of a handball player, started playing handball at the age of 12
- best right wing at the EHF EURO 2012 and at the WCh 2015
- voted for the 2015/16 CL All-Star Team as the best right wing
- won the CL title with Győr together with Andrea Lekic in 2012/13
- with Buducnost, she won seven championships and cup titles in Montenegro (2005-11), two regional league titles (2010, 2011) and two titles in the Cup Winners' Cup

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

GROUP C



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www.larvikhk.no



larvikhk



@LarvikHK

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: red
GK shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: orange

Larvik



In 2011, Larvik were Champions League winners. Later on they made it to the finals twice – but now that most of their previous top stars either have left or retired, a completely new team takes the challenge to improve on international ground.

Except in the 2008/09 season, the Norwegian record champions have always been among the best eight teams of the Women's EHF Champions league – regardless of the playing system. This season, it will be a steep climb to make it that far again, as save for Linka Riegelhuth-Koren nearly all the club's experienced players have said goodbye to Larvik HK.

"We have a brand-new team this season. We are young and hungry, and we are very excited to start. We need the experience that the Champions League will give us with this new version of Larvik. We can bring on some upsets with this young and talent filled team," hopes new team captain Thea Mørk.

Mainly Riegelhuth-Koren, Thea Mørk or new arrival Cassandra Tollbring. But it will be really hard to replace the armada of top stars such as Marit Malm Frøfjord (who has joined CSM Bucharest), Amanda Kurtovic (CSM Bucharest), Sanna Solberg (Team Esbjerg), Sandra Toft (Team Esbjerg), Alina Wojtas (Zaglebie Lubin) or the retired trio Gro Hammerseng-Edin, Karoline Dyhre Breivang and Anja Hammerseng-Edin.

Since the first experience, when a huge number of Brazilian players joined Hypo Niederösterreich, the number of players from the 2013 World Champions' country in European top clubs has constantly increased. After goalkeeper Gabriela Goncalves joined Larvik in the 2016/17 season – and now will fight for the No.1 position with Guro Rundbraten after the departure of Sandra Toft - her compatriot Tamires Morena (from Dijon) is among the new arrivals. The Rio-born line player made her first steps in Europe at Győr, where she played in the 2014/15 season.

A 2.0. version of Larvik HK started its mission this season. "We need to collect international experience as a team, as some of our players individually have this experience already," says head coach Tor Odvar Moen, who expects a tough group.



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 19
Winners (1): 2010/11
Runners-up (2): 2012/13, 2014/15
Semi-finals (4): 2001/02, 2003/04, 2009/10, 2011/12
Quarter-finals (5): 2000/01, 2002/03, 2006/07, 2015/16, 2016/17
Main Round (1): 2013/14
Group Matches (5): 1994/95, 1997/98, 2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2004/05, 2007/08, Semi-final 1996/97, 2005/06
EHF Cup: Runners-up 2005/06
Norwegian league: 19 titles (1994, 1997, 2000-03, 2005-2017)
Norwegian cup: 17 titles



15 MATCHES
Longest winning run

41 GOALS
Most goals

70 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	41:20 (24:9) v Dinamo RUS (h), 12.02.2011
Biggest defeat	34:20 (16:9) v HC Vardar MKD (a), 02.04.2016
	31:17 (14:9) v Buducnost MNE (a), 09.04.2017
Longest winning run	15 matches (18.10.2014 – 09.05.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	15 matches (18.10.2014 – 09.05.2015)
Longest losing run	4 matches (03.11.2007 – 05.01.2008)
Longest run without win	5 matches (16.11.2013 – 01.03.2014)
Most goals	41 v Dinamo RUS 41:20W (h), 12.02.2011
Most goals opponent	36 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 31:36L (h), 19.11.2016
Most goals both teams	70 v IK Sävehof SWE 39:31W (h), 13.10.2012
	70 v IK Sävehof SWE 32:38W (a), 13.11.2016
Fewest goals	13 v Buducnost MNE 23:13L (a), 08.04.2012
Fewest goals opponent	16 v Oltchim Valcea ROU 22:16W (h), 10.02.2001
	16 v Buducnost MNE 28:16W (h), 16.03.2013
Fewest goals both teams	35 v HC Dinamo RUS 18:17W (h), 08.11.2009

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 Larvik HK NOR	6	2	1	3	141:144		-3	5:7	3rd Gr. A
1997/98 Larvik HK NOR	6	3	0	3	165:150		+15	6:6	3rd Gr. C
2000/01 Larvik HK NOR	8	5	0	3	193:181		+12	10:6	1/4-finals
2001/02 Larvik HK NOR	10	7	1	2	262:253		+9	15:5	1/2-finals
2002/03 Larvik HK NOR	8	4	1	3	216:193		+23	9:7	1/4-finals
2003/04 Larvik HK NOR	10	5	1	4	287:262		+25	11:9	1/2-finals
2005/06 Larvik HK NOR	6	3	0	3	153:154		-1	6:6	3rd Gr. A
2006/07 Larvik HK NOR	8	5	0	3	236:211		+25	10:6	1/4-finals
2007/08 Larvik HK NOR	6	2	0	4	166:179		−13	4:8	3rd Gr. C
2008/09 Larvik HK NOR	6	3	0	3	179:169		+10	6:6	3rd Gr. C
2009/10 Larvik HK NOR	14	10	0	4	365:339		+26	20:8	1/2-finals
2010/11 Larvik NOR	16	13	0	3	469:376		+93	26:6	Winner
2011/12 Larvik NOR	14	6	2	6	336:330		+6	14:14	1/2-finals
2012/13 Larvik NOR	16	10	0	6	435:379		+56	20:12	Runner-up
2013/14 Larvik NOR	12	5	2	5	304:280		+24	12:12	3rd MR Gr. 2
2014/15 Larvik NOR	16	15	0	1	444:355		+89	30:2	Runner-up
2015/16 Larvik NOR	14	9	0	5	398:372		+26	18:10	1/4-finals
2016/17 Larvik NOR	14	6	2	6	386:394		-8	14:14	1/4-finals
Total:	190	113	10	67	5135:4721		+414	236:144	



Tor Odvar Moen

coach

- has made a comeback to the job as head coach ahead of the 2015/16 season, succeeding Ole Gustav Gjekstad, to whom he was assistant coach for the previous three and a half years
- has been with Larvik since 1997, taking care of several different jobs in the club
- head coach in the club for the second time, as he took over at New Year 2011, as now late Karl Erik Bohn left with immediate effect
- led Larvik to the club's only CL triumph so far – in 2011
- has his strongest qualities in the tactical area and in communication with the players

Newcomers:

Tamires Morena (Dijon)
Cassandra Tollbring (H65 Höör)
Emilie Christensen (Glassverket)
Guro Rundbråten (Glassverket)
Martine Wolff (Glassverket)
Maria Hjertner (Byåsen)
Mari Finstad Bergum (Gjøvik)
Mathilde Rivas-Toft (Aker)
Tonje Roth Berglie (Aker)
Kamilla Røed (Flint)
Marie Duvholt Kaspersen (jr. team)
Samra Lupic (Flint), Therese Heidelberg (jr.team)

Left the club:

Marit Malm Frafjord (CSM Bucharest)
Amanda Kurtovic (CSM Bucharest)
Sanna Solberg (Team Esbjerg)
Sandra Toft (Team Esbjerg)
Alina Wojtas (Zaglebie Lubin)
Alma Hasanovic Grizovic (Storhamar)
Vilde Ingeborg Johansen (Tertnes)
Lena Løwe (Levanger HK)
Gro Hammerseng-Edin (retired)
Karoline Dyhre Breivang (retired)
Anja Hammerseng-Edin (retired)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
4	Mari Finstad	Bergum	NOR	Centre Back	16/03/1998	Gjøvik, NOR	178
14	Kristine	Breistøl	NOR	Left Back	23/08/1993	Oslo, NOR	192
27	Emilie	Christensen	NOR	Centre Back	13/04/1993	Oslo, NOR	176
94	Gabriela	Dias Moreschi	BRA	Goalkeeper	08/07/1994	Maringa/PR, BRA	190
6	Marie	Duvholt	NOR	Left Wing	03/06/1998	Tønsberg, NOR	171
13	Therese	Heidelberg	NOR	Line Player	27/02/1998	Tønsberg, NOR	169
23	Maria	Hjertner	NOR	Right Back	03/07/1996	Oslo, NOR	178
11	Linn-Kristin	Koren Riegelhuth	NOR	Right Wing	01/08/1984	Lorenskog, NOR	178
77	Tamires	Morena Lima	BRA	Line Player	16/05/1994	Rio de Janeiro, BRA	182
7	Hege	Loken	NOR	Right Wing	31/08/1993	Ålesund, NOR	168
20	Samra	Lupic	NOR	Left Wing	05/01/1999	Tønsberg, NOR	167
19 C	Thea	Mørk	NOR	Left Wing	05/04/1991	Oslo, NOR	168
9	Mathilde	Rivas Toft	NOR	Right Back	16/04/1997	Lørenskog, NOR	171
12	Kamilla	Roed	NOR	Goalkeeper	14/09/1999	Tønsberg, NOR	174
33	Kristina	Rosten	NOR	Left Back	25/05/1999	Kristiansand, NOR	174
21	Tonje	Roth Berglie	NOR	Left Wing	11/08/1992	Tønsberg, NOR	168
1	Guro	Rundbraten	NOR	Goalkeeper	18/04/1990	Drammen, NOR	170
17	Tine	Stange	NOR	Left Back	14/05/1986	Tonsberg, NOR	178
22	Cassandra	Tollbring	SWE	Left Back	19/03/1993	Rimbo, SWE	170
18	Martine	Wolff	NOR	Line Player	20/06/1996	Oslo, NOR	175



Guro Rundbraten

goalkeeper

- joined in the summer of 2017 from Glassverket, also played for Byåsen until 2013
- returned to active duty after cruciate ligament surgery in 2016
- has played 48 junior internationals for Norway
- tall keeper with good reactions and already a fine ability to read the shooters



Gabriela Moreschi

goalkeeper

- joined from another Norwegian club, Flint, in the summer of 2016
- has been in Brazil's youth national team and also in the squad for the senior team
- was a reserve for Danish international Sandra Toft and Montenegrin international Alma Hasanovic last season, but may expect a much more important role this season
- at 190 cm tall, she has a good reach and covers her goal very well. She is good at taking the initiative against shooters



Thea Mørk

left wing

- twin sister of Győr right back and Norwegian international Nora Mørk
- played in the same clubs as her twin sister, until Nora left Larvik for Győr in 2016
- in Larvik, she has been sharing the court time with Sanna Solberg, until Solberg was injured in the winter of 2016/17, leaving more responsibility on Thea's shoulders
- has played two internationals for Norway, where she has been standing in the shadow of Solberg
- fast and versatile winger, good at the fast breaks that are so essential to Larvik



Kristine Breistøl

left back

- been with Larvik since 2012 when joining from Baekkelaget
- has played 37 junior internationals for Norway and scored 100 goals
- standing 191 cm tall, she has a perfect height for a back court player in women's handball



Cassandra Tollbring

centre back

- joined this summer from Swedish champions and Challenge Cup finalists Höör
- her younger brother Jerry plays the left wing at Rhein-Neckar Löwen and in the Swedish national team
- taking over from the experienced world class playmaker couple Gro and Anja Hammerseng Edin
- can also play at left back, but is expected to mainly play in the middle at Larvik
- a good eye for the game, a varied shot and physical strength are her main assets



Tamires Morena Lima

line player

- joined from French league club Cercle Dijon Bourgogne ahead of this season
- has played 38 internationals for Brazil
- has previous CL experience, playing with Györi Audi ETO KC in 2014/15
- her sister Monique has been Brazilian weightlifting champion and has taken part in the world weightlifting championships



Maria Hjertner

right back

- joined Larvik from eternal league rivals Byasen ahead of this season
- only 21 years of age and expected to have a bright future ahead of her
- gained European experience in the EHF Cup group phase with Byasen already in the 2014-15 season, where she scored 15 goals and again last season
- facing the rather huge challenge of filling out the gap after Amanda Kurtovic who has left for CSM Bucuresti
- awarded Newcomer of the Year in the Norwegian league as soon as in the 2015



Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth Koren

right wing

- one of the most decorated players in the handball history: World Handball Player of the Year (2008), All-Star Team member at EHF EURO 2008 and WCh 2009, EHF EURO 2008 topscorer (51 goals)
- scored over 950 goals for Norway's national team
- married to Norwegian international Einar Koren

EC trophies: CL 2011, Cup Winners' Cup 2005, 2008

OG: G 2008, 2012, B 2016, WCh: G 2011, S 2007, EHF EURO: G 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, S 2012

GROUP C

**Club Address**

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ftckezilabda

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: green
Player short: green
GK shirt: blue/black

FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria



FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria dream of playing the Women's EHF FINAL4 in their home city Budapest, but despite the signing of Dutch shooter Laura van der Heijden, they are realistic enough to set their goal as the quarter-finals. "Vardar are outstandingly good, but the other teams are equally strong, this is the most balanced group," says FTC Executive Director László Bognár.

