

ANNUAL REVIEW 2011



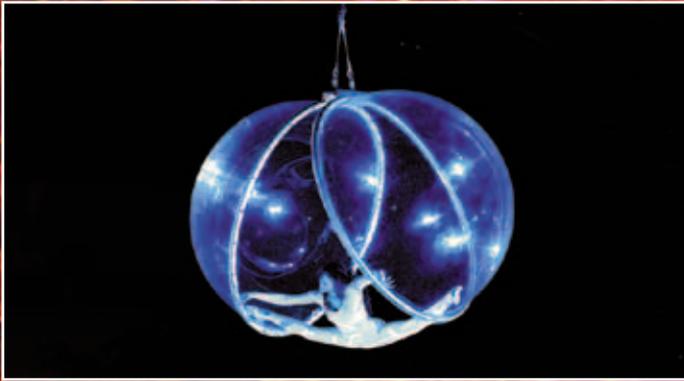
GRASSROOTS HANDBALL
CUP WINNERS' CUP
HANDBALL
EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
GENERAL MANAGEMENT
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
BUSINESS UNIT
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ECA
HANDBALL
WOMEN
FAIR PLAY
OFFICIAL



20th
Anniversary
17 November 2011

HeartBeat HandBall

20th
Anniversary
17 November 2011



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Tor Lian
EHF President*

Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear friends in sport!

Welcome to the 2011 EHF Annual Review. With this colourful document, we invite you to take a look back at the past year in European handball and as the business end draws to a close I can easily say that 2011 has been most eventful for the European Handball Federation.

Once again, in the sporting realm of handball, the European Handball Federation has undergone significant change. The 11th EHF Extraordinary Congress resulted in six motions presented before the representatives of the European National Handball Federations, the execution of elections and decisions made that are expected to have a lasting and positive influence on European handball. More to the event that took place within the framework of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne can be found on page 39.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year was marking 20 years of the EHF. Over the course of two decades, it has been a privilege for me to have been involved from the starting phase and to have served as a member, Vice President and then President of the European Handball Federation.

The HeartBeat HandBall events played a central role in shedding light on the activities of the organisation. With over 500 guests across two days, workshops covering various aspects of the business were opened to both the internal and external handball stakeholders. In all, eight workshops were held; in the area of club competitions, the bond and cooperation between the handball leagues, clubs and the EHF - a cooperative trinity - was discussed. The business unit Legal Management presented Handball and Law – a Working Balance, where the structures within European handball were examined more closely. The Media and Communication team of the EHF presented Media Matters – inciting discussion on creating an attractive product and reaching out to new fans. Workshops were also presented on the topics of Beach Handball where the moderator led a discussion on marketing, televising and sponsoring of the product among other topics.

The EHF EURO workshop took an in-depth look at the EURO as a professional brand and sporting performance. The area of Game Management and officiating from both the technical and practical aspects were examined. The Coaching Licensing workshop dealt with the development of coaching licensing on a national level and other subjects, whilst the Women's Handball workshop tackled the approach to strengthen the game in addition to technical matters.

With communication and the exchange of information at the forefront of HeartBeat HandBall, two administrative conferences were held for the benefit of the National Handball Federations of Europe. Beginning with the 10th Conference of Presidents and followed by the 6th Conference for Secretaries General, the European Handball Federation made numerous presentations and through the vibrant exchanges, as with the 11th EO Congress, the organisation cemented its commitment to open dialogue; the happenings from the Conference of Presidents can be found on page 40.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Following the ratification at the 2010 Congress in Denmark, in 2011 the Professional Handball Board (PHB) came into force as part of the EHF internal structure. As a platform for exchange on the level of professional handball, the PHB brings key handball stakeholders together with the objective of securing the development of the sports' competitive aspects. Please turn to page 66 for a review of the Professional Handball Board. In 2011, the EHF worked hard to establish a network on an international level with federations such as the European Team Sports Association (ETS), institutions, authorities and other competence partners. Due to the open communication channels, we are proud to have achieved results, which are all part of the business of the sport-political life.

The numerous competitions, including the qualifications for national teams, in the repertoire of the European Handball Federation remain the core business of this organisation and the EHF European Cup competitions for men and women's club teams and in particular the VELUX EHF Champions League continues to secure our place on the international stage. The resolve and fortitude of EHF Marketing GmbH certified a spectacular close to the 18th club season with the VELUX FINAL4 in May 2011. The event will return to Cologne in May 2012.

Furthermore, in 2011 the EHF was very proud to present six national team events. It was a great year for Beach Handball as the competition set a precedent by hosting a senior and younger age category European Championship in Croatia. The Czech Republic and the Netherlands hosted very successful editions of the Women's 17 & 19 European Championships. The Men's 19 European Open, as is the tradition, took place in Sweden and the regional tournaments for the 2011 Men's IHF / EHF Challenge Trophy returned to Malta and Ireland. Please find more information on all our competitions starting on page 8.

I am also very pleased to announce that the European Handball Federation has continued to make great advancements in the areas of development and women's handball. In 2011, we commissioned and presented the European Handball Study, unveiled our intention to rebrand the EHF with a new sleek logo to be rolled out in the summer of 2012. New SMART and ISP agreements were signed and more nations joined the RINCK Convention. Moreover, with the Women's Handball Development Programme firmly in place and the engagement of the steering group, we have had the opportunity to closely analyse the status of women's handball and define measures that will continue to carry women's handball forward in 2012.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all of you, globally and individually, for contributing to European handball in 2011. Your valuable inputs and relentless dedication to the sport stands us in good stead, not only in the here and now, but also in the future. Right now, as we stand on the eve of new challenges, we look forward to an exciting 2012 with many highlights.

So let's turn the page...



Tor Lian
EHF President





Infront Sports & Media congratulates the European Handball Federation on its 20th anniversary and wishes good luck and success to the competitors of the 2012 Men's EHF EURO in Serbia

Founded in November 1991, the EHF has - within the last 20 years - evolved into a well-established sports federation that can take great pride in representing one of Europe's most popular summer sports.

In 1993, the EHF chose Infront as its exclusive media and marketing rights partner and since then, the two have worked in close collaboration to continuously develop and enhance the federation's flagship events. Held biannually in January and December, the Men's and Women's EHF EURO are a true showcase for the sport of handball and appeal to sponsors, broadcasters and fans alike.

With cumulative audiences exceeding the 1 billion mark, the EHF EUROs prove to be more popular than ever before. Infront is looking forward to continuing the EHF journey and to delivering more unforgettable handball highlights for many years to come.

Infront — Our experience. Shared passion. Your success.

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EHF EURO 2012 MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP



From 15 – 29 January 2012, the Handball Federation of Serbia will host a senior EHF EURO event for the first time and with a long and successful handball tradition supporting this event, the country itself is craving this particular meeting with a tremendous amount of public interest and ticket sales clearly proving this. The host national team are also optimistic going into the European Championship and in Belgrade; they want to take the crucial step towards the 2012 Olympic Games.

The countdown to EHF EURO 2012 began with an impressive gala with 250 invited guests, fine ambience, magic and music. In the BelExpo centre in Belgrade on 15 June 2011, all the leading figures in European handball were represented. The draw was made with the assistance of four top players: Marko Vujin (Serbia), Igor Vori (Croatia), Uros Zorman (Slovenia) and Christoffer Rambo (Norway). Following the host national team, who directly qualified as well as the defending champion France, 14 teams from the seven qualification groups secured their tickets to Serbia and the draw saw them distributed to the four Preliminary Round groups.