While FTC's squad did not change that much, Larvik lost several top players, while Vardar and Thüringer HC bolstered their line-ups. On paper, the Hungarian runners-up have a good chance to finish second in the group behind the Macedonian champions.

No team has a shorter distance to the final destination of the Women's EHF Champions League, as the Papp Laszlo Arena in Budapest is just around the corner for FTC. But the route feels longer than last year with Győr, Bucharest, Vardar and Rostov the main contenders to reach final tournament, while strong newcomers such as Brest, Bietigheim and Nykøbing may also be knocking on the door.

For FTC, everything depends on the luck of the quarter-final draw, but they have to get there first.

After learning her trade at German side VfL Oldenburg, the Dutch left back had made her next step by joining Danish side Esbjerg, where she had her first experience at this level last season. Now she joins national teammate Dannick Snelder, who arrived one year ago. Van der Heijden was the top scorer of the 2010 Junior World Championship and has progressed to the senior national team, winning silver at EHF EURO 2016.

"For our team this is a great challenge and it is an honour to play in the Champions League," says Bognár. Team captain Klára Szekeres is confident of belonging among the top eight teams, but admits: "At Champions League level we will face only strong teams and we need to do our best."

**Playing hall**

Syma Sport and Event Centre
Dozsa György ut 1
1146 Budapest, Hungary
Capacity: 3,000

Alternative playing hall

Dabas OBO Arena
Iskola utca 5
2370 Dabas, Hungary
Capacity: 2,498

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 18
Runners-up (1): 2001/02
Semi-finals (2): 1996/97, 2000/01
Quarter-finals (5): 1999/2000, 2002/03,
2003/04, 2015/16, 2016/17
Main Round: 2012/13
Group Matches/Champions League (6):
1994/95, 1995/96, 1997/98, 2006/07, 2007/08,
2013/14
Qualification (2): 2009/10, 2014/15

Other

EHF Cup: winners 2005/06, semi-finals 2004/05
Cup Winners' Cup: winners 2010/11, 2011/12,
semi-finals 2006/07, 2014/15
Hungarian league: 12 titles (1966, 1968, 1969,
1971, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2002,
2007, 2015)
Hungarian cup: 13 titles



5 **MATCHES**
Longest winning run

42 **GOALS**
Most goals

70 **GOALS**
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	42:16 (19:7) v Anagennisi Artas GRE (h), 18.01.1997
Biggest defeat	40:23 (22:10) v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN (a), 09.04.2016
Longest winning run	5 matches (14.10.2012 – 11.11.2012) 5 matches (20.11.2016 – 25.02.2017)
Longest unbeaten run	8 matches (09.11.2013 – 22.11.2015)
Longest losing run	4 matches (12.01.2007 – 17.02.2007) 4 matches (27.10.2007 – 16.11.2007) 4 matches (02.03.2013 – 06.10.2013)
Longest run without win	5 matches (16.11.2013 – 01.03.2014)
Most goals	42 v Anagennisi Artas GRE 42:16W (h), 18.01.1997
Most goals opponent	40 v Györi Audi ETO KC HUN 40:23L (a), 09.04.2016
Most goals both teams	70 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 34:36L (h), 10.02.2007
Fewest goals	17 v Volgograd AKVA RUS 22:17L (a), 03.03.2001
Fewest goals opponent	16 v Anagennisi Artas GRE 42:16W (h), 18.01.1997 16 v TUS Walle Bremen GER 27:16W (h), 25.01.1997 16 v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 28:16W (h), 18.10.2015
Fewest goals both teams	36 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 18:18D (h), 31.03.1996

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 Ferencváros Budapest HUN	6	3	1	2	135:129	+6	7:5	3rd Gr. B	
1995/96 Ferencváros Budapest HUN	6	3	2	1	145:137	+8	8:4	2nd Gr. B	
1996/97 Ferencváros Budapest HUN	10	6	1	3	264:208	+56	13:7	1/2-finals	
1997/98 HERZ – FTC Budapest HUN	6	1	1	4	147:159	−12	3:9	3rd Gr. B	
1999/00 HERZ – FTC Budapest HUN	8	4	0	4	204:201	+3	8:8	1/4-finals	
2000/01 HERZ – FTC Budapest HUN	10	5	0	5	264:232	+32	10:10	1/2-finals	
2001/02 HERZ – FTC Budapest HUN	12	6	2	4	348:341	+7	14:10	Runner-up	
2002/03 HERZ – FTC Budapest HUN	8	6	0	2	252:228	+24	12:4	1/4-finals	
2003/04 FTC Budapest HUN	8	5	0	3	220:221	-1	10:6	1/4-finals	
2006/07 FTC Budapest HUN	6	2	0	4	177:188	-11	4:8	3rd Gr. D	
2007/08 Budapest Bank-FTC HUN	6	1	0	5	165:192	−27	2:10	4th Gr. D	
2012/13 FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN	12	8	0	4	346:336	+10	16:8	3rd MR Gr. 2	
2013/14 FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN	6	3	0	3	162:161	+1	6:6	3rd Gr. B	
2015/16 FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN	14	7	2	5	378:383	-5	16:12	1/4-finals	
2016/17 FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN	14	8	2	4	397:361	+36	18:10	1/4-finals	
Total:	132	68	11	53	3604:3477	+127	147:117		



Gabor Elek

coach

- son of legendary Ferencváros coach, who led the team for almost three decades, now plays in the arena that is named after his father, Gyula Elek
- has been at the helm in Ferencváros since 2008 but he won his first domestic gold medal in 2015 having already won an enormous amount of silvers behind Győr
- won back-to-back Cup Winners' Cups with his team in 2011 and 2012
- respected member of the Ferencváros family, apart from his father his mother also played for the club

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup: 2011, 2012

Newcomers:

Laura van der Heijden (Team Esbjerg)

Gréta Márton (loaned from MTK Budapest)

Noémi Háfra (loaned from MTK Budapest)

Left the club:

Adrienn Szarka (Békéscsabai NKSE)

Szandra Szöllősi-Zácsik (Budaörs Handball)

Orsolya Monori (Dunaújvárosi Kohász Kézilabda Akadémia)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
28	Kíra	Bánfai	HUN	Right Wing	28/01/2000	Pécs, HUN	176
16	Blanka	Biro	HUN	Goalkeeper	22/09/1994	Vac, HUN	185
48	Dorottya	Faluvegi	HUN	Right Wing	31/03/1998	Budapest, HUN	170
1	Gréta	Hadfi	HUN	Goalkeeper	28/09/2001	Salgótarján, HUN	178
45	Noemi	Hafra	HUN	Back	05/10/1998	Cegléd, HUN	180
92	Dora	Hornyak	HUN	Left Back	24/01/1992	Debrecen, HUN	176
88	Marija	Jovanovic	MNE	Left Back	26/12/1985	Podgorica, MNE	182
91	Aniko	Kovacsics	HUN	Centre Back	29/08/1991	Nagyatád, HUN	170
22	Viktoria	Lukacs	HUN	Right Wing	31/10/1995	Budapest, HUN	165
21	Greta	Marton	HUN	Left Wing	03/10/1999	Mohács, HUN	175
14	Rea Reka	Meszaros	HUN	Line Player	14/04/1994	Vac, HUN	172
11	Lívia	Nagy	HUN	Back	28/02/1999	Budapest, HUN	175
25	Nerea	Pena Abaurrea	ESP	Back	13/12/1989	Pamplona, ESP	175
6	Nadine	Schatzl	HUN	Left Wing	19/11/1993	Munich, GER	173
24	Danick	Snelder	NED	Line Player	22/05/1990	Pijnacker, NED	178
10	C Klára	Szekeres	HUN	Left Back	01/12/1987	Békéscsaba, HUN	186
12	Melinda	Szikora	HUN	Goalkeeper	19/11/1988	Kiskunhalas, HUN	175
8	Zita	Szucsanszki	HUN	Centre Back	22/05/1987	Budapest, HUN	172
33	Nikolett	Tóth	HUN	Centre Back	13/07/2001	Budapest, HUN	173
17	Laura	Van der Heijden	NED	Right Back	27/06/1990	Amersfoort, NED	173



Blanka Bíró

goalkeeper

- born and raised in Vác, where she played there for eight years
- after stints at the EHF Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup she was first capped at the age of 18 and made her debut in the EURO held in Hungary in 2014
- the 1,86 m tall goalkeeper is one of the hottest up-and-comer in Hungarian handball as Bíró is expected to be the first choice goalie of the national team
- one of her saves was voted Save of the Round by EHF in the 2014 EURO



Nadine Schatzl

left wing

- youngster is already a two-time Hungarian champion and cup winner and played in the CL final with Győr at the age of nineteen in 2012
- despite her young age she has already featured in the EHF Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup with Erd
- born in Munich, Germany but started playing handball in Mohács at the age of 10
- member of the Hungarian national team; CL All-star team nominee in 2016/17



Nerea Pena

left back

- Spanish international signed from Itxako in 2012 and has been a clutch player for Elek ever since
- injury-prone sharp shooter has been through difficult times injuring the same knee twice but when fit she is the focal point of FTC's attacks
- finished as runner-up in the CL with Itxako in 2011; voted to the All-stars of the EURO 2010

EURO: S 2014, WCh: B 2011



Zita Szucsanszki

left back/centre back

- versatile player, who can also play in middle and left back positions.
- despite her young age part of the old guard at Ferencváros, she was only 17 when debuted in the green jersey ten years ago
- voted player of the year in Hungary in 2011
- the 1,75 tall brunette was voted the Hottest Player in the EHF EURO 2014, which was held in Hungary and Croatia

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2006, Cup Winners' Cup 2011, 2012
EURO: B 2012



Anikó Kovacsics

centre back/left wing

- made her CL debut at 16 and is already in her tenth season
- had enough of the strong competition in Győr, due to which she could not play in her favoured position, and decided to joining her foster club's arch rival Ferencváros
- also able to play left wing and was deployed in that position by Hungary during EHF EURO 2014
- awarded best young player of the 2012/13 CL season

EC trophies: CL 2013, 2014
EURO: B 2012



Danick Snelder

line player

- member of the Dutch national team with more than 100 caps to her name, Snelder was a vital part of the Dutch team that won silver in the WCh 2015
- made it to the All-star team at the U19 EHF EURO 2009 in Hungary
- having won four German championship titles with Thüringer she decided to relocate to Hungary in 2016
- voted best Dutch line player in the 2009/10 season, when playing for Hellas

EURO: S 2016, WCh: S 2015



Laura Van der Heijden

right back

- came to Esbjerg from German Bundesliga side VfL Oldenburg in 2014
- has also represented the clubs LHV Leusden, Venus Nieuwegein and VOC Amsterdam in her homeland, the Netherlands
- had her debut in the Dutch national team already at the age of 17 and played over 120 internationals
- EHF Player of Month for October 2016

EURO: S 2016, WCh: S 2015



Viktoria Lukacs

right wing

- Budapest born talented player was raised by local team Spartacus
- despite her young age (turning only 22 this season) enters her already seventh European campaign with Ferencváros
- since her debut in the team in 2011 she spent just one season away (2013/14 on loan in Siofok)
- had a breakthrough season in 2016/17 as she recorded her personal best 42 goals

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2012

GROUP C

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ThüringerHC



@ThueringerHC

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
GK shirt: black

Dark

Player shirt: red
Player short: black
GK shirt: blue

Thüringer HC



After missing the German league title to the unbeaten SG BBM Bietigheim, Thüringer HC needed to go through the Spanish and Swedish champions in the Champions League qualification tournament to get into the competition. Herbert Müller's team are now facing their seventh straight Women's EHF Champions League season, and they will be hoping for at least a main round berth.

Fellow Group C teams Larvik, FTC and Vardar have been THC's opponents in previous seasons, so they know them well. Although Larvik's squad will be fully rejuvenated, Vardar and FTC have significantly bolstered their line-ups from last season. Thus, it seems that the matches with the Norwegian side will decide the crucial third spot in this group.

THC's home court in Bad Langensalza does not meet all the EHF's requirements, so Thüringer HC have found a second home for their Champions League matches, 80 kilometres away at Nordhausen. Despite the distance, THC's fans seem to love this arena, and have showed up to their matches to build up a "red wall" of support.

So, playing at a different arena will likely have no negative effect on THC.

The addition of three German internationals from HC Leipzig Saskia Lang, Anne Hubinger and Alexandra Mazzucco will clearly bolster THC – this was proven during their successful Champions League qualification tournament. Lang's experience, Hubinger's shooting and Mazzucco's speed provide Thüringer HC with many more options in attack, while Lang and Hubinger are also strong defenders. All three of these players had to leave HC Leipzig due to the club's bankruptcy.

Since the 2013/14 season, Thüringer HC have consistently made it to at least the main round, and this is what they hope for again this season: "We are extremely happy that we proceeded from qualification. Now we have hard but also interesting group matches ahead. I am sure this is the best ever THC squad, so we truly hope to proceed to the main round," says coach Herbert Müller. "If you once made it to the Champions League, you will feel the hunger to return every year. So we are again hungry for top matches," adds team captain Kerstin Wohlbold.

**Playing hall**

Wiedigsburghalle Nordhausen
Hohensteinerstraße 9A, 997
99734 Nordhausen
Germany
Capacity: 2,218

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 7
Quarter-finals (1): 2014/15
Main Round (3): 2013/14, 2015/16, 2016/17
Group Matches (2): 2011/12, 2012/13

Other

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

German league: 6 titles (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)
German cup: 2 titles



3

MATCHES

Longest winning run

36

GOALS

Most goals

65

GOALS

Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	33:20 (14:11) v HC Podravka Vegeta CRO (h), 19.10.2014
Biggest defeat	36:18 (17:9) v Larvik NOR (a), 11.04.2015
Longest winning run	3 matches (08.02.2014 – 02.03.2014) 3 matches (15.11.2014 – 31.01.2015) 3 matches (13.11.2016 – 29.01.2017)
Longest unbeaten run	4 matches (08.02.2014 – 08.03.2014)
Longest losing run	4 matches (13.02.2015 – 15.03.2015)
Longest run without win	7 matches (06.01.2016 – 28.02.2016) 7 matches (06.01.2016 – 28.02.2016)
Most goals	36 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 36:29W (h), 06.10.2013
Most goals opponent	38 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 38:27L (a), 19.02.2016
Most goals both teams	65 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 36:29W (h), 06.10.2013 65 v HCM Baia Mare ROU 38:27L (a), 19.02.2016
Fewest goals	14 v Buducnost MNE 23:14L (a), 09.11.2014
Fewest goals opponent	16 v Glassverket NOR 24:16W (h), 16.10.2016
Fewest goals both teams	37 v Buducnost MNE 23:14L (a), 09.11.2014

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2011/12 Thüringer HC GER	6	0	1	5	139:163	-24	1:11	4th Gr. A	
2012/13 Thüringer HC GER	6	3	0	3	146:153	-7	6:6	3rd Gr. D	
2013/14 Thüringer HC GER	12	5	1	6	316:321	-5	11:13	3rd MR Gr. 1	
2014/15 Thüringer HC GER	14	7	1	6	367:364	+3	15:13	1/4-finals	
2015/16 Thüringer HC GER	12	2	1	9	300:337	-37	5:19	6th MR Gr. 1	
2016/17 Thüringer HC GER	12	4	1	7	314:329	-15	9:15	5th MR Gr. 1	
Total	62	21	5	36	1582:1667	-85	47:77		



Herbert Müller

coach

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

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2004

Newcomers:

Josefine Huber (HSG Blomberg-Lippe/GER)
 Saskia Lang
 Alexandra Mazzucco
 Anne Hubinger (all HC Leipzig/GER)
 Nina Schilk (TSV Bayer 04 Leverkusen/GER)
 Gordana Mitrovic (HSG Blomberg-Lippe/GER)
 Tyra Bessert (THC junior team)

Left the club:

Maria Kiedrowski (destination unknown)
 Szimonetta Planeta (Chambray Touraine Handball/FRA)
 Crina Pintea (Issy Paris Handball/FRA)
 Manon Houette (Metz Handball/FRA)
 Katrin Engel (end of career)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
15	Macarena	Aguilar	ESP	Centre Back	12/03/1985	Bolanos de Calatrava, ESP	170
3	Tyra	Bessert	GER	Left Back	04/05/2002	Erfurt, GER	173
12	Dinah	Eckerle	GER	Goalkeeper	16/10/1995	Leonberg, GER	174
6	Lara-Sophie	Fichtner	GER	Left Wing	17/07/2001	Erfurt, GER	168
23	Franziska	Fuhrmann	GER	Line Player	23/01/1989	Erfurt, GER	177
57	Josefine	Huber	AUT	Line Player	19/02/1996	Wien, AUT	180
27	Anne	Hubinger	GER	Right Back	31/07/1993	Ribnitz-Damgarten, GER	185
28	Lydia	Jakubisova	SVK	Right Wing	14/10/1981	Bojnice, SVK	168
1	Jana	Krause	GER	Goalkeeper	10/06/1987	München, GER	186
5	Saskia	Lang	GER	Left Back	19/12/1986	Lörrach, GER	179
18	Iveta	Luzumova	CZE	Centre Back	03/04/1989	Pisek, CZE	175
10	Alexandra	Mazzucco	GER	Right Wing	29/01/1993	Lauf a.d. Pegnitz, GER	175
25	Gordana	Mitrovic	GER	Centre Back	10/09/1996	Attendorn, GER	176
14	Anika	Niederwieser	ITA	Left Back	28/02/1992	Bressanone, ITA	181
55	Julia	Redder	GER	Left Back	14/09/1998	Erfurt, GER	177
4	Beate	Scheffknecht	AUT	Left Back	27/02/1990	Innsbruck, AUT	180
26	Nina	Schilk	GER	Left Wing	09/07/1989	Hamburg, GER	165
13	Meike	Schmelzer	GER	Line Player	19/07/1993	Wiesbaden, GER	178
33	Antonia	Westland	GER	Left Back	21/11/1997	Erfurt, GER	179
31	C Kerstin	Wohlbold	GER	Centre Back	11/01/1984	Friedrichshafen, GER	169



Dinah Eckerle

goalkeeper

- stepped in in 2015, when Krause suffered a knee injury, since then on the same level
- transferred to the THC youth college from her home club Ditzingen at the age of 14
- had her bundesliga debut at the age of 16 as the youngest THC Bundesliga player ever
- played her first CL match at the age of 17
- awarded best goalkeeper of the 2014 U20 WCh in Croatia



Nina Schilk

left wing

- mother Ingrid was a German handball international, father Claus is a handball coach in the second division
- made national team debut against Switzerland in 2016 at age 27 in the team's first match under new coach Michael Biegler
- first played on first league level for Rosengarten, later joined German record champions Leverkusen
- this summer she joined THC to replace Maria Kiedrowski and Manon Houette, who have left the squad



Saskia Lang

left back

- has arrived at THC from bankrupt HC Leipzig, where she played since 2011
- has a German and a Swiss passport but decided to play for the German national team after 40 matches for younger age category teams of Switzerland
- started her career at Swiss club Brühl St. Gallen before joining German club HSG Blomberg-Lippe in 2009
- played her first major tournament with the national team at the WCh 2013



Beate Scheffknecht

left back

- started her career in Dornbirn, where she became Austrian national team player at the age of 17; played at the 2007 & 2009 WCh and the EHF EURO 2008
- transferred to THC in 2015; new number 1 on her position after Romanian Eliza Buceschi left to France
- coached by Herbert Müller already when she had her first club experience outside Austria, in Nürnberg, and now is coached by him also in the national team
- also played for German clubs Bietigheim and Göppingen, where she was third best Bundesliga scorer in the 2014/15 season



Kerstin Wohlbold

centre back

- played a brilliant 2015/16 season after a nine-month injury break
- in her business life a teacher at a primary school
- won the German championship seven times in Nürnberg and THC – always with Müller as her coach
- comeback in the German national team under new coach Michael Biegler
- one of her hobbies is snowboarding



Meike Schmelzer

line player

- became German national team player at the age of 20
- in the past key player in all German youth and junior national teams
- supposed to fill the void after Dutch line player Dannick Snelder
- studies sports and English to become a teacher



Anne Hubinger

right back

- youngest player for Germany at EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, has played three more major events since
- at HC Leipzig she replaced Susann Müller, who moved to Győr (now Bietigheim)
- has won the German cup twice (2014, 2016) with Leipzig before joining THC



Alexandra Mazzucco

right wing

- progressed through all of the German youth and junior national teams
- made her debut in the national team in 2015 and was part of the team at the WCh 2015 in Denmark
- is studying sports management
- arrived at Leipzig at age 18 in 2011, has now moved to THC to replace retired Kathrin Engel of Austria

Group D preview



A FORMER CHAMPION, A DARK HORSE AND TWO DEBUTANTS

Buducnost team under reconstruction, French champions in progress and two completely new teams are going to compete for the main round tickets. Buducnost are the only team in Group D who have won the Women's EHF Champions League in the past, while French champions Metz Handball will try to copy and perhaps improve their quarter-final berth from last season, when Group D launches on the 7 and 8 October.

However, both teams will get heavy competition from debutants Bietigheim and Vipers. Buducnost were drawn from Pot 1, which was only natural, considering that the Montegrin club won the Champions League in 2012 and 2015 and have been at all the past Women's EHF FINAL4s.

However, it will be a Buducnost team under reconstruction who will be entering the group matches this season. Big names like Cristina Neagu, Katarina Bulatovic and Dragana Cvijis and others have left, and young talents have had to take over.

"We are by far the youngest team in the Champions League," head coach Dragan Adzic claimed. Last season, Metz Handball reached the quarter-final for the first time in their Champions League history, and the French champions even managed to put later champions Győr Audi ETO KC under pressure in those quarter-finals.

Metz actually won the first leg at home 32:31 before losing 28:22 in Győr. Having regained the title in France, Metz will be eager to copy that achievement or maybe do even better and reach the FINAL4 this season. "We are breaking new land," stated SG BBM Bietigheim coach Martin Albertsen. He is right, as his team, who won the German championship for the first time last season, are completely new to the Champions League after reaching the final of the EHF Cup in their maiden season in Europe last year.

A question is how big a handicap the absence of pregnant Dutch playmaker Maura Visser will be to the team. Just like Bietigheim, Vipers Kristiansund are Champions League debutants, and unlike the German champions who qualified directly for the group matches, the team from Norway's fifth largest city had to go through qualifiers to reach the group matches.

These qualifiers meant no big challenge to last season's runners-up in Norway, though. On home ground, Vipers won 43:19 against Belarusian champions HC Gomel before defeating Croatian title-holders HC Podravka Vegeta 42:14.

"There is no doubt that we will meet much tougher resistance from now on, though," left wing Vilde Jonassen predicted.

Peter Bruun

Group D head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group D opponents in the EC

Buducnost vs SG BBM Bietigheim

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

Buducnost vs Metz Handball 8-0-2 (277:242) 16:4

13.01.1990	Buducnost Titograd vs ASPTT Metz, Champions Cup – Last 16	27:16 (12:7)
20.01.1990	ASPTT Metz vs Buducnost Titograd, Champions Cup – Last 16	22:23 (11:8)
05.01.2003	Handball Metz Metropole vs RK Buducnost MONET, EHF Champions League – Group D	31:30 (15:15)
15.02.2003	RK Buducnost MONET vs Handball Metz Metropole, EHF Champions League – Group D	34:25 (20:12)
11.04.2010	Buducnost T-Mobile vs Metz Handball, Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final	28:21 (15:11)
17.04.2010	Metz Handball vs Buducnost T-Mobile, Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final	27:28 (13:10)
04.02.2012	Metz Handball vs Buducnost, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 2	27:29 (14:15)
04.03.2012	Buducnost vs Metz Handball, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 2	32:26 (15:9)
15.10.2016	Buducnost vs Metz Handball, EHF Champions League – Group A	21:19 (11:10)
11.11.2016	Metz Handball vs Buducnost, EHF Champions League – Group A	28:25 (14:16)

Buducnost vs Vipers Kristiansand

No previous encounters in European Cup competitions

Metz Handball vs SG BBM Bietigheim

No previous encounters in European competitions

Metz Handball vs Vipers Kristiansand

No previous encounters in European competitions

SG BBM Bietigheim vs Vipers Kristiansand

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP D



Club Address

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Montenegro

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+382 682 226 66
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www.zrkbuducnost.com



ZrkBuducnost

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: blue &
white stripes
Player short: blue
GK shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: dark blue
Player short: dark blue
GK shirt: black

Buducnost



With almost all of Buducnost's golden generation gone and replaced by talented young guns, the ambitions of the 2012 and 2015 champions have been toned down. However, there are players in Dragan Adzic's squad capable of making an immediate impression.

Although the squad overhaul began a couple of years ago, the effects will be definitely be felt this season after three top stars left over the summer: World Handball Player of 2016 Cristina Neagu (Bucharest), Katarina Bulatovic (Rostov) and Dragana Cvijic (Vardar) – and the weakening of Podgorica strengthened their biggest rivals.

It is the job of coach Dragan Adzic to create a completely new team with Montenegro's next generation, building towards national team success at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. "We will give our young players the opportunity to gain experience and to present themselves on the European stage.

"Given that, this is a very promising players, we hope that they will build the opportunity to play as many matches in the Champions League", says manager Marijana Bulatovic. "Buducnost come from one of the smallest country in Europe, but in this competition we have left our mark as one of the biggest countries in Europe. Therefore, the EHF Champions League is very important for our club, our nation and our supporters," Bulatovic says. Being drawn in a group with Metz, Bieitgheim and Kristiansand, the inexperienced side are not in a hopeless situation.

Team captain Milena Raicevic, one of the last survivors of the squad which reached its peak in 2012, is the new leader of the squad. Goalkeepers Darly Zoqbi De Paula will and Marta Batinovic will have to shoulder a lot of responsibility, while Djurdjina Jaukovic proved last season she is among the most capable of the new generation.