The three best-ranked teams across the four groups will qualify for the Main Round; groups A and B will be in Belgrade whilst Novi Sad is the destination for groups C and D. The Final Weekend will then take place in the Beogradska Arena with a spectator capacity of 20,000 and where for the very first time handball matches will be played. Moreover, the draw event in Belgrade showed just how much effort the Serbian Handball Federation has put into this top handball competition. "It was a perfect event that gave you an appetite for EHF EURO; I am expecting a brilliant Championship" praised EHF President Tor Lian. "I think the Final Tournament Draw guarantees exciting matches already in the Preliminary Round that will have many spectators from across Europe coming to Serbia," said EHF Secretary General Michael Wiederer.

In mid-October seventy percent of all tickets were sold. It was the Cair Hall playing arena in Niš that reported a status of 'Sold-Out'; at the Preliminary Round matches in this location over 2,000 fans from the neighbouring FYR Macedonia are expected. For all the fans that are unable to get tickets, the city has arranged a public viewing on a big screen. In the other cities, all lower category tickets were sold, especially in the Pionir Arena in Belgrade where the host team are playing. Also in Vršac, where many Croatian and Slovenian fans are expected, 80 percent of all tickets were sold very early on - the Slovenian Handball Federation for instance purchased 1,300 tickets! Prior to the start of the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, the Serbian Handball Federation launched an intensive PR campaign under the banner of 'Welcome to the land of handball fantasy' in all event cities and a giant clock marking the Championship-Countdown in addition to over dimensional handballs advertising the event in Niš, Vršac, Novi Sad and Belgrade.

Europe wide, the interest in the 10th edition of the EHF Men's European Handball Championship in Serbia is enormous because in addition to the Championship title, the ultimate goal of the teams is a place in the 2012 Olympic Games Qualification Tournament. Moreover, the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia has had a strong impact on the field of participants for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The new European Champions that will raise the trophy on 29 January in the Beogradska Arena will directly qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games. If reigning World Champions France - who are already qualified for London - win the EHF EURO final, the direct ticket to the 2012 Olympic Games would revert to the team ranked second. Additionally, the three EHF EURO 2012 medallists will also directly qualify for the 2013 IHF Men's World Handball Championship in Spain. For the first time at the EHF EURO 2012, the champions will not qualify directly for the EHF EURO 2014 in Denmark, but instead have to go through the qualification matches. The only nation directly qualified for EHF EURO 2014 are hosts Denmark.



EHF EURO 2012 MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

The Road to the Final Tournament

The qualification for the Men's EHF EURO 2012 began on 31 January 2010 with the draw for Qualification 1. Twelve teams were initially drawn into three groups; following the completion of the first phase, the group winners then joined the second qualification phase. On 12 April 2010, national team and media representatives assembled in the City Hall in Belgrade for the Qualification 2 draw. Twenty-eight teams were drawn into seven groups. Over the course of nine months, the qualification matches were played across 10 rounds beginning in October 2010 concluding in June 2011. The teams ranked first and second secured their place at the 10th edition of the Men's EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia. The results of the Qualification Phase were as follows:



Group 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Hungary	6	6	0	0	41	12
2. FYR Macedonia	6	3	1	2	7	7
3. Estonia	6	2	0	4	-23	4
4. Bosnia Herzegovina	6	0	1	5	-25	1

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Croatia	6	6	0	0	31	12
2. Spain	6	4	0	2	49	8
3. Lithuania	6	2	0	4	-32	4
4. Romania	6	0	0	6	-48	0

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Poland	6	4	1	1	25	9
2. Slovenia	6	4	0	2	15	8
3. Portugal	6	2	1	3	-1	5
4. Ukraine	6	1	0	5	-39	2

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Sweden	6	5	0	1	32	10
2. Slovakia	6	5	0	1	40	10
3. Montenegro	6	1	0	5	-35	2
4. Israel	6	1	0	5	-37	2

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Germany	6	4	1	1	42	9
2. Iceland	6	4	0	2	10	8
3. Austria	6	3	1	2	-5	7
4. Latvia	6	0	0	6	-47	0

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Norway	6	5	0	1	32	10
2. Czech Republic	6	4	0	2	31	8
3. Greece	6	2	1	3	-16	5
4. Netherlands	6	0	1	5	-47	1

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Denmark	6	5	0	1	31	10
2. Russia	6	5	0	1	17	10
3. Belarus	6	2	0	4	-22	4
4. Switzerland	6	0	0	6	-26	0

The line-up of the groups starting in the Preliminary Round of the Final Tournament is as follows:

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
POL	GER	FRA	CRO
DEN	SWE	HUN	NOR
SRB	CZE	ESP	ISL
SVK	MKD	RUS	SLO



EHF EURO 2012 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP



The Netherlands are ready for the 10th edition of the Women's European Handball Championship – EHF EURO 2012. This was proven by the reactions to the Final Tournament Qualification Group Draw event held in the elegant surroundings of Castle Nienoord in Leek and also through the near-perfect organisation of the Women's 19 European Championship in the summer 2011.

The matches of the EHF EURO 2012 are to be played out in the arenas in the cities of Apeldoorn with a spectator capacity of 6,100; Eindhoven, where 4,500 handball fans are expected to fill the arena; the arena in Maastricht has a seating capacity of 5,000. Matches of both the Preliminary and Main Rounds will take place in Rotterdam arena using the 8,000-capacity hall before moving into the larger capacity hall - 12,500 seats - for the Final Weekend.

The motto of the EHF EURO 2012 taking place from 2 to 16 December 2012, is 'Enjoy the Passion'; and the event mascots are the foxes 'Ballo' and 'Handy' who will accompany every match of the Dutch national team.

The only teams to qualify directly for the Final Tournament are the host national team, the Netherlands and the defending champion Norway; the other 14 participants were drawn into seven groups on 27 April in Leek by EHF Secretary General Michael Wiederer as well as two Dutch youth national team players, Myrthe Schoenaker and Antje Angela Malestein.

Altogether six playing days between October 2011 and June 2012 will decide the remaining 14 EHF EURO participants. The top two teams from each of the seven groups will secure their ticket to the Netherlands and mid-to-late June, the Final Tournament Group Phase Draw will take place.

The national teams from Greece and Great Britain qualified for the qualification group matches after winning the Qualification Phase 1. Great Britain defeated Finland in both Play-Off matches (27:20; 31:22) and Greece reached Qualification Phase 2 on aggregate, despite defeat in Israel (23:27), due to their home win (30:25).



EHF EURO 2012 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

The Road to the Final Tournament

With the pre-qualification concluding in June 2011, the national teams of Great Britain and Greece earned the last two places in the Women's EHF EURO 2012 Qualification. The second qualification phase began in October 2011 and will conclude in June 2012. The competition is currently on hiatus, in order to allow national team players to participate in 20th Women's IHF World Handball Championship in Brazil. The current standings (as of 31 December 2011) of the teams are reproduced below. The Qualification for the women's EHF Euro 2012 will resume with rounds 3 & 4 in March 2012.



Group 1

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Germany	2	2	0	0	26	4
2. Hungary	2	2	0	0	25	4
3. Belarus	2	0	0	2	-11	0
4. Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2	-40	0

Group 2

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Romania	2	2	0	0	31	4
2. Serbia	2	2	0	0	27	4
3. Portugal	2	0	0	2	-22	0
4. Greece	2	0	0	2	-36	0

Group 3

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Montenegro	2	2	0	0	20	4
2. Russia	2	2	0	0	19	4
3. Poland	2	0	0	2	-15	0
4. Great Britain	2	0	0	2	-24	0

Group 4

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. France	2	2	0	0	24	4
2. FYR Macedonia	2	1	0	1	1	2
3. Turkey	2	1	0	1	-1	2
4. Lithuania	2	0	0	2	-44	0

Group 5

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Sweden	2	2	0	0	16	4
2. Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	1	2
3. Slovenia	2	1	0	1	-6	2
4. Austria	2	0	0	2	-11	0

Group 6

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Croatia	2	2	0	0	36	4
2. Denmark	2	2	0	0	17	4
3. Slovakia	2	0	0	2	-23	0
4. Italy	2	0	0	2	-30	0

Group 7

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1. Spain	2	2	0	0	14	4
2. Ukraine	2	2	0	0	12	4
3. Iceland	2	0	0	2	-6	0
4. Switzerland	2	0	0	2	-20	0



2011 EUROPEAN BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



From 4 – 9 July 2011, the Croatian coastal town of Umag in Istria was the setting for the 7th Men's and Women's Beach Handball European Championships and thousands of fans celebrated with the host national team who won both titles. Altogether 29 teams (15 men and 14 women) battled it out on the Adriatic beach for points and medals – and in the end, there was a double victory. In the men's competition, the hosts Croatia met the delegation from Russia in the Final and the home team once again, showed themselves to be the best team of the tournament and with Mladen Paradzik, the Croatian named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the competition. Only in the semi-final (2:1 victory against Ukraine) did the Croatians give one set away. However, in the Final it was a clear-cut case in two straight sets, Croatia defeated Russia, even though it seemed close towards the end of the second set when the Russians, who were one man up, failed to capitalise on the chance to even the score. The national team from the Ukraine seemed to have too much energy left in the semi-final but lost the bronze medal match in the penalty shoot-out only just with 1:2 against Spain, who coincidentally lost their semi-final shoot-out against Russia 1:2. Hungary secured fifth place with a 2:1 victory against Norway and with the top scorer of the tournament Hans Lindberg in the squad, Denmark ranked seventh with a clear victory (2:0) against Serbia.

Men's Results & Final Rankings - All results & details of each match can be found on www.eurohandball.com

Quarter-Finals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Croatia v Serbia	2:0	0:0	24:10	21:12
Denmark v Spain	0:2	0:0	20:23	14:21
Russia v Norway	2:0	0:0	20:18	22:14
Ukraine v Hungary	2:1	9:8	14:15	24:23

Semi-Finals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Croatia v Ukraine	2:1	8:6	24:10	12:13
Spain v Russia	1:2	5:6	17:20	23:22

Finals (Places 3/4 & 1/2)

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Ukraine v Spain	1:2	6:8	22:16	22:24
Croatia v Russia	2:0	0:0	19:18	21:16

Final Ranking

1. CRO	2. RUS	3. ESP	4. UKR	5. HUN	6. NOR	7. DEN	8. SRB
9. TUR	10. POL	11. CYP	12. MKD	13. GRE	14. SUI	15. SWE	



2011 EUROPEAN BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Croatian women's national team also ended this high-class Beach Handball championship as the clear winners even though there were many close victories. Moreover, the team presented the female MVP from their ranks in the form of Ivana Lovric. Croatia finished the Main Round behind Denmark, who later became their opponents in the Final – but thanks to the amazing support from their fans in Umag, the host team rose past the knockout phase. In the quarter-finals, there was an easy 2:0 victory against Spain and in the semi-final; Croatia defeated Norway (2009 silver medal winner) with 2:0. The Final match was a battle of nerves: Croatia won the first set against Denmark, and then the team from Northern Europe (current vice-World Champion) hit back and took the second set. Nevertheless, in the shoot-out Croatia had the better aim. Denmark made it through to the semi-final by defeating the delegation from Italy with 2:0, who in turn snatched the bronze medal away from Norway. Hungary won their bid against Spain for fifth place and with a 2:0 victory over Poland, Turkey ranked seventh.



Women's Results & Final Rankings - All results & details of each match can be found on www.eurohandball.com

Quarter-finals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Denmark v Poland	2:0	0:0	15:14	16:14
Turkey v Norway	0:2	0:0	13:15	16:22
Croatia v Spain	2:0	0:0	16:14	14:11
Italy v Hungary	2:1	7:6	19:16	18:19

Semi-finals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Denmark v Italy	2:0	0:0	13:12	12:8
Norway v Croatia	0:2	0:0	10:12	10:14

Finals (Places 3/4 & 1/2)

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Italy v Norway	2:1	7:6	23:10	20:27
Denmark v Croatia	1:2	0:0	22:20	12:20

Final Ranking

1. CRO	2. DEN	3. ITA	4. NOR	5. HUN	6. ESP	7. TUR
8. POL	9. UKR	10. MKD	11. SRB	12. SUI	13. CYP	14. GRE



2011 YAC EUROPEAN BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



In the same Beach Handball location of Umag, Croatia where the curtain was raised on the senior men and women's Championships, the second Beach Handball European Championships in the younger age categories took place from 30 June to 2 July 2011. Eight men's and eight women's national teams competed for the titles on the Adriatic coast.

As with the men and women's senior delegations, the Croatian men's 19 team won the gold medal while the female delegation from Hungary won the W19 title. In the younger age category, the national team from Hungary proved itself as the strongest team of the tournament also in the Final with an easy 2:0 win against Russia. The host teams won precious metal in all four Competitions that played out in Umag. The Croatian W19 team won the bronze medal in a thrilling match against Serbia that ended in a shoot-out. The national delegations from the Ukraine (against Norway) and Turkey (against Switzerland) won the other placement matches.

In the men's category, the Croatian team faced Russia in the final, this would be repeated days later in the senior men's event, just like the senior match, the host team took the gold medal with a sovereign 2:0 performance. The Bronze medal went to the Italian team who surprisingly defeated (2:1) the strong team from Switzerland in the race for third place following a shoot-out.

Men's 19 Results & Final Rankings - All results & details of each match can be found on www.eurohandball.com

Quarter-finals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Switzerland v Turkey	2:1	6:4	17:25	28:17
Norway v Croatia	0:2	0:0	11:17	10:11
Ukraine v Italy	1:2	1:4	15:22	23:12
Hungary v Russia	0:2	0:0	22:23	20:26

Semi-finals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Switzerland v Russia	0:2	0:0	16:19	16:21
Italy v Croatia	0:2	0:0	13:16	14:18

Finals (Places 3/4 & 1/2)

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Switzerland v Italy	1:2	4:7	20:18	17:22
Russia v Croatia	0:2	0:0	18:22	19:25

Final Ranking

1. CRO 2. RUS 3. ITA 4. SUI 5. UKR 6. HUN 7. TUR 8. NOR



2011 YAC EUROPEAN BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women's 19 Results & Final Rankings - All results & details of each match can be found on www.eurohandball.com



Quarter-Finals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Hungary v Switzerland	2:0	0:0	25:5	27:7
Norway v Russia	1:2	4:6	14:17	18:14
Turkey v Serbia	1:2	3:5	17:12	18:23
Croatia v Ukraine	2:1	8:4	14:11	16:21

Semi-Finals

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Hungary v Croatia	2:0	0:0	18:12	19:12
Serbia v Russia	0:2	0:0	9:10	11:14

Finals (Places 3/4 & 1/2)

Teams	Total	Shoot-Out	2 nd Set	1 st Set
Croatia v Serbia	2:1	7:4	13:5	11:18
Hungary v Russia	2:0	0:0	13:10	26:16

Final Ranking

1. HUN 2. RUS 3. CRO 4. SRB 5. UKR 6. NOR 7. TUR 8. SUI



2011 WOMEN'S 17 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP



2011 Women's 17 European Championship in Czech Republic

A penalty in the last minute of the match decided the Final of the Women's 17 European Championship in the Czech Republic: with this punishing throw, Russia secured the gold medal after a genuine thriller against Denmark. With five minutes to go before the final whistle, the youth Olympia winner of 2010 had a three goal lead before the Russians started a mad race to catch up and at the end not only won 24:23 (14: 11), but also took revenge for the razor-thin defeat at final at the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. Already in the Main Round both teams met, also there with 31:26, Russia kept the upper hand.