Will she be the new Neagu? This is the question asked about Cristina Laslo in Romanian and Montenegrin handball circles. After her role model became a star in Podgorica, the young playmaker has all the skills to follow in her footsteps.



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 22
Winners (2): 2011/12, 2014/15
Runners-up (1): 2013/14
Semi-finals (8): 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00,
2000/01, 2001/02, 2010/11, 2015/16, 2016/17
Main Round (1): 2012/13
Quarter-final (2): 2002/03, 2003/04
Last 16 (1): 1995/96
Group Matches (6): 1996/97, 2004/05,
2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2009/10

Other

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

Montenegrin league: 29 titles (1985, 1989,
1990, 1992-2017)
Montenegrin cup: 22 titles



14 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

76 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	39:20 (19:8) v RK Krim Mercator SLO (h), 15.03.2015
Biggest defeat	36:21 (18:11) v Viborg HK DEN (a), 19.01.1997
Longest winning run	14 matches (23.11.2014 – 01.11.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	22 matches (19.10.2014 – 20.11.2015)
Longest losing run	7 matches (21.02.2004 – 30.01.2005)
Longest run without win	7 matches (21.02.2004 – 30.01.2005)
Most goals	40 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 36:40W (a), 04.03.2011
Most goals opponent	40 v Mar El Osito L'Eliana ESP 26:40L (h), 05.04.1998
Most goals both teams	76 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 36:40W (a), 04.03.2011
Fewest goals	16 v Dunaferre SE HUN 16:18L (h), 06.02.2005
	16 v Larvik NOR 28:16L (a), 16.03.2013
Fewest goals opponent	14 v Thüringer HC GER 23:14W (h), 09.11.2014
Fewest goals both teams	34 v Dunaferre SE HUN 16:18L (h), 06.02.2005

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 Buducnost Podgorica YUG	6	2	2	2	130:143	-13	6:6	3rd Gr. A	
1997/98 Buducnost Podgorica YUG	10	5	1	4	292:305	-13	11:9	1/2-finals	
1998/99 Buducnost Podgorica YUG	10	8	1	1	297:238	+59	17:3	1/2-finals	
1999/00 Buducnost Podgorica YUG	10	5	2	3	287:274	+13	12:8	1/2-finals	
2000/01 Bud. Brilliant Podgorica YUG	10	5	3	2	265:246	+19	13:7	1/2-finals	
2001/02 Bud. Brilliant Podgorica YUG	10	5	2	3	297:277	+20	12:8	1/2-finals	
2002/03 RK Buducnost MONET YUG	8	4	0	4	215:216	-1	8:8	1/4-finals	
2003/04 RK Buducnost MONET SCG	8	4	0	4	209:219	-10	8:8	1/4-finals	
2004/05 ZRK Buducnost MONET SCG	6	1	0	5	141:165	-24	2:10	4th Gr. A	
2005/06 ZRK Buducnost MONET SCG	6	3	0	3	150:154	-4	6:6	3rd Gr. C	
2006/07 ZRK Buducnost T-Mobile MNE	6	0	0	6	141:174	-33	0:12	4th Gr. B	
2007/08 Buducnost T-Mobile MNE	6	1	1	4	153:189	-36	3:9	3rd Gr. D	
2008/09 Buducnost T-Mobile MNE	12	6	2	4	317:326	-9	14:10	3rd MR Gr. 2	
2009/10 Buducnost T-Mobile MNE	6	2	1	3	138:155	-17	5:7	3rd Gr. D	
2010/11 'Buducnost' MNE	14	10	0	4	417:360	+57	20:8	1/2-finals	
2011/12 Buducnost MNE	16	14	0	2	453:385	+68	28:4	Winner	
2012/13 Buducnost MNE	12	5	1	6	265:273	-8	11:13	3rd MR Gr. 1	
2013/14 Buducnost MNE	14	8	3	3	349:298	+51	19:9	Runner-up	
2014/15 Buducnost MNE	16	15	1	0	444:326	+118	31:1	Winner	
2015/16 Buducnost MNE	16	11	1	4	433:359	+74	23:9	Fourth Place	
2016/17 Buducnost MNE	16	11	0	5	444:391	+53	22:10	Fourth Place	
Total:	218	125	21	72	5837:5473	+364	271:165		



Dragan Adzic

coach

- retired from playing due to injury in 1998
- spent 10 years as an assistant coach at Buducnost before becoming head coach of both Buducnost and the Montenegro national team in 2010
- won the EHF Champions League in May 2012, and the EHF EURO 2012 seven months later
- met his wife Timea when she came to the club as an interpreter for former coach Gyula Zsiga of Hungary

EC trophies: CL 2012, 2015, Cup Winners' Cup 2010
OG: S 2012, EHF EURO: G 2012

Newcomers:

Cristina Laslo (U Cluj Napoca)
Tatjana Brnović
Branka Konatar
Milica Čarapić
Enisa Djoković (all Buducnost junior team)

Left the club:

Dragana Cvijic (Vardar)
Cristina Neagu (CSM Bucuresti)
Katarina Bulatovic (Rostov)
Neli Irman (Spono Eagles)
Vanesa Agovic (Vasas HUN)
Kinga Achruk (MKS Lublin)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
40	Anastasija	Babovic	MNE	Goalkeeper	13/12/2000	Podgorica, MNE	178
43	Marta	Batinovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	20/04/1990	Metkovic, CRO	184
34	Tatjana	Brnovic	MNE	Line Player	09/11/1998	Cetinje, MNE	183
11	Milica	Carapic	MNE	Right Wing	06/08/1998	Podgorica, MNE	175
44	Enisa	Djokovic	MNE	Centre Back	20/10/1998	Podgorica, MNE	178
21	Ivana	Godec	MNE	Line Player	11/05/2001	Podgorica, MNE	175
96	Itana	Grbic	MNE	Left Wing	01/09/1996	Podgorica, MNE	169
9	Djurdjina	Jaukovic	MNE	Left Back	24/02/1997	Niksic, MNE	185
20	Nikolina	Knezevic	MNE	Centre Back	02/07/2000	Podgorica, MNE	180
8	Branka	Konatar	MNE	Left Wing	02/11/1999	Podgorica, MNE	
13	Cristina	Laslo	ROU	Centre Back	10/04/1996	Cluj-Napoca, ROU	178
92	Suzana	Lazovic	MNE	Line Player	28/01/1992	Podgorica, MNE	176
25	Djurdjina	Malovic	MNE	Right Back	05/05/1996	Niksic, MNE	182
22	Tea	Marinovic	MNE	Goalkeeper	22/10/1999	Podgorica, MNE	181
55	Ivona	Pavicevic	MNE	Left Wing	21/04/1996	Podgorica, MNE	167
10	Matea	Pletikosic	CRO	Centre Back	24/04/1998	Sinj, CRO	168
27	Sanja	Premovic	MNE	Right Wing	27/11/1992	Berane, MNE	175
90	C Milena	Raicevic	MNE	Back	12/03/1990	Podgorica, MNE	178
66	Ema	Ramusovic	MNE	Line Player	28/11/1996	Berane, MNE	182
4	Dijana	Ujkic	MNE	Right Wing	05/07/1996	Podgorica, MNE	172
12	Darly	Zoqbi De Paula	ESP	Goalkeeper	25/08/1982	Ponte Nova, BRA	178



Marta Batinovic **goalkeeper**

- playing her fifth straight CL season with Buducnost and 12th overall after moving from Podravka in 2013
- one of few players remaining at Buducnost from the team that won the CL in 2015
- one of the best Croatian goalkeepers – chosen Player of the Year in 2015 – since making her debut in 2006, has now retired from national team
- husband Mate Batinovic is a successful former water polo goalkeeper

EC trophy: CL 2015



Itana Grbic **left wing**

- joined Buducnost from Vardar in 2016 and previously played for RK Danilovgrad, Buducnost's second team
- made her CL debut with Vardar against Krim in the 2014/2015 season
- was part of the All-star Team at the Women's Youth WCh 2014
- member of the Montenegro national team since 2015
- sister of Petar Grbic, who plays for the national football team of Montenegro



Djurdjina Jaukovic **left back**

- started with handball at nine in her home town Niksic, thanks to her father Jovo, former president of Sutjeska
- joined Buducnost in 2013 at the age of 15, but was on loan two years in Danilovgrad
- named Best Young Player in Montenegro twice (2014, 2015) and considered one of the biggest talent of Montenegrin handball
- scored four goals in her CL debut against IK Sävehof in 2015/16
- top scorer (71 goals) and MVP of W19 EHF EURO 2015 in Spain, scored 31 goals in nine games for the senior team at the WCh 2015 in Denmark



Milena Raicevic **left back**

- started playing handball with sister Dragana, while brother Ivan is a professional football player
- at the EHF EURO 2012 she had most assists (29) and second-most goals (41, with Anita Görbicz)
- voted Player of the Year in Montenegro twice, and Best Young Player of the CL in 2012

EC trophies: CL 2012, 2015, Cup Winners' Cup 2010
OG: S 2012, EHF EURO: G 2012



Matea Pletikosic **centre back**

- joined Buducnost in 2015 from her local club, Croatian second league side ŽRK Sinj
- made an immediate impact when debuting at age 17 in the 2015/16 season
- widely regarded one of the biggest talents of Croatian handball, she has relished her second Women's EHF FINAL4
- often dubbed 'Women's Ivano Balić' by Croatian coaches and media



Ema Ramusovic **line player**

- joined Buducnost as a junior player in 2010 after starting to play handball at the age of 10 in her hometown Berane
- initially a left back, coach Maja Savic of the national youth team made her a line player after her comeback from knee surgery in 2013
- voted Best Player at the Youth Mediterranean Championship 2012 in Israel, where Montenegro won silver
- made her debut for the seniors team against Poland in EURO 2014 qualification

EC trophies: CL 2015



Sanja Premovic **right back**

- began career at Buducnost before joining ZRK Naisa in Serbia and making headlines with Lubin in Poland
- returned to Buducnost in 2016/17 to replace Katarina Bulatovic, who signed with Rostov
- versatile player who can add experience and stability to the team on various positions
- won bronze at the Junior World Championship in 2010



Dijana Ujkic **right wing**

- member of highly talented Montenegrin 1996 generation
- had to sit out the entire 2015/16 season due to an ACL injury
- replaced Jovanka Radicevic and Radmila Petrovic upon her comeback at EHF EURO 2016

GROUP D

**Club Address**

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57050 Metz
France

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[MetzHandballOfficiel](https://www.facebook.com/MetzHandballOfficiel)



[@MetzHandball](https://twitter.com/MetzHandball)

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
GK shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: blue

Metz Handball



Metz Handball needed 17 Champions League participations to clinch their first quarter-final berth last season. Now the French record champions are hungry for more. A major change in their squad occurred on the line-player position where French Olympic silver medallist Laurisa Landre replaced Serbian World Championship silver medallist Sladjana Pop-Lazic.

The French champions have enjoyed a favourable draw. In the group matches they are expected to be among the three best teams, and if they proceed, they will avoid playing top favourites Rostov, Győr and Bucuresti prior to the quarter-finals. So reaching the quarter-finals again seems manageable. "If possible we even want to go further, to the FINAL4," says coach Emmanuel Mayonnade.

Brest with an impressive squad, Issy with some big names, Nice with top new arrivals, Nantes and Besancon with strong international seasons recently - the French women's league has constantly improved in the previous seasons. Therefore, it is anything but easy for Metz to fight for their third straight and 22nd overall French title. But this strong competition can boost them.

Ana Gros (81 goals), Grace Zaadi (49) and Xenia Smits (48) were Metz best scorers by far in the previous Champions League season. Gros is one of Europe's best right backs and Smits has grown constantly after her arrival from Germany. So, in combination with playmaker Zaadi, they can carry the hopes but the defence will be the key.

It is not by incident that Laura Glauser is the central point of the official EHF EURO 2018 poster. In the last two years she was stepping out of the shadows of Amandine Leynaud, the regular France No. 1 between the posts. While winning Olympic silver at the Rio Games, Glauser had the highest saving percentage of all goalkeepers. With another season on an international high, the 23-year-old, five-time French champion can play an even more important role for Metz and the national team.