For the Czech Republic, the Women's 17 European Championship was seen as a dress-rehearsal for the 2012 Youth World Championship. The event was played out in venues in the cities of Brno and Zlin. However, the host team failed to win a medal following their performance in the Preliminary Round and eventually ranked at 12th place. The four semi-finalists – Denmark, Russia, Norway and Hungary – all won their groups and continued their triumphant advancement also in the Main Round. Leading up to the semi-final, Russia and Norway remained unbeaten, but as Russia entered the Final with a 24:22 (14:10) victory over Hungary, Norway fell to Denmark with a strong defeat of 22:29 (11:18). However, the team were consoled with the bronze medal after taking Hungary with a clear 28:16 (12:12). France defeated Sweden to rank 5th and Romania defeated the Netherlands to rank 7th.

In addition to the four semi-finalists and, the host team, Montenegro; France, Sweden and Romania directly qualified for the 2012 Youth World Championship.

Final Ranking

1. RUS	2. DEN	3. NOR	4. HUN	5. FRA	6. SWE	7. ROU	8. NED
9. CRO	10. GER	11. ESP	12. CZE	13. POR	14. AUT	15. POL	16. SVK

2011 WOMEN'S 19 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP



2011 Women's 19 European Championship in the Netherlands

The Women's 19 European Championship was the overture for the Women's EHF EURO 2012, which likewise takes place in the Netherlands. In the five playing venues Rotterdam (Final Weekend), Almelo, Arnhem, Leek and Maastricht, the spectator resonance was tremendous; in addition to the fans, high-quality performances were shown by the teams. Above all the Dutch national delegation that was inspired its public – and who, at the end, won a well-deserved silver medal. However, it was the Danes who eventually became European Champion for the third time.

At the sold-out 'Topsportcentrum' in Rotterdam, Denmark stepped out onto the court to face the host team in the Final to win with 29:27, which was celebrated nevertheless by the fans of Lois Abbingh who was the top scorer of the competition with 65 goals. Netherlands also entered the Final undefeated. In the semi-final the Netherlands showed their class and took the national delegation from Serbia to the wall with a 42:33 (18: 17) victory. The Danes had no problem with taking their semi-final opponent, Austria, down with 29:17 (16:7). Austria redeemed itself with a strong victory over Serbia 34:28 (15:13) taking the bronze medal.

In the Preliminary Round, there were many surprises; three of the semi-finalist nations from the 2009 event, Hungary, Russia and Norway, were out of the competition at the end of the first competition phase. Russia ranked 9th, Norway could only manage to place 12th and Hungary had to settle for 14th place. The two finalists however, as well as host delegation Czech Republic, have directly qualified for the women's 2012 Junior World Championship. The remaining European participant will be determined in April 2012 at Qualification Europe Tournament.

Final Ranking

1. DEN	2. NED	3. AUT	4. SRB	5. SWE	6. ROU	7. CRO	8. ESP
9. RUS	10. FRA	11. GER	12. NOR	13. POL	14. HUN	15. SLO	16. UKR

2011 MEN'S EUROPEAN OPEN

Men's European Open M19 in Sweden

Once again, Sweden hosted the Men's 19 European Open in Gothenburg, it has become somewhat of a tradition to host the European Open parallel to the Partille Cup, the largest youth handball tournament in Europe. Over 5,000 spectators came to watch the Final match at which the 'three-crowns' easily defeated their opponents from the Czech Republic 41:25 (20:16) – Sweden, the true champions of the tournament won all of their matches.



Altogether, 22 national delegations took part and following the matches of the Preliminary Round, with four groups, Sweden won the Main Round I qualifying for the Final. By defeating Norway to rank second behind Sweden, the national delegation from Switzerland unexpectedly made it to the match for third place and won the bronze medal after a surprising victory 31:20 (12:10) over the national delegation from the Netherlands. In a decisive match, the teams from the Czech Republic and the Netherlands managed a draw, but this was enough to get to the Final.

Final Ranking

1. SWE	2. CZE	3. SUI	4. NED	5. NOR	6. POL	7. MNE	8. BEL
9. ISL	10. BLR	11. RUS	12. POR	13. ISR	14. EST	15. AUT	16. QAT - disq.
17. SVK	18. ROU	19. HUN	20. MDA	21. FIN	22. ENG		

2011 EUROPEAN MASTERS HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

European Masters Games in Lignano Sabbiadoro (ITA)

The city of Lignano Sabbiadoro hosted the European Masters Games from 10 – 20 September 2011. At this event, a new record was set with 3591 athletes participating across 20 sport disciplines. In the five age categories, the 32 men's and women's teams from 12 nations took part in the handball competition – the sport with the most participants and the most TV coverage. The Final and numerous other matches with Italian participation were transmitted live via the national sports channel RAI.



In addition to this, the host teams celebrated winning two gold medals: the 'Italia Master Team' won the Men 45+ and the ladies from 'Brixen' won the Women 43+ categories. Two Slovenian teams were victorious in the men's competition: 'Slovan Veterani' won the 35+ event and 'Nebruseni Dragulji' won the gold medal in the 50+ event. Final Ranking can be seen below:

Men +35

1. Slovan Veterani	(SLO)
2. Kolding JF	(DEN)
3. Russia 2	(RUS)
4. Brno SK	(CZE)
5. Slavia Prague	(CZE)
6. Veterans Stupava	(SVK)
7. SK Legion XXI	(UKR)
8. Puerto Sagundo	(ESP)

Men +45

1. Italia Master Team	(ITA)
2. Vienna Masters	(AUT)
3. Kolding JF	(DEN)
4. Slask Polska	(POL)
5. Budapest Old Boys	(HUN)
6. Brno SK	(CZE)
7. Hort SE	(HUN)
8. Roma Handball	(ITA)
9. Szczecin Team	(POL)
10. MAFC Old Boys	(HUN)
11. RTU Riga	(LAT)

Men +50

1. Nebruseni Dragulji	(SLO)
2. Budapest Old Boys	(HUN)
3. MHK Martin	(SVK)
4. Salineboys Bochina	(POL)
5. Zaporozhye	(UKR)
6. Roma Trionfale	(ITA)

Women +33

1. Angyalok Budapest	(HUN)
2. Fredriksberg	(DEN)

Women +43

1. Brixen	(ITA)
2. Angyalok Budapest	(HUN)
3. Victoria	(HUN)
4. ETO XXL	(HUN)
5. Roma Trionfale	(ITA)

2011 IHF/EHF MEN'S CHALLENGE TROPHY



2011 IHF / EHF Men's Challenge Trophy

The group stage of the 7th edition of the IHF / EHF Men's Challenge Trophy took place from 4-6 November 2011. Four national teams met in Ireland and four others met in Malta to play out the regional tournaments of the event jointly organised by the International and European Handball Federations. Group A's tournament was played at the University of Limerick Arena in Limerick, Ireland and group B's tournament was played at the Tal-Qroqq University Sports Hall in the town of Msida, Malta, on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea. The national handball associations of Malta and Ireland proved themselves once again as worthy hosts with Ireland hosting the event for the second time and Malta welcoming the national teams for the third time. Furthermore, both regional events were used for the transfer of know-how and exchanges regarding handball refereeing and coaching with focus on development and professionalism at the seminars that were held on the fringes of the matches.