**Playing hall****"Les Arenes" Metz**

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

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 19
Quarter-final (1): 2016/17
Main Round (2): 2011/12, 2014/15
Last 16 (2): 1994/95, 1995/96
Last 32 (1): 1993/94
Group Matches (8): 1996/97, 1997/98, 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2002/03, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2013/14
Qualification (4): 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08

Other

EHF Cup: Runners-up 2012/13, quarter-final 2000/01, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2007/08
Cup Winners' Cup: semi-final 1998/99, 2003/04, 2009/10, 2010/11
French league: 21 titles (1989, 1990, 1993-1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2004-2009, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)
French cup: 7 titles



4 **MATCHES**
Longest winning run

42 **GOALS**
Most goals

70 **GOALS**
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	37:18 (17:10) v Astrakhanochka RUS (h), 11.02.2017
Biggest defeat	34:17 (13:10) v Mar El Osito L'Elia ESP (a), 25.01.1998
Longest winning run	4 matches (22.10.2016 – 11.11.2016)
Longest unbeaten run	4 matches (22.10.2016 – 11.11.2016)
Longest losing run	6 matches (11.01.2003 – 01.11.2008)
Longest run without win	8 matches (10.11.1996 – 15.11.1997) 8 matches (04.02.2012 – 12.10.2013)
Most goals	42 v HC Vardar MKD 42:28W (h), 05.03.2017
Most goals opponent	37 v Viborg HK DEN 24:37L (h), 01.11.2008 37 v RK Krim Mercator SLO 30:37L (h), 24.10.2009
Most goals both teams	70 v HC Vardar MKD 42:28W (h), 05.03.2017
Fewest goals	14 v Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 27:14L (a), 17.11.1996
Fewest goals opponent	17 v Byasen Trondheim NOR 16:17L (h), 10.11.1996
Fewest goals both teams	33 v Byasen Trondheim NOR 16:17L (h), 10.11.1996

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 ASPTT Metz FRA	6	0	2	4	108:137	−29	2:10	4th Gr. C	
1997/98 ASPTT Metz HB FRA	6	1	1	4	135:166	−31	3:9	4th Gr. B	
1999/00 ASPTT Metz FRA	6	3	0	3	130:121	+9	6:6	3rd Gr. A	
2002/03 Handball Metz Metropole FRA	6	1	0	5	142:176	−34	2:10	4th Gr. D	
2008/09 Metz Handball FRA	6	2	0	4	173:188	-15	4:8	3rd Gr. D	
2009/10 Metz Handball FRA	6	2	1	3	163:174	-11	5:7	3rd Gr. B	
2011/12 Metz Handball FRA	12	3	1	8	298:322	-24	7:17	4th MR Gr. 2	
2013/14 Metz Handball FRA	6	3	0	3	149:144	+5	6:6	3rd Gr. C	
2014/15 Metz Handball FRA	12	3	1	8	305:318	−13	7:17	5th MR Gr. 2	
2016/17 Metz Handball FRA	14	8	0	6	376:338	+38	16:12	1/4-finals	
Total:	80	26	6	48	1979:2084	−105	58:102		



Emmanuel Mayonnade

coach

- at the age of 34, is one of the youngest coaches in the CL
- started coaching when he was 23 in Mios; a club he left 10 years later only because it suffered bankruptcy
- appreciated by his players for his understanding and closeness
- won two Challenge Cup titles with Mios and four trophies with Metz

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2011 & 2015

Newcomers:

Manon Houette (Thüringer HC)
Laurisa Landre (SCM Craiova)

Left the club:

Tamara Horacek (Issy Paris Hand)
Hawa N'diaye (Chambray-Touraine HB)
Camille Aoustin (Siofok KC)
Sladjana Pop-Lazic
Lindsay Burlet (both Brest Bretagne Handball)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
37	Ilya	Bel-Gareh	NED	Right Wing	11/09/1997	Beek, NED	168
88	Ilona	Di Rocco	FRA	Centre Back	18/05/2000	Sedan, FRA	175
16	Manuela	Dos Reis	FRA	Goalkeeper	29/06/1999	Verdun, FRA	181
33	Ornella	Dos Reis	FRA	Left Back	03/01/1997	Verdun, FRA	181
3	Beatrice	Edwige	FRA	Line Player	03/10/1988	Paris, FRA	182
8	Laura	Flippes	FRA	Right Wing	13/12/1994	Strasbourg, FRA	171
5	Daphne	Gautschi	SUI	Centre Back	09/07/2000	Muri, SUI	171
1	Laura	Glauser	FRA	Goalkeeper	20/08/1993	Besancon, FRA	178
6	Ana	Gros	SLO	Right Back	21/01/1991	Ljubljana, SLO	186
21	Manon	Houette	FRA	Left Wing	02/07/1992	Le Mans, FRA	168
18	Laura	Kanor	FRA	Left Wing	16/06/1997	Les Abymes, FRA	175
9	Orlane	Kanor	FRA	Left Back	16/07/1997	Les Abymes, FRA	179
19	Charlotte	Kieffer	FRA	Left Back	21/02/1998	Schiltigheim, FRA	185
15	Laurisa	Landre	FRA	Line Player	27/10/1985	Pointe-à-Pitre, FRA	174
30	Jurswailly	Luciano	NED	Right Wing	25/03/1991	Curacao, NED	171
27	Marion	Maubon	FRA	Left Wing	27/07/1989	Bordeaux, FRA	165
10	Meline	Nocandy	FRA	Centre Back	25/02/1998	Saint-Claude, FRA	172
31	Laura	Portes	FRA	Goalkeeper	27/03/2000	Strasbourg, FRA	174
12	Marina	Rajcic	MNE	Goalkeeper	24/08/1993	Podgorica, MNE	178
25	Marie-Helene	Sajka	FRA	Right Back	13/09/1997	Nancy, FRA	185
14	Anna	Seguin	FRA	Line Player	21/04/1999	Bruges, FRA	185
22	Xenia	Smits	GER	Left Back	22/04/1994	Wilrijk, GER	182
24	Ophelie	Tonds	FRA	Goalkeeper	10/07/1998	Metz, FRA	180
7	C Grace	Zaadi Deuna	FRA	Centre Back	07/07/1993	Courcouronnes, FRA	171



Laura Glauser

goalkeeper

- having joined in 2011, she is the longest-serving Metz player alongside Jurswailly Luciano
- a fan favourite thanks to her never-ending good mood
- has grown to become a very important player in the national team, with an important role in their two medal wins in 2016
- has developed a genuine friendship with fellow goalkeeper Marina Rajcic

OG: S 2016, EURO: B 2016



Manon Houette

left wing

- returned to France in the summer of 2017 after a season with Thüringer, before the stint in Germany, had only played for Fleury Loiret Handball
- was elected best left wing in the Bundesliga 2016/17
- made her national team debut in 2014 and is now a regular fixture on the left wing, sharing with captain Siraba Dembele

EURO: B 2016; OG: S 2016



Xenia Smits

left back

- born in Belgium, raised in Germany and playing in France since 2015; also holds a German passport
- she and Isabell Klein were the first two female German athletes to ever play in France
- has played in three leagues so far: German with Blomberg-Lippe, French with Metz and Belgian, with HC Rhino
- at 23, has already played 30 international games for Germany and scored 70 goals



Grace Zaadi

centre back

- one of the products of the local handball school in Metz
- plays at centre back but is also able to help on the left side
- a big social media fan, often seen on Twitter sporting outlandish hats and original outfits

EURO: B 2016; OG: S 2016



Laurisa Landre

line player

- returned to France for 2017/18 after playing two seasons in Craiova, Romania
- in Metz, the national team pair she forms with Edwige will be reunited
- aged 31, she will be one of the team's most experienced players, even though 2017/18 is her first ever Champions League campaign

EURO: B 2016; OG: S 2016



Beatrice Edwige

line player

- mainly a defensive specialist, she often swaps with Laurisa Landre, who plays more in attack
- branded by France national team coach Olivier Krumbholz as one of the five best defenders in the world
- crowned best defender at the EHF EURO 2016
- shares the same passion for social media as Grace Zaadi, often appearing well-dressed and with strange hats, even on casual occasions

OG: S 2016, EURO: B 2016



Ana Gros

right back

- after playing for European powerhouses Győr, Krim Mercator and Thüringer, she landed in Metz in the winter of 2014
- reached the CL final with Győr in 2012, and made it to the quarter-finals in 2016/17 with Metz
- despite being approached by many important clubs around Europe prior to the 2017/18 season, decided to stay in Metz
- played her best season in the CL in 2016/17, with 84 goals scored



Jurswailly Luciano

right wing

- the speedy Dutch wing joined Metz in 2011
- one of many players in the squad whose only professional experience has been gained in Metz
- born in Curacao, an overseas territory belonging to the Netherlands

GROUP D

**Club Address**

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sghbbm

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
GK shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: yellow

SG BBM Bietigheim



Although they are newcomers in the Women's EHF Champions League, on the back of their very first league title in Germany, Bietigheim can count on a team with players who know how to perform at this level and a Danish coach who knows this competition well.

"It was a dream came true for us, when we qualified for the EHF Champions League," said Bietigheim's manager Gerrit Winnen and 2016/17 was indeed a dream season. In their first Europe campaign, SG went all the way to the finals of the EHF Cup, eventually losing to Rostov, beating some big names such as Kuban and ÉRD in the process.

Now they face manageable tasks en route to the main round; a Buducnost side in a state of transition, Kristiansand are fellow newcomers and Metz a team they beat in pre-season. "We are hoping for a surprise and to make it to the main round. For us it is a pleasure to play against these clubs full of tradition, fantastic home courts and fans," says team captain Kim Naidzinavicius.

Coach Martin Albertsen has plenty of experience at this level to draw on, after leading Leipzig, Randers and Viborg into and through the competition in past years. As for players, Nina and Susann Müller, Dutch stars Wester, Malestein and Visser as well as the Danish sisters Fie and Cecilie Woller will be key figures.

The Polish playmaker Karolina Kudlacz-Gloc, who had been at Leipzig for more than a decade, will return at the end of the group matches, following the birth of her son in June. The former IHF World Handball Player of the Year nominee could play a huge part for Bietigheim, but will need some time to adapt.

All eyes will be on the performances of Wester, who was part of the 2015 World Championship All-star team and enters her first season in Europe's elite club competition. Despite her young age, she is already a key player in the club and national team. Wester will build a new partnership between the posts with former Leipzig goalkeeper Nicole Roth and Azerbaijani Valentyna Salamakha.

**Playing hall**

MHP Arena Ludwigsburg
Schwieberdinger Straße 30
71636 Ludwigsburg
Germany
Capacity: 4,185

Past achievements

Women's EHF Champions League
Participations (including 2017/18 season): 1

Other

EHF Cup: runners-up 2016/17

German league: 1 title (2017)



EHF Champions League club records

0	MATCHES
	Longest winning run
0	GOALS
	Most goals
0	GOALS
	Most goals both teams

Biggest win	N/A
Biggest defeat	N/A
Longest winning run	N/A
Longest unbeaten run	N/A
Longest losing run	N/A
Longest run without win	N/A
Most goals	N/A
Most goals opponent	N/A
Most goals both teams	N/A
Fewest goals	N/A
Fewest goals opponent	N/A
Fewest goals both teams	N/A

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
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N/A



Martin Albertsen

coach

- 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 WChs

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2004 (as coach)

Newcomers:

Charris Rozemalen (VOC Amsterdam)
 Karolina Kudlacz-Gloc (HC Leipzig)
 Nicole Roth (HC Leipzig)
 Ines Ivancok (MGA Fivers)
 Cecilie Woller (AJAX Kobenhavn)

Left the club:

Isabell Roch (TUS Metzingen)
 Ann-Cathrin Giegerich (Neckarsulmer Sport-Union)
 Hanna Yttereng (Kisvárdai KC)
 Linda Mack (Neckarsulmer Sport-Union)
 Jaqueline Anastácio (Kastamonu Artsam Spor)
 Stine Baun Eriksen (Ringkøbing Håndbold)
 Fernanda Da Silva (maternity leave)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
2	Mia	Biltoft	DEN	Line Player	03/04/1992	Ringkebing, DEN	175
11	Aylin	Bok	GER	Centre Back	10/03/1996	Wangen, GER	167
18	Mille Heick	Hundahl	DEN	Right Wing	21/09/1990	Thisted, DEN	168
9	Ines	Ivancok	AUT	Left Back	14/04/1998	Wien, AUT	182
14	Karolina	Kudlacz-Gloc	POL	Left Back	17/01/1985	Wabrzezno, POL	178
6	Ann	Kynast	GER	Right Wing	06/06/2001	Ludwigsburg, GER	174
5	Antje	Lauenroth	GER	Line Player	03/10/1988	Hablensleben, GER	170
26	Antje Angela	Malestein	NED	Right Wing	31/01/1993	Spankenburg, GER	174
61	Celina	Meißner	GER	Goalkeeper	19/08/1998	Bad Oldeslohe, GER	172
7	Nina Christin	Müller	GER	Left Back	14/11/1980	Bremen, GER	180
22	Susann	Müller	GER	Right Back	26/05/1988	Saalfeld-Saale, GER	187
15	C Kim	Naidziniavicius	GER	Centre Back	06/04/1991	Gelnhausen, GER	183
17	Alina	Ridder	GER	Left Wing	30/07/1999	Hagen, GER	176
16	Nicole	Roth	GER	Goalkeeper	08/05/1995	Nürnberg, GER	183
4	Charris	Rozemalen	NED	Right Back	16/04/1991	Utrecht, NED	176
23	Valentyna	Salamakha	AZE	Goalkeeper	23/04/1986	Kirowograd, UKR	176
20	Jana	Scheib	GER	Right Back	10/10/2000	Ludwigsburg, GER	180
13	Luisa	Schulze	GER	Line Player	14/09/1990	Altenburg, GER	192
8	Martine	Smeets	NED	Left Wing	05/05/1990	Geesteren, NED	172
27	Lenya	Treusch	GER	Left Wing	27/08/1998	Weinheim, GER	173
3	Maura	Visser	NED	Centre Back	01/06/1985	s-Gravenhage, NED	178
33	Tess	Wester	NED	Goalkeeper	19/05/1993	Heehuggwaard, NED	178
10	Cecilie	Woller	DEN	Centre Back	17/09/1992	Herning, DEN	180
21	Fie	Woller	DEN	Left Wing	17/09/1992	Herning, DEN	176



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 transferred to Bietigheim
- awarded best goalkeeper of the 2015 WCh in Denmark

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



Fie Woller **left wing**

- arrived at Bietigheim in November 2016 replacing Brazilian Fernanda da Silva (maternity leave)
- started her career at the age of 17 at FC Midtjylland; three times Danish champion and cup winner with FCM and part of the EHF FINAL4 2014
- best young player of the 2011/12 CL season; her twin sister Cecille plays for Bietigheim too as a back court player

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2011, CWC 2015
EURO: 2011 G U20



Kim Naidziniavicius **left back**

- arrived at Bietigheim before the 2016/17 season, before she had played four years for Bayer Leverkusen; has had her apprenticeship as sports merchant in the professional division of the Bayer football club
- had her debut in the German national team at 21; the youngest player in the German squad, which took the gold medal in the 2008 U20 WCh
- in the national team, she is the defence boss, at the club was the third best scorer in Bundesliga 2016/17



Karolina Kudlacz-Gloc **left back/centre back**

- after more than ten years at Leipzig arrived at Bietigheim for the current season
- gave birth to her son Jakub in June and therefore is not supposed to return before November
- nominated for the IHF World Player award three years ago
- team captain of the Polish national team
- was coached by Martin Albertsen already in her early years at Leipzig

**Nina Müller****centre back/right back**

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

**Luisa Schulze****line player**

- signed by Bietigheim before the 2016/17 season; had played all her career since 16 at HC Leipzig
- with a height of 1,90 metres, she is the tallest player of the SG squad and in the German national team; in 2011, she had her debut in the women's national team after going through all German younger age category teams, new coach Michael Biegler did not nominate her for the EURO 2016
- best defence player at the 2009 U19 EURO

**Susann Müller****centre back/right back**

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

**Antje Malestein****right wing**

- All-star team member of the U19 EURO in 2011; had her debut in the Dutch national team at 16
- started her career at former Dutch champions VOC Amsterdam and Dalfsen, before she transferred to German side Blomberg at the age of 19 in 2012
- played her first major tournament at the EHF EURO 2010; arrived as first of the currently four Dutch players in Bietigheim in 2014

GROUP D**Club Address**

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@VipersKrSand

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
GK shirt: blue

Dark

Player shirt: pink
Player short: black
GK shirt: black

Vipers Kristiansand



They are on their maiden voyage in the EHF Champions League, but they can count on some truly experienced players. Vipers Kristiansand are not your typical debutants; they are hoping for a main round berth and to dethrone Larvik in the domestic competitions. Almost all Vipers' squad are Norwegian, save for the Danish Mathilde Kristensen.

Players such as the Lunde sisters or Linn Sulland have been stalwarts of the Norwegian national team for years, and some younger players such as Emily Artzen have also proved their abilities already in the national team. The only open question is whether Kristiansand can cope with the heavy programme of Champions League and Norwegian league, as they have never before competed in the group phase.

Just by looking at qualification results, the Kristiansand attack is outstanding. The Vipers scored 85 goals in two matches against Gomel and Podravka - and showed their hunger for goals until the final buzzer. But the defence can be a key too, mainly in group matches against the strongholds of Buducnost and Metz, where the number of goals conceded could be more important.

At 22, Malin Aune is the youngest member of the Norwegian national team. The right wing made her debut with the senior national team in 2015 after winning medals in younger age categories – bronze at the Women's 17 EHF EURO 2011 and Youth World Championship in 2012. Aune was part of the team that raised the EHF EURO 2016 trophy in Sweden and is playing her first EHF Champions League season in 2017/18 with debutants Vipers Kristiansand. Aune had an important role in Vipers' successful Champions League qualification, scoring 14 goals in two matches. Now, the new arrival from Oppsal is supposed to become a key player for the future.

Manager Terje Marcussen and team captain Kari Brattset have the same ambition in their maiden Champions League voyage - to make it to the main round. But their group with Metz, Bietigheim and Buducnost is not that easy, especially if you are not used playing a group phase.

**Playing hall**

Aquarama Kristiansand
Tangen 8
4608 Kristiansand
Norway
Capacity: 2,200

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

Participations (including 2017/18 season): 1

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: quarter-finals 2015/16
EHF Cup: semi-finals 2003/04, Last 16 2004/05

Norwegian league: - (runners-up 2016/17)
Norwegian cup: - (runners-up 2010)



EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	N/A
Biggest defeat	N/A
Longest winning run	N/A
Longest unbeaten run	N/A
Longest losing run	N/A
Longest run without win	N/A
Most goals	N/A
Most goals opponent	N/A
Most goals both teams	N/A
Fewest goals	N/A
Fewest goals opponent	N/A
Fewest goals both teams	N/A

Past seasons

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
N/A									



Kenneth Gabrielsen

coach

- coach of Norway's junior team besides being in charge of Vipers
- was with Glassverket ever since he took them to the promotion into the Norwegian league in the 2011/2012 season, but left for Vipers in the summer of 2016
- awarded Coach of the Year for the 2014/15 season by the players of the Norwegian league.
- in his playing days, he represented Sandefjord TIF in the Norwegian league and in the EHF Cup

Newcomers:

Emilie Hegh Arntzen (Byåsen/NOR)
 Malin Aune (Oppsal/NOR)
 Kristine Lunde-Borgersen (comeback)
 Katrine Lunde (Rostov Don/RUS)
 Pernille Wang Skau (Halden/NOR)
 Eline Fagerheim (Gjøvik/NOR)
 Sunniva Andersen (Gjerpen/NOR)

Left the club:

Thorey Rosa Stefansdottir (FRAM Reykjavik/ISL)
 Sanne Bak-Pedersen (Grane Arendal/NOR)
 Mona Bruskeland
 Camilla Holmøy Feenstad
 Martine Rønning (all retired)
 Annick Lipman (Gjerpen/NOR)
 Hanne Andve (Molde/NOR)
 Elisabeth Benestad Rosenvold (Grane Arendal/NOR)
 Anne Charlotte Benestad Rosenvold (Grane Arendal/NOR)
 Ulrika Olsson (Skuru IK/SWE)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
3	Emilie Hegh	Arntzen	NOR	Back	01/01/1994	Skien, NOR	183
26	Karine Emilie	Dahlum	NOR	Right Wing	16/12/1999	Kristiansand, NOR	175
12	Eline	Fagerheim	NOR	Goalkeeper	19/06/1998	Gjøvik, NOR	180
1	Sakura	Hauge	NOR	Goalkeeper	07/01/1987	Bergen, NOR	174
24	Lina Marie	Jensen	NOR	Back	15/03/1996	Stavanger, NOR	182
10	Vilde	Jonassen	NOR	Left Wing	01/09/1992	Kristiansand, NOR	165
9	Mathilde	Kristensen	DEN	Line Player	07/04/1993	Viborg, DEN	177
20	Jeanett	Kristiansen	NOR	Left Back	24/12/1992	Stavanger, NOR	178
6	Malin	Larsen Aune	NOR	Right Wing	04/03/1995	Ranheim, NOR	165
13	Kristine	Lunde	NOR	Centre Back	30/03/1980	Kristiansand, NOR	183
16	Katrine	Lunde	NOR	Goalkeeper	30/03/1980	Kristiansand, NOR	181
27	Sunniva	Naes Andersen	NOR	Left Wing	12/11/1996	Skien, NOR	175
8	Kristin	Noersteboe	NOR	Right Back	09/09/1990	Bærum, NOR	178
2	Karoline	Olsen	NOR	Left Wing	16/06/1998	Kristiansand, NOR	171
4	Tonje	Refsnes	NOR	Right Back	13/11/1994	Kristiansand, NOR	170
7 C	Kari	Skaar Brattset	NOR	Line Player	15/02/1991	Fredrikstad, NOR	183
14	Pernille Wang	Skaug	NOR	Right Wing	29/01/1992	Halden, NOR	178
15	Linn Jorum	Sulland	NOR	Right Back	15/07/1984	Oslo, NOR	178
22	Marta	Tomac	NOR	Centre Back	20/09/1990	Trondheim, NOR	179



Katrine Lunde

goalkeeper

- one of the best goalkeepers in the world who has a big collection of major trophies won both with clubs and the Norwegian national team
- her move to Rostov-Don after five years at Hungary's Győr was one of the biggest transfer events in Europe in summer 2015; joined Vipers in the summer of 2017
- reunites with her twin sister Kristine Lunde

EC Trophies: CL 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, EHF Cup 2017

OG: G 2008, 2012, B 2016, EURO: G 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, S 2002, 2012

WCh: G 2011, S 2007, B 2009



Karoline Olsen

left wing

- played with Vipers all her senior career, starting to train with the team at age 16
- originally a back court player, but is expected to mainly being used on the left wing this season
- mainly plays left wing in the Norwegian U19 team, with whom she starred at the Women's EURO 19 this summer
- despite only being 19 years old, she has already been an integrated part of the Vipers team for the past two seasons, including the EHF Cup last season



Emilie Hegh Arntzen

left back

- joined Vipers from league rivals Byasen ahead of this season
- daughter of former Norwegian international Hanne Hegh and former assistant coach of Norway's female national team Ketil Arntzen
- started playing handball at age eight and started her senior career in Gjerpen, with whom she was promoted into the Norwegian top flight

OG: B 2016, EURO: G 2014, 2016



Marta Tomac

centre back

- joined Vipers from league rivals Byasen in 2015; played for Danish side SK Aarhus in 2010/11
- born in Zagreb, Croatia, and represented Croatia before playing for Norway
- has played 33 internationals for Norway
- good at both ends of the court, and her ability to read the game, as well as her eye for her teammates in the attack, make her a dangerous opponent

EURO: G 2016, WCh: G 2015



Jeanett Kristiansen

left wing

- after two stints with Glassverket and one year in Larvik joined Vipers in 2016
- from a real handball family, her older sister Veronica playing for Danish CL side FC Midtjylland and another sister, Charlotte also playing handball
- played in the left wing position in Larvik, but in Glassverket, coach Kenneth Gabrielsen makes use of her on the left back



Kari Brattset

line player

- joined Vipers together with the coach Gabrielsen and Jeanett Kristiansen in the summer of 2016 after two seasons in Glassverket, where she came from Fredrikstad
- with her height easy to find for her back court players
- has played two internationals for Norway so far
- the upcoming qualification matches for the CL will be her European debut at club



Linn Jørum Sulland

right back

- arrived in Vipers in the summer of 2016 after stops at Stabæk, Larvik and Győr
- in 2005/06 the best player of the domestic league and also was the top scorer
- reached the 500-goal plateau in the national team
- top scorer of the European Beach Handball Championship in 2007

EC trophies: CL 2011

OG: G 2012, WCh: G 2011, 2015, S 2007, EURO: G 2008, 2010, S 2012



Malin Aune

right wing

- joined Vipers from Oppsal this summer
- has played 21 senior internationals and 80 youth internationals for Norway
- her greatest triumph so far was being part of the Norwegian side who won the EHF EURO 2016
- may only be 165cm tall, but her speed, technical skills and willpower sufficiently compensate

EURO: G 2016

2016/17 Top Scorers

Rank	Player	Club	Goals
1	Andrea Penezic (CRO)	HC Vardar (MKD)	98
2	Isabelle Gulldén (SWE)	CSM Bucuresti (ROU)	92
3	Katarina Bulatovic (MNE)	Buducnost (MNE)	90
	Cristina Neagu (ROU)	Buducnost (MNE)	90
5	Nora Mørk (NOR)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	85
6	Anita Görbicz (HUN)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	84
	Ana Gros (SLO)	Metz Handball (FRA)	84
8	Linn-Kristin Koren Riegelhuth (NOR)	Larvik (NOR)	83
9	Stine Jörgensen (DEN)	FC Midtjylland (DEN)	81
10	Karina Sabirova (RUS)	Astrakhanochka (RUS)	78
11	Amanda Kurtovic (NOR)	Larvik (NOR)	74
12	Eduarda Amorim Taleska (BRA)	Györi Audi ETO KC (HUN)	70
13	Jovanka Radicevic (MNE)	HC Vardar (MKD)	69
14	Carmen Martin (ESP)	CSM Bucuresti (ROU)	65
15	Iveta Luzumova (CZE)	Thüringer HC (GER)	64
16	Nerea Pena (ESP)	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria (HUN)	60
17	Jenny Alm (SWE)	Team Esbjerg (DEN)	59
	Andrea Lekic (SRB)	HC Vardar (MKD)	59
19	Alexandra Lacrabere (FRA)	HC Vardar (MKD)	58
20	Marit Malm Frafjord (NOR)	Larvik (NOR)	57
	Veronica Kristiansen (NOR)	FC Midtjylland (DEN)	57