Final Ranking – Malta

1. MDA 2. AZE 3. SCO 4. MLT

Final Ranking – Ireland

1. FAR 2. GEO 3. ENG 4. IRL

The ultimate winner of the regional Challenge Trophy for men will be decided in Serbia in 2012 as the group victory takes the national delegations of the Moldova and the Faroe Islands to the Pionir Arena, Belgrade on Saturday 21 January 2012 within the framework of the EHF EURO 2012.

11th EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

11th European Youth Olympic Festival – EYOF (EOC Event)

The 11th European Youth Olympic Festival was held in Trabzon, Turkey from the 24 – 29 July 2011. The handball competition began on 25 July and concluded on 29 July. In cooperation with the European Olympic Committees, the popular youth sports festival showcased nine sport disciplines including handball. Eight boys and eight girls youth teams born in 1994 or 1995 participated in the event. This event was invaluable for the younger generations who managed to gain valuable experience on an international level.

Final Ranking:

Boys	1. DEN	2. GER	3. SRB	4. FRA	5. ESP	6. CRO	7. TUR	8. SUI
Girls	1. RUS	2. SWE	3. DEN	4. NED	5. POL	6. NOR	7. TUR	8. AUT

IHF COMPETITIONS

XXII IHF Men's World Handball Championship in Sweden

In January 2011, the French national team rewrote handball history: by winning the tough Final in Malmö against Denmark. The team of Coach Claude Onesta contested and defended the Men's World Championship title for the first time since 1974 (Romania). Until that moment the team had to give their all in the most exciting World Championship Final in decades to hold back the strong Danes following extra-time to win by 37:35 (31:31; 15:12). Thanks to goalkeeper Niklas Landin and the top scorer of the World Championship, Mikkel Hansen; the Danes contested the final against France in which both teams entered as the two undefeated teams of the Championship. By winning the title, France directly qualified for the Olympic Games and the 2013 World Championship. Spain won the bronze medal after a hard contested match for third place against host Sweden. The first 11 places in Sweden went to European nations, the national team from Argentina was the only non-European delegation to advance to the Main Round and eventually ranked 12th.



1. FRA	2. DEN	3. ESP	4. SWE	5. CRO	6. ISL	7. HUN	8. POL
9. NOR	10. SRB	11. GER	12. ARG	13. KOR	14. EGY	15. ALG	16. JPN
17. SVK	18. AUT	19. ROU	20. TUN	21. BRA	22. CHI	23. BRN	24. AUS

XX IHF Women's World Handball Championship in Brazil

The event took place in Brazil from 2 – 18 December 2011 and the 24 national teams from five continents played out the matches with surprisingly mixed results for the 12 European teams in attendance. The 20th edition of the Women's World Handball Championship ended on 18 December. For Norway, it was an unforgettable day as they won the title in the gold medal match against France who ran out of steam at the final hurdle, leaving Norway to take the victory with 32:24 in Sao Paulo. The Norwegian victory in Brazil makes them only the second women's team ever (after Denmark 1996/97) to be World Champion, European Champion and Olympics Champion at the same time. However, for France it was the second consecutive defeat in a World Championship final after 2009, when they had lost against Russia. Having held the title since 2005, the Russian national team had to relinquish any hopes they had for a medal following the crushing defeat they suffered at the hands of host team Brazil. Silvia Navarro was the hero of the Spanish national team after playing a key role in the victory over Denmark that led to the first ever medal for the team at a World Championship. After ranking fourth at the EHF EURO 2010, Denmark missed a medal by the narrowest of margins once again.



1. NOR	2. FRA	3. ESP	4. DEN	5. BRA	6. RUS	7. CRO	8. ANG
9. SWE	10. MNE	11. KOR	12. ISL	13. ROU	14. JPN	15. NED	16. CIV
17. GER	18. TUN	19. KAZ	20. URU	21. CHN	22. CUB	23. ARG	24. AUS



IHF COMPETITIONS



IV Men's Youth World Championship in Argentina

At the fourth edition of the Men's Youth World Championship held in Argentina and reminiscent of the senior men's event in January, the national delegations from Denmark, Spain, Sweden and France made it to the semi-finals. In Mar de Plata it was clear to see the sporting development made by the teams in this classification. The competition showed how the new generation of players in this age group (born 1992 or younger) are approaching the speed and determination of the senior male players. Nevertheless, European dominance at this event regressed somewhat, although only European teams made it to the semi-finals, the Egyptian national team ranked 5th and the host nation Argentina ranked 10th. In the end, Denmark won the difficult final against Spain after regaining their motivation in the second half. At the half-time point, the Iberians were leading 17:13. Coming back in the second half, the Danes changed their defence strategy and Spain only managed to score five goals as Denmark took control of the match which ended 22:24, leaving Spain to walk away with the silver medal. Sweden secured the bronze medal with a 28:24 victory over France.

1. DEN	2. ESP	3. SWE	4. FRA	5. EGY	6. SUI	7. GER	8. CRO
9. SLO	10. ARG	11. KOR	12. BRA	13. RUS	14. SRB	15. QAT	16. CHI
17. BRN	18. TUN	19. GAB	20. NZL				



XVIII Men's Junior World Championship in Greece

In Thessaloniki, Germany successfully defended their Junior World Championship title won by an earlier delegation in 2009. In a seemingly one-sided Final, the team of Coach Martin Heuberger easily kept the Danish national team at bay with a 27:18 (13:10) victory. With renewed energy in the second half, the Danes managed for a short while to close the gap. Regardless, the dogged determination of the Germany team ensured their win. In Greece, the competition took a surprising turn, for the first time in the history of the competition; two non-European teams reached the semi-final. Tunisia lost out to Denmark (35:21) and the Olympic youth champion Egypt fell to Germany in a very close match (25:24). Tunisia eventually walked away with the bronze medal. Nevertheless, there were still 10 European teams in the Last 16 and six reached the quarter-finals. However, in the all-star team, European players were strongly represented with two Germans, two Danes, a Russian and Swede as well as a Tunisian; the most valuable player of the tournament was Christian Dissinger from Germany.

1. GER	2. DEN	3. TUN	4. EGY	5. ESP	6. FRA	7. SWE	8. SLO
9. POR	10. NOR	11. BRA	12. IRI	13. RUS	14. ALG	15. QAT	16. GRE
17. HUN	18. SRB	19. KOR	20. ARG	21. CHI	22. CAN	23. BEN	24. VEN



2010/11 VELUX EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



The participants in the Group Phase of the VELUX EHF Champions League season 2010/11 spanned from A to Z - Aalborg to Zagreb. There were 24 teams from 15 nations who completed 144 matches until the four best teams made it to the last station in Cologne and the VELUX EHF FINAL4. In addition to the traditional Champions League participants such as RK Zagreb (Croatia - 18 participations), RK Celje (Slovenia - 17) or MKB Veszprem (Hungary - 16), there were also three debutants that started in the Group Phase: the Danish masters Aab Aalborg, the Belarusian title holders Dinamo Minsk as well as the Russian vice-champion HC St. Petersburg - however none of these teams made it through to the Last 16. As the last teams to enter the competition, Dinamo Minsk and the Slovakian champions Tatran Presov qualified after winning the qualification tournaments; Rhein-Neckar Löwen from Germany as winners of the Wildcard Tournament also qualified for the Group Phase. The successful playing system with Group Phase (120 matches, in each case five home and away games for each team), the Last 16, Quarter-Final and the VELUX EHF FINAL4 remained unchanged.