All-star team votes



Season	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Goal-keeper	Clara Woltering (Buducnost)	Sandra Toft (Larvik)	Kari Grimsbo (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Kari Grimsbo (Györi Audi ETO KC)
Left wing	Majda Mehmedovic (Buducnost)	Siraba Dembele (ZRK Vardar)	Aniko Kovacsics (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Camilla Herrem (HC Vardar)
Left back	Eduarda Amorim (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Cristina Neagu (Buducnost)	Cristina Neagu (Buducnost)	Cristina Neagu (Buducnost)
Centre back	Anita Görbicz (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Aniko Kovacsics (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Nycke Groot (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Nycke Groot (Györi Audi ETO KC)
Line player	Ana Dokic (ZRK Vardar)	Heidi Loke (Györi Audi ETO)	Heidi Loke (Györi Audi ETO)	Marit Malm Frafjord (Larvik)
Right back	Katarina Bulatovic (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Nora Mørk (Larvik)	Nora Mørk (Larvik)	Nora Mørk (Larvik)
Right wing	Jovanka Radicevic (ZRK Vardar)	Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth-Koren (Larvik)	Jovanka Radicevic (HC Vardar)	Carmen Martin (CSM Bucuresti)
Young player	Fie Woller (FC Midtjylland)	Eliza Buceschi (HCM Baia Mare)	Luca Szekercs (FTC Rail-Cargo Hungaria)	Blanka Biro (FTC Rail-Cargo Hungaria)
Defender	Suzana Lazovic (Buducnost)	Dorina Korsos (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Eduarda Amorim (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Eduarda Amorim (Györi Audi ETO KC)
Coach	N/A	Ambros Martin (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Ambros Martin (Györi Audi ETO KC)	Ambros Martin (Györi Audi ETO KC)

All-time stats

Biggest wins

26

Ferencváros Budapest HUN
vs Anagennisi Artas GRE
42:16 (19:7), 18.01.1997

- 23 HC Vardar MKD @ HC Leipzig GER 22:45 (9:22), 19.11.2016
- 22 Dunaferre SE HUN vs GAS Anagennisi Artas GRE 41:19 (17:9), 07.11.1999
- 21 Larvik NOR vs Dinamo RUS 41:20 (24:9), 17.02.2011
- 21 Györi Audi ETO HUN vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 37:16 (17:9), 08.11.2015
- 20 Kometal Skopje MKD vs Granicar Djurdjevac CRO 33:13 (19:7), 09.11.1996
- 20 HC Leipzig GER vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 42:22 (20:11), 31.10.2014
- 19 Oltchim Rm. Valcea ROU @ Buxtehuder SV GER 15:34 (6:14), 20.10.2012
- 19 Györi Audi ETO HUN vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 41:22 (21:11), 05.10.2013
- 19 Buducnost MNE vs RK Krim Mercator SLO 39:20 (19:8), 15.03.2015
- 19 Metz Handball FRA vs Astrakhanochka RUS 37:18 (17:10), 11.02.2017

Biggest home wins

26

Ferencváros Budapest HUN
vs Anagennisi Artas GRE
42:16 (19:7), 18.01.1997

- 22 Dunaferre SE HUN vs GAS Anagennisi Artas GRE 41:19 (17:9), 07.11.1999
- 21 Larvik NOR vs Dinamo RUS 41:20 (24:9), 17.02.2011
- 21 Györi Audi ETO KC HUN vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 37:16 (17:9), 08.11.2015
- 20 Kometal Skopje MKD vs Granicar Djurdjevac CRO 33:13 (19:7), 09.11.1996
- 20 HC Leipzig GER vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 42:22 (20:11), 31.10.2014
- 19 Györi Audi ETO HUN vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 41:22 (21:11), 05.10.2013
- 19 Buducnost MNE vs RK Krim Mercator SLO 39:20 (19:8), 15.03.2015
- 19 Metz Handball FRA vs Astrakhanochka RUS 37:18 (17:10), 11.02.2017

Biggest away wins

19

Oltchim Rm. Valcea ROU
@ Buxtehuder SV GER
15:34 (6:14), 20.10.2012

- 18 Larvik NOR @ Randers HK DEN 20:38 (13:20), 07.11.2010
- 18 WHC Vardar SCBT MKD @ HC Podravka Vegeta CRO 17:35 (10:16), 03.11.2013
- 18 WHC Vardar SCBT MKD @ RK Krim Mercator SLO 29:47 (12:24), 06.03.2015
- 17 Kometal Skopje MKD @ MKS Montex Lublin POL 21:38 (10:18), 17.02.2002
- 17 Györi Audi ETO KC HUN @ IK Sävehof SWE 21:38 (8:20), 26.10.2014
- 17 Györi Audi ETO KC HUN @ RK Krim Mercator SLO 17:34 (10:18), 25.02.2017
- 16 FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN @ Dinamo Volgograd RUS 21:37 (9:23), 14.10.2012
- 16 Larvik NOR @ RK Krim Mercator SLO 21:37 (10:21), 30.10.2015

Biggest lead at half-time

15

Krim Electa Ljubljana SLO
vs Anagennisi Artas GRE
36:12 (18:3), 25.01.1997

- 15 Zvezda Zvenigorod RUS vs RK Krim Mercator Ljubljana SLO 36:31 (22:7), 09.11.2007
- 15 Larvik NOR vs Dinamo RUS 41:20 (24:9), 12.02.2011
- 14 CS 'Oltchim' Rm. Valcea ROU vs 1. FC Nürnberg GER 39:27 (23:9), 07.03.2008
- 14 FTC Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN @ Dinamo Volgograd RUS 21:37 (9:23), 14.10.2012
- 13 Larvik HK NOR vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 37:21 (19:6), 18.01.2003
- 13 Slagelse DT DEN @ Cem. la Union-Ribarroja ESP 20:34 (8:21), 10.11.2007
- 13 Hypo Niederösterreich AUT vs HC Kometal GP MKD 34:24 (20:7), 11.01.2008
- 13 HC Vardar MKD @ Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 25:38 (9:22), 24.10.2015
- 13 HC Vardar MKD @ HC Leipzig GER 22:45 (9:22), 19.11.2016

Most goals

47

WHC Vardar SCBT MKD
@ RK Krim Mercator SLO
29:47 (12:24), 06.03.2015

- 45 HC Vardar MKD @ HC Leipzig GER 22:45 (9:22), 19.11.2016
- 43 HC 'Lada Togliatti' RUS vs Byasen Elite Trondheim NOR 43:39 (22:19), 18.02.2007
- 42 Ferencváros Budapest HUN vs Anagennisi Artas GRE 42:16 (19:7), 18.01.1997
- 42 Viborg HK DEN @ 1. FC Nürnberg Handball GER 28:42 (16:23), 03.01.2009
- 42 HC Leipzig GER vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 42:22 (20:11), 31.10.2014
- 42 Metz Handball FRA vs HC Vardar MKD 42:28 (19:16), 05.03.2017

Most goals both teams

82

HC 'Lada Togliatti' RUS
vs Byasen HB Elite
Trondheim NOR
43:39 (22:19), 18.02.2007

- 76 RK Krim Mercator SLO vs 'Buducnost' MNE 36:40 (19:23), 04.03.2011
- 76 RK Krim Mercator SLO vs WHC Vardar SCBT MKD 29:47 (12:24), 06.03.2015
- 74 RK Krim Mercator SLO vs H/K Dinamo Volgograd RUS 41:33 (20:15), 13.01.2007
- 74 Dinamo RUS vs Viborg HK DEN 41:33 (20:15), 24.10.2010
- 73 HC Podravka Vegeta CRO vs Györi Audi ETO HUN 33:40 (12:21), 13.01.2008
- 72 Podravka Vegeta Koprivnica CRO vs El Osito L'Eliana ESP 38:34 (17:18), 23.02.2003
- 72 Viborg HK A/S DEN vs HC Leipzig GER 39:33 (18:13), 13.01.2007
- 72 HC Leipzig GER vs Viborg HK A/S DEN 35:37 (11:16), 11.02.2007
- 72 RK Krim Mercator SLO vs Viborg HK DEN 38:34 (20:22), 15.11.2008

Fewest goals

10

Granicar Djurdjevac CRO
@ Viborg HK DEN
27:10 (12:5), 05.01.1997

- 12 Anagennisi Artas GRE @ Krim Electa Ljubljana SLO 36:12 (18:3), 25.01.1997
- 12 Kometal Skopje MKD @ Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 26:12 (12:6), 21.02.1998
- 12 Slagelse FH DEN @ Kometal DP Skopje MKD 20:12 (9:4), 22.01.2005
- 12 Slagelse DT DEN vs Viborg HK A/S DEN 12:22 (7:12), 23.02.2008
- 13 Podravka Koprivnica CRO @ HYPO Niederösterreich AUT 17:13 (9:7), 04.05.1996
- 13 Granicar Djurdjevac CRO @ Kometal Skopje MKD 33:13 (19:7), 09.11.1996
- 13 Larvik NOR @ Buducnost MNE 23:13 (10:7), 08.04.2012

Fewest goals both teams

30

HYPO Niederösterreich AUT
vs Podravka Koprivnica CRO
17:13 (9:7), 04.05.1996

- 31 Viborg HK DEN vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 15:16 (7:9), 04.01.1998
- 32 CB Mar Valencia ESP vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 14:18 (4:8), 20.03.1994
- 32 Kometal DP Skopje MKD vs Slagelse FH DEN 20:12 (9:4), 22.01.2005
- 32* WHC Vardar SCBT MKD vs Buducnost MNE 20:22 (6:11, 16:16), 03.05.2014
- 33 ASPTT Metz FRA vs Byasen Trondheim NOR 16:17 (7:9), 10.11.1996

* After regular time

Biggest deficit overcome after losing first half to win a game

-8

Byasen HB Elite Trondheim
NOR vs ZRK Buducnost
T-Mobile MNE 27:26 (10:18),
25.02.2007

- 6 Montex Lublin POL @ Henzo Swift Roermond NED 22:23 (16:10), 26.01.1997
- 5 Kometal GP Skopje MKD @ Györi ETO KC HUN 26:28 (17:12), 11.02.2006
- 5 Cem. la Union-Ribarroja ESP vs Aalborg DH DEN 25:23 (11:16), 13.01.2007
- 5 Zvezda Zvenigorod RUS vs Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 25:24 (10:15), 17.05.2008
- 5 Randers HK DEN @ Hypo Niederösterreich AUT 28:29 (19:14), 08.10.2011
- 5 HC Lokomotiva Zagreb CRO vs IK Sävahof SWE 23:23 (10:15), 09.11.2014

Biggest deficit overcome after losing first half to draw a game

-7

RK Krim Mercator SLO @
Viborg HK DEN
28:28 (16:9), 29.10.2011

- 6 Ferrobuss KU Mislata ESP vs Baekkelagets SK NOR 26:26 (10:16), 21.01.2001
- 6 Gyöi Graboplast ETO HUN vs RK Krim Neutro SLO 21:21 (7:13), 28.01.2001
- 6 Larvik NOR @ Grupo Asfi Itxako Navarra ESP 19:19 (12:6), 25.02.2012
- 5 TV Giessen-Lützellinden GER vs Vasas Budapest HUN 19:19 (7:12), 30.01.1994
- 5 Buducnost Podgorica YUG vs Viborg HK DEN 23:23 (10:15), 09.11.1996
- 5 Buducnost Podgorica YUG @ Dunaferri SE HUN 33:33 (21:16), 18.03.2000
- 5 Buducnost T-Mobile MNE vs Györi AUDI ETO KC HUN 26:26 (9:14), 28.02.2009
- 5* WHC Vardar SCBT MKD vs Buducnost MNE 20:22 (6:11, 16:16), 03.05.2014