The matches of the teams who would later become the Last 16 were very close, special focus was given to Group A, referred to as the 'Group of Death', comprised of defending champion THW Kiel, record holder FC Barcelona, Rhein-Neckar Löwen, Chambéry Savoie, RK Celje and Vive Targi Kielce. Also in Group B three top clubs, MAHB Montpellier who later won the group, MKB Veszprém and HSV Hamburg, faced off against each other. In addition to this trio KIF Kolding also made it to the Last 16. In Group C, the top three were decided early on with Chekhovskie Medvedi (Russia), Cuatro Rayas Valladolid (Spain) and Pick Szeged (Hungary) promptly assigned to these spots, at the end of the Group Phase, it was Kadetten Schaffhausen who beat the team from Minsk to the fourth place in the group. The most successful team in this phase of the competition secured victory in Group D: Renovia Ciudad Real took 17 out of a possible 20 points, suffering only one defeat at the hands of SG Flensburg-Handewitt who ranked second in the group, and a draw against RK Zagreb. The fourth Last 16 participant to come out of this group was HC Bosna Sarajevo.

In the first knock-out round, just as in the previous season, MKB Veszprém were taken out of the competition by FC Barcelona Borges; however, there was only one surprise: Kadetten Schaffhausen sensationally defeated MAHB Montpellier 31:26 at home, but lost in France 27:35. Besides the favourites, THW Kiel, SG Flensburg-Handewitt, HSV Hamburg and Rhein-Neckar Löwen, Chekhovskie Medvedi and BM Ciudad Real made it to the last eight teams and the Quarter-Final was the last stage before four teams met in Cologne.

Winning both Quarter-Final matches, FC Barcelona Borges took the defending champions out of the race for the FINAL4. On home ground in the Palau Blaugrana, Barcelona took the win 27:25 and at the return match, as the Catalans entered the 'Lion's den', FC Barcelona defeated THW Kiel with 36:33. Following clear first leg victories, HSV Hamburg (38:24 against Chekhovskie Medvedi) and Renovia Ciudad Real (38:24 against Flensburg) were the clear favourites to enter the VELUX EHF FINAL4 even before the return legs. MAHB Montpellier versus Rhein-Neckar Löwen was the Quarter-Final pairing that caused the greatest excitement, the French team won the first leg in Mannheim 29:27 and leading up to the half-time break, Montpellier were leading 17:15 in front of an amazing domestic crowd.

Unexpectedly, Rhein-Neckar Löwen turned the match around to their favour and won the match in Montpellier 35:26. For the second consecutive occasion the French national champions narrowly missed the VELUX EHF FINAL4.



2010/11 VELUX EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Last 16

SUI Kadetten Schaffhausen 31:26, 27:35 (58:61)	DEN KIF Kolding 29:36, 24:36 (53:72)
FRA Montpellier Agglomération HB	GER THW Kiel
FRA Chambéry Savoie HB 24:27, 19:36 (43:63)	BIH HC Bosna BH Gas 22:31, 17:30 (39:61)
ESP Renovalia Ciudad Real	RUS Chekhovskie Medvedi
HUN Pick Szeged 26:27, 20:33 (46:60)	ESP F.C. Barcelona Borges 28:21, 26:30 (54:51)
GER SG Flensburg-Handewitt	HUN MKB Veszprém KC
CRO HC Croatia Osiguranje ZAGREB 28:31, 27:27 (55:58)	GER HSV Hamburg 28:22, 35:33 (63:55)
GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen	ESP Cuatro Rayas BM Valladolid



Quarter-Finals

GER SG Flensburg-Handewitt 24:38, 22:21 (46:59)	ESP F.C. Barcelona Borges 27:25, 36:33 (63:58)
ESP Renovalia Ciudad Real	GER THW Kiel
GER HSV Hamburg 38:24, 37:37 (75:61)	GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen 27:29, 35:26 (62:55)
RUS Chekhovskie Medvedi	FRA Montpellier Agglomération HB

FINAL4 Semi-Finals

GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen 28:30	ESP Renovalia Ciudad Real 28:23
ESP F.C. Barcelona Borges	GER HSV Hamburg

FINAL4 placement

GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen 31:33
GER HSV Hamburg

FINAL4

ESP F.C. Barcelona Borges 27:24
ESP Renovalia Ciudad Real

Men's 10/11 Champion

F.C. Barcelona Borges

VELUX EHF FINAL4



The second edition of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 took place in Cologne, Germany over the weekend of 27/28 May 2011. In an all-Spanish Final, FC Barcelona secured their seventh Champions League title in spectacular fashion in front of nearly 20,000 handball fans at the LANXESS arena.

It was an event of superlatives - with an absolutely deserved winner: less than 24 hours after their footballing counterparts won the UEFA Champions League; FC Barcelona Borges tasted victory at the VELUX EHF FINAL4. The 19,750 spectators in the (sold-out) LANXESS Arena in Cologne rose from their seats as EHF President Tor Lian presented the Hungarian captain of FC Barcelona Borges, Laszlo Nagy, the winner's trophy in a shower of confetti.

Each pair of teams from the two strongest leagues in the world (Germany and Spain) had qualified for the biggest club handball event in the world, which was broadcast live on television in over 130 countries. More than 400 journalists - written press, radio and television - were accredited and after a total of 166 Champions League games of the 2010/11 season, some would say that the winner was already determined.

For FC Barcelona Borges, who defeated Rhein-Neckar Löwen 30:28 in the semi-finals, the Champions League Trophy that was redesigned by the Austrian metal artists Gahr was new. However, the feeling of winning the 'European Elite Class' is something that FC Barcelona has grown accustomed to. Following the successes of the 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2005, the Catalans celebrated their seventh triumph after the 27:24 deserved final victory over Spanish rivals from Ciudad Real; Coach Pascual said "It was a historic success - and it was a tough final".



VELUX EHF FINAL4

For the team of former world handball player of the year Talant Dujšebaev it was the second final defeat in 11 days after the final of the IHF Super Globe in Doha as Ciudad Real lost against THW Kiel. "We are very sad, but I must pay my team a huge compliment, for how they fought" said Dujšebaev after the match. In the semi-final Ciudad Real easily pulled ahead of the German champions HSV Hamburg 28:23 paving the way for the fifth all-Spanish final in the history of the Champions League. Prior to the Final it was clear that since the introduction of the Champions League, a Spanish team would be taking the title for the 13th time.

The reason that FC Barcelona took their seventh title instead of Ciudad Real winning what would have been their fourth title lay in the hands of a specific player: Danijel Saric. The Bosnian goalkeeper of FC Barcelona not only successfully defended a sheer number of 26 goal attempts, but before the break scored a goal with a lob to bring the score to 12:10. Even at half-time with the score at 14:10 in favour of FC Barcelona, the team continued to dominate and 10 minutes before the end everything was decided at 26:19. As the final whistle sounded the team stormed over to Saric, who had the match of his life.

Over the moon, he said: "It's a great day for the team, for myself and for the entire club. The lost final last year was a fluke.

This year we have won, but you need luck, hard work and self-confidence"

In the battle for third place with 33:31 HSV Hamburg edged just one step ahead of Rhein-Neckar Löwen.



VELUX EHF FINAL4 Facts and figures

New record: FC Barcelona wins the EHF Champions League for the seventh time 1996, 1997, 1998 1999, 2000, 2005 & 2011

Ciudad Real remain the second most successful team in the history of the EHF Champions League with three titles 2006, 2008 and 2009

THW Kiel have won twice 2007 & 2010



2010/11 EHF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



The confetti rain seemed endless and the Norwegians clearly enjoyed it. Standing up on top of the podium to receive a trophy and to spray champagne, this was a feeling that they all knew very well. Nevertheless, it was still a first: this time it was not the national team winning a title - world champion, five-time European champion and 2008 Olympic champion - but a club, even if the line-up was almost identical to the national team roster. For the first time in the history of women's handball, the season's Champions League winner came from Norway. But getting to the point where the players from Larvik HK could lift the trophy in Pamplona was not easy.

Already in the first leg against the Spanish surprise team Itxako Estrella it had certainly been no picnic for Gro Hammerseng & Co. and the 23:21 was not a cushion on which the team could take for granted. Cheered on by 4,000 frenzied fans, Itxako had nothing to lose and even won the return match 25:24 – nevertheless, all for the sake of one missed goal, the Spanish team missed out on the title which could have been the greatest achievement in the history of the club. The duel ended 47:46 in favour of the Norwegians.

In Heidi Löke, Larvik had a secret weapon - the top scorer of the Women's EHF Champions League season 2010/2011 who scored a total of 99 goals. At the end of the season, Löke said goodbye to Larvik and signed to the top club Hungarian Györi AUDI ETO KC. Other heavy hitters in the league were Löke's new teammate Anita Görbicz with 89 goals and Katarina Bulatovic from Buducnost Podgorica with 85 goals.

Season 2010/2011 saw Györi AUDI ETO KC reach the semi-finals of the Women's EHF Champions League for the fifth consecutive time, but having reached the final in 2009, the teams missed the opportunity to go further in the 2010/11 season. After the 26:21 first leg win on home soil for Itxako, a draw (24:24) in Hungary was enough to get Itxako to the final for the very first time. Larvik HK won both semi-final legs against Buducnost Podgorica (27:24, 25:20).

Overall, the competition managed to provide a few surprises: in the Main Round Itxako proved themselves to be strong opponents and finished the group in second place behind Buducnost (MNE) with goal difference being the deciding factor. C.S. 'Oltchim' Rm. Valcea, who had to deal with having three different coaches in one season (Peter Kovasz, Anja Andersen, Radu Voina) failed to reach the semi-finals after ranking fourth in their group. In the second Main Round group round Györi AUDI ETO KC was the only team to beat Larvik, but they lost the return match at home, but due to the better goal difference, the Hungarians were group winners.

The most surprising finding of the Group Matches at the start of the competition was the departure of two Danish teams. As defending champion Viborg HK was very confident, but after surprise defeats in Podgorica and Volgograd, their Women's Champions League ambitions were extinguished.

In Group C, Randers HK finished last. Zvezda Zvenigorod, the 2009 Women's CL winner from Russia, also did not fare much better ranking third in Group D.



2010/11 EHF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



MAIN ROUND – GROUP 1		won	draw	lost	goal difference	points	
1	MNE Buducnost	4	0	2	180:160	20	8
2	ESP Itxako Reyno De Navarra	4	0	2	155:157	-2	8
3	SLO RK Krim Mercator	2	0	4	183:184	-1	4
4	ROU C.S. 'Oltchim' Rm. Valcea	2	0	4	150:167	-17	4

MAIN ROUND – GROUP 2		won	draw	lost	goal difference	points	
1	HUN Györi AUDI ETO KC	5	0	1	159:131	28	10
2	NOR Larvik	5	0	1	168:129	-39	10
3	RUS Dinamo	2	0	4	141:180	-39	4
4	GER HC Leipzig	0	0	6	132:160	-28	0

Women's Semi-Finals

NOR Larvik

25:20, 27:24 (52:44)

MNE Buducnost

ESP Itxako Reyno De Navarra

26:21, 24:24 (50:45)

HUN Györi AUDI ETO KC

Women's Final

NOR Larvik

23:21, 24:25 (47:46)

ESP Itxako Reyno De Navarra

Women's 10/11 Champion

Larvik



EHF EUROPEAN CUP THE FIGURES



In May, with the finals in all four competitions for men and women, the 18th European Cup season of the European Handball Federation was completed. At the start of the 2010/2011 season across the eight competitions 267 teams from 42 nations began their campaigns for supremacy. At the end of the season, the winners came from seven countries, as two German club teams walked away with trophies.

Men's 2010/11 Season

In the men's competitions, the number of listed teams in all competitions was 150, with a total of 41 Member Federations registering their teams.

Facts & Figures

In comparison to the previous year, the total number of games dropped slightly from 430 to 416 in all competitions, but the total number of viewers rose significantly from 930,600 in 2009/10 to 954,768. The VELUX EHF Champions League with 166 matches played, including the FINAL4 in Cologne, saw 672,418 alone visitors to the arenas - which meant an average attendance of 4,050 fans per game. The matches of the EHF Cup saw 147,400 fans show up, 74,850 spectators saw the matches of the Cup Winners' Cup and 60,100 visitors filled the halls for the matches of the Challenge Cup. The number of goals scored fell from 23,193 to 22,710 with an average of 53.3 goals per game compared to 53.9 in 2009/10.

Men 2010/11:

VELUX EHF Champions League:	33 teams from 22 different nations
EHF Cup:	46 teams from 34 different nations
Challenge Cup:	39 teams from 23 different nations
Cup Winners' Cup:	32 teams from 31 different nations

Women's 2010/11 Season

117 clubs from 37 nations - four fewer than in the 2009/10 season - registered for the women's European Cup competitions and the winners were - in contrast to recent seasons - from four different countries: Norway, Denmark, Hungary and France.

Facts & Figures:

Over 386,850 fans watched 319 matches in four competitions over the course of the 2010/11 season in playing halls all over Europe with the big crowd puller the Women's EHF Champions League. The 108 matches of the 'elite class' were attended by over 200,000 fans, equating to over 1,800 visitors per game. Those visitors were entertained by 16,753 goals, meaning an average of 52.5 goals per game compared.

Women 2010/11:

EHF Champions League:	30 teams from 25 different nations
EHF Cup:	36 teams from 27 different nations
Challenge Cup:	22 teams from 15 different nations
Cup Winners' Cup:	29 teams from 29 different nations



2010/11 EHF CUP

Men's EHF Cup

49 years after their last European Cup triumph - winning the national championship competition in 1962 - Frisch Auf Göppingen managed to snap up another international trophy. With two victories in the all-German Final duel against TV Großwallstadt, Frisch Auf Göppingen secured the victory in the EHF Cup, five years after they failed to defeat TBV Lemgo in the final of 2006. It was the 13th German success since the introduction of the EHF Cup competition in 1993 - and since 2004, the winner has come from the German Bundesliga. After the close first leg success on home turf, Frisch Auf Göppingen placed heavy emphasis on the return game which finished 25:19 leaving them celebrating their win. German international Christian Schöne said "this was a historic day for our club."