* After regular time



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All-time clubs standings

TR	Name of the club	MP	W	D	L	GF:FA	GD	P	NP	%
1	Buducnost MNE	218	125	21	72	5837:5473	+364	271:165	(21)	62,16%
2	Györi Audi ETO KC HUN	172	122	12	38	4829:4221	+608	256:88	(13)	74,42%
3	Hypo Niederösterreich AUT	198	124	5	69	5285:5002	+283	252*:144	(23)	63,64%
4	Larvik NOR	190	113	10	67	5135:4721	+414	236:144	(18)	62,11%
5	RK Krim Mercator SLO	214	106	10	98	5778:5707	+71	222:206	(21)	51,87%
6	Viborg HK DEN	164	87	12	65	4565:4323	+242	186:142	(17)	56,71%
7	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria HUN	132	68	11	53	3604:3477	+127	147:117	(15)	55,68%
8	Oltchim Rm. Valcea ROU	118	62	8	48	3148:3005	+143	132:104	(12)	55,93%
9	CBM Astroc Sagunto ESP	100	52	3	45	2658:2582	+76	107:93	(12)	53,50%
10	HC Podravka Vegeta CRO	124	50	7	67	3124:3262	-138	107:141	(18)	43,15%
11	Kometal Gjorce Petrov MKD	98	47	6	45	2460:2410	+50	100:96	(12)	51,02%
12	FC Midtjylland DEN	96	44	6	46	2470:2476	-6	94:98	(9)	48,96%
13	HC Vardar MKD	62	41	6	15	1803:1574	+229	88:36	(4)	70,97%
14	Dinamo-Sinara RUS	94	38	9	47	2473:2520	-47	85:103	(11)	45,21%
15	Slagelse DT DEN	56	38	2	16	1514:1400	+114	78:34	(5)	69,64%
16	HC Lada RUS	62	33	2	27	1729:1737	-8	68:56	(7)	54,84%
17	Dunaferri NK HUN	52	29	4	19	1395:1285	+110	62:42	(6)	59,62%
18	Metz Handball FRA	80	26	6	48	1979:2084	-105	58:102	(10)	36,25%
19	Thüringer HC GER	62	21	5	36	1582:1667	-85	47:77	(6)	37,90%
20	Zvezda Zvenigorod RUS	46	21	3	22	1294:1297	-3	45:47	(5)	48,91%
21	HC Leipzig GER	72	20	3	49	1792:2025	-233	43:101	(9)	29,86%
22	CSM Bucuresti ROU	32	20	2	10	843:794	+49	42:22	(2)	65,63%
23	MKS Selgros Lublin POL	64	18	5	41	1617:1782	-165	41:87	(10)	32,03%
24	Grupo Asfi Itxako Navarra ESP	34	17	5	12	879:839	+40	39:29	(3)	57,35%
25	Byasen NOR	40	15	3	22	942:1006	-64	33:47	(6)	41,25%
28	Rostov-Don RUS	20	12	1	7	547:499	48	25:15	(2)	62,50%
NR	HC Gomel BLR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%
NR	Nykøbing FH DEN	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%
NR	BM Atletico Guardes ESP	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%
NR	Brest Bretagne FRA	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%
NR	SG BBM Bietigheim GER	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%
NR	Vipers Kristiansand NOR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%
NR	Vistal Gdynia POL	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%
NR	Höör HK H65 SWE	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%
NR	Kastamonu Belediyesi TUR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%

* = Point for Hypo NÖ deducted by official decision
Excluding Qualifying matches

Past winners

2017 Györi Audi ETO KC
HUN



2011 Larvik HK
NOR



2016 CSM Bucuresti
ROU



2010 Viborg A/S
DEN



2015 Buducnost Podgorica
MNE



2009 Viborg A/S
DEN



2014 Györi Audi ETO KC
HUN



2008 Zvezda Zvenigorod
RUS



2013 Györi Audi ETO KC
HUN



2007 Slagelse FH
DEN



2012 Buducnost Podgorica
MNE



2006 Viborg A/S
DEN



2005 Slagelse FH
DEN



1999 Dunafer SE
HUN



2004 Slagelse FH
DEN



1998 Hypo Niederösterreich
AUT



2003 Krim ETA Kotex Ljubljana
SLO



1997 Mar El Osito L'Eliana
Valencia / ESP



2002 Kometa SKopje
MKD



1996 Podravka Koprivnica
CRO



2001 RK Krim Neutro Roberts
SLO



1995 Hypo Niederösterreich
AUT



2000 Hypo Niederösterreich
AUT

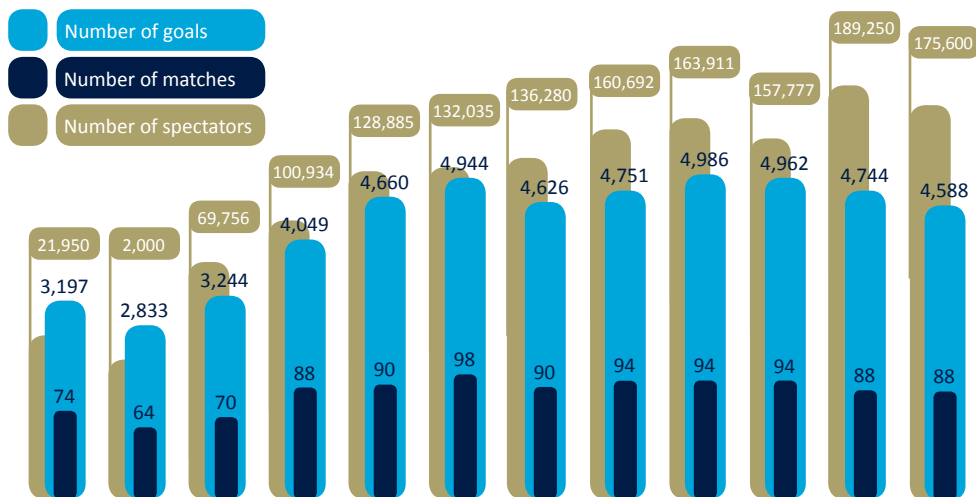


1994 Hypo Niederösterreich
AUT



Timeline

1993 - 2017



1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004

17/11/1991
EHF founded

25/09/1993

first match played: Mar Valencia vs Vikingur Reykjavik 26:16

1993/1994

32 teams on the starting grid of the first season (2 elimination rounds, group phase with 8 teams and the final)

1993

EHF takes over all the club and national team competitions including the former IHF European Champions Cup renaming it to the EHF Champions League

14/05/1994

Ausra Fridrikas raises her first trophy, in the next 11 years she adds five more (in total 4x with Hypo, 2x with Slagelse). Only Bojana Popovic (3x Slagelse, 2x Viborg, 1x Buducnost) has won as many titles.

03/05/1997

Natalia Morskova scores 17 goals in the first final leg (and adds eight more in the second) against Viborg to steer Mar Valencia to the title

1997

first official website launched

1996/1997

format changes – group phase with 16 teams (in 4 groups) followed by quarter-, semi- and final

27/05/2000

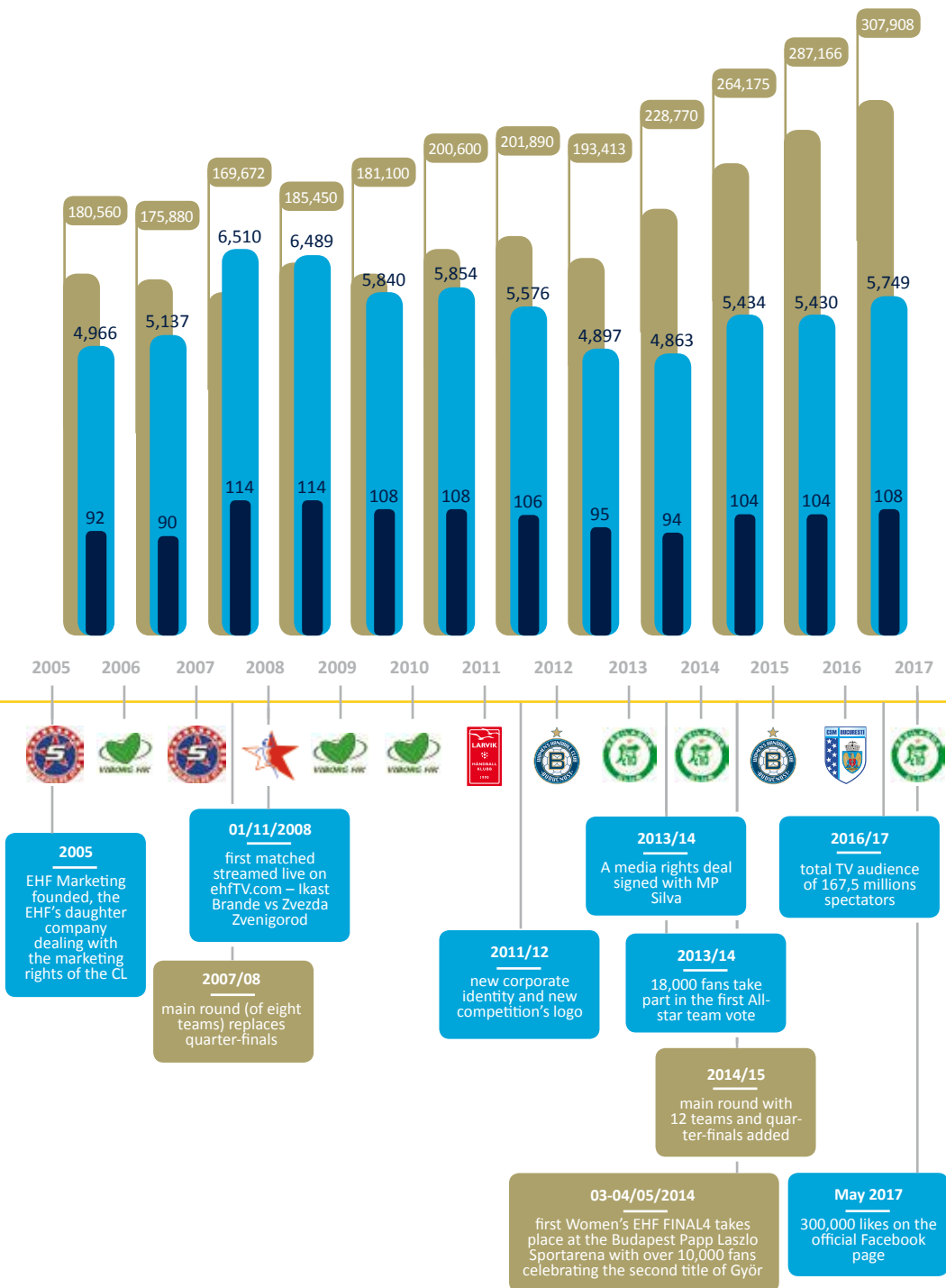
Fridrikas scores 21 goals in the two final legs to lead Hypo past Kometal Skopje to their league record fourth title

17/05/2003

Luminta Dinu (Hut-upan) becomes the first player (and still the only one) who won the trophy for three straight years

marketing, TV, media, organisation

competition and players



History: 24 years of EHF Champions League

1993 - 2005

1993/94

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

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

1994/95

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

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

1995/96

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

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

1996/97

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

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

1997/98

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

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

1998/99

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

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

1999/00

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

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

2000/01

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

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

2001/02

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

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

2002/03

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

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

2003/04

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

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

2004/05

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

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

History: 24 years of EHF Champions League

2005 - 2017

2005/06

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

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

2006/07

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

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

2007/08

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

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

2008/09

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

Viborg HK won the Champions League for the

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

2009/10

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

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

2010/11

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

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

2011/12

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

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

2012/13

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

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

2013/14

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

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

2014/15

Larvik vs Buducnost 22:26 (8:14)

After defending champions Győri Audi ETO KC had been hit by a series of injuries and maternity leaves it became as no major surprise as they were eliminated in the quarter-finals by Vardar. The Macedonian champions had to settle with the third place finish for the second straight time though, after stumbling upon Buducnost once again in the semi-final. In the final showdown of the two previously unbeaten teams in Budapest the Montenegrin side cruised

past Larvik to their second European crown. Andrea Penezic and Cristina Neagu shared the top scorer's title with each scoring 102 goals.

2015/16

CSM Bucuresti vs Győri Audi ETO KC 29:26 after penalty shootout (25:25, 13:12)

The Romanian newcomers were all but impressive before the final rounds of the main round and only a few people would expect they could stand a chance against another Champions League debutants Rostov-Don in the quarter-finals. However the team of Kim Rasmussen not only eliminated the previously unbeaten Russian team after two narrow wins but also ousted Vardar in the semi-final and completely stunned handball Europe by defeating Győri Audi ETO KC despite the fact the Hungarian favourites played with support of a sold-out crowd (12.000) of the Papp Laszlo Arena behind them. Unstoppable Isabelle Gullden netted in 15 goals in the final and Aurelia Bradeanu scored the deciding penalty in the shoot-out for CSM.

2016/17

Győri Audi ETO KC vs HC Vardar 31:30 after extra-time (26:26, 15:12)

The sold-out Papp Laszlo Budapest Sportarena witnessed a very similar and thrilling scenario like the year before as the final went to the extra-time. Vardar, who ousted the defending champions CSM Bucuresti in the semi-final, climbed back from a three-goal deficit, but mainly courtesy of a stellar performance of Anita Görbicz Győr were able to snatch a narrow victory and their third title in five years.

Contributors: Björn Pazen, Zoran Milosavljevic, Peter Bruun, Adrian Costeiu, Nemanja Savic, Bence Martha, Kevin Domas, Sergey Nikolaev, Jelena Bagaric, Amina Idrizi, Michal Pomorski.
All stats by Roy Knoppert.

A vibrant, close-up photograph of a crowd of people, likely at a sports event. In the foreground, two women are cheering with their mouths wide open. The woman on the left has yellow and red flag patterns painted on her cheeks, while the woman on the right has the green, white, and red stripes of the Italian flag. In the background, other people are visible, some with faces painted with various national flags, including the Spanish flag. The overall atmosphere is one of intense excitement and global unity.

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