Men's Semi-Finals

GER TBV Lemgo	GER Frisch Auf Göppingen
24:26, 25:30 (49:56)	32:23, 30:26 (61:55)
GER TV Grosswallstadt	ESP Naturhouse La Rioja

Men's Final

GER Frisch Auf Göppingen
23:21, 28:30 (53:47)
GER TV Grosswallstadt

Men's 10/11 Champion

Frisch Auf Göppingen

Women's EHF Cup

Also in the women's competition, both finalists came from the same league – but in the end it was FC Midtjylland that were celebrating. Under their previous identity of Ikast Bording, the team also won the EHF Cup in 2002 and 2007. The final to decide the 2010/11 season was significantly closer than the men's event, for in the return leg Midtjylland were shaking with trepidation as success was uncertain for a while. The basis for the third victory in the EHF Cup was the strong performance in the first leg (28:21) in front of 2500 spectators mainly due to the national team player Trine Troelsen. In the second leg it was goalkeeper Sabine Englert that secured the title. Just two weeks later after their big win, FC Midtjylland capped off the most successful season in the history of the club by winning the Danish championship in the final against Randers IK.

Women's Semi-Finals

DEN FC Midtjylland Handball	RUS Lada
27:19; 25:29 (52:48)	32:26; 19:26 (51:52)
GER VfL Oldenburg	DEN Team Tvis Holstebro

Women's Final

DEN Team Tvis Holstebro
26:24; 21:28 (47:52)
DEN FC Midtjylland Handball

Women's 10/11 Champion

FC Midtjylland Handball



2010/11 CHALLENGE CUP



Men's Challenge Cup

For the first time since 2004, when RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko won the EHF Champions League, another team from Slovenia has won an EHF European Cup title. After playing to a draw in Lisbon in the first leg of the match up, RK Cimos Koper did not let anything slip on home ground and perfection came in triplicate; firstly, the team from the Adriatic coast already became Slovenian champions, then cup winners. RK Cimos Koper thwarted the attempt of the Portuguese team to defend the Challenge Cup title that Sporting Lisbon won in 2010. Outstanding player in both matches was Koper's goalkeeper Vran and the ten goals from Benfica's top scorer Carniero were of no use. Benfica managed to close the gap in the second leg of the final from 15:21 to 26:28 for a while, but with his goals, Milorad Krivokapic brought the game to its conclusion in favour of the Slovenian club team.

Men's Semi-Finals

SLO **RK Cimos Koper**

34:27; 25:30 (59:57)

ROU **Stiinta Mun. Dedeman Bacau**

SRB **Partizan Dunav Osiguranje**

36:30; 25:33 (61:63)

POR **S.L. Benfica**

Men's Final

POR **S.L. Benfica**

27:27; 27:31 (54:58)

SLO **RK Cimos Koper**

Men's 10/11 Champion

RK Cimos Koper

Women's Challenge Cup

With two successes, the team of Mios Biganos from the Gironde region of France secured its first European Cup victory. 2,500 fans cheered their team in the final leg to a clear 31:26 victory, which was the foundation for the later triumph. However, the surprise team of Turkish Muratpasa Belediyesi defended well and kept the French team at bay for as long as they could and was even in the lead before half-time. Nevertheless, with the five-goal cushion from the first match and thanks to the outstanding French national team Paule Baudoin (best scorer in both finals), Mios Biganos took the win. The coach was pleased about the victory: "this success is extraordinary for the club, it's a great reward for everyone involved."

Women's Semi-Finals

NED **HandbalAcademie**

32:33; 35:42 (67:75)

TUR **Muratpasa Belediyesi SK**

FRA **Mios Biganos**

27:28; 34:27 (61:55)

FRA **Handball Cercle Nimes**

Women's Final

FRA **Mios Biganos**

31:26; 30:29 (61:55)

TUR **Muratpasa Belediyesi SK**

Women's 10/11 Champion

Mios Biganos



2010/11 CUP WINNERS' CUP

Men's Cup Winners' Cup

It was one of the most dramatic European Cup finals in recent years, as the title defense of VfL Gummersbach was hanging by a thread until the final whistle. On the 150th Anniversary of the club, the Germans were ready for the perfect European Cup treble, after winning the 2009 EHF Cup Winners' Cup and the 2010 contest. But until the 50th minute their opponents, the French team from Tremblay looked to be the sure winner in the Cologne LANXESS arena. Following defeat (28:30) in the first leg at home, the French team came back with a stronger defence and at half-time, they were leading 15:10 and built on that advantage until the 48th minute when the score was at 23:16. Then the 11,000 Gummersbach spectators put pressure on the France as they rallied behind their team, who responded by scoring seven consecutive goals to equalise and eventually took the lead in the 56th minute and before the last of the goals were scored, 90 second before the final whistle, Gummersbach knew that victory as well as the third European Cup title was theirs.



Men's Semi-Finals

ESP	Amaya Sport San Antonio 27:23, 21:25 (48:48)	GER	VfL Gummersbach 33:21, 38:29 (71:50)
FRA	Tremblay en France	MKD	HC Vardar PRO Skopje

Men's Final

FRA	Tremblay en France 28:30, 26:26 (54:56)
GER	VfL Gummersbach

Men's 10/11 Champion

VfL Gummersbach

Women's Cup Winners' Cup

The Hungarians from Budapest celebrated their second success in the Cup Winners' Cup competition in the club's history following their first win back in 1978. After FTC had previously eliminated top teams such as the current Danish Champions League winners Viborg HK and the top French teams Toulon and Metz in the round, the team coached by Gábor Elek laid the foundations for the EC victory in the first leg. Despite 14 goals from the outstanding Spaniard Isabel Ortuno, in front of 2,500 spectators, FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria went into the second leg with the advantage of being five goals up. Thanks to a strong defensive performance in Alicante it was enough for the Hungarian women, thanks to their best player Zita Szucsánszki, to end the match with a draw to take the triumph and the trophy.

Women's Semi-Finals

FRA	Metz Handball 27:31; 29:27 (56:58)	SWE	Lugi 24:22; 22:28 (46:50)
HUN	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria	ESP	C.B. Mar Alicante

Women's Final

HUN	FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria 34:29; 23:23 (57:52)
ESP	C.B. Mar Alicante

Women's 10/11 Champion

FTC-Rail Cargo Hungaria



2011 EUROPEAN BEACH TOUR



The eighth season of the European Beach Tour (EBT) began on 1 October 2010 and concluded on 30 September 2011. The Beach Handball equivalent to the indoor European Cup season saw 107 teams from 18 countries participate with 67 teams in the men's competition and 40 teams in the women's event. A total of 41 tournaments were played in 12 host countries.

Always played in the spirit of Fair Play the teams earned points not only for performance during the season but also for organising tournaments across the beaches of Europe. All teams starting out on their EBT campaign have one objective and that is to qualify for the European Beach Tour Finals.

The 2012 European Beach Tour Finals, wrapping up the eighth EBT season, will take place from 2 – 3 June 2012. With season 2011/12 already under way, all details about the European Beach Tour events including the all-important ranking and results can be found at www.eurohandball-beachtour.com

2010 EUROPEAN BEACH TOUR FINALS

The 2010 European Beach Handball Tour (EBT) Finals took place on the weekend 4 – 5 June 2011. This event finalised the seventh season (2009/10) of the European Beach Tour. The setting for this 'battle royal' was the scenic Spanish coastal town of Fuengirola near Malaga.

The highlight of the Beach Handball club season lived up to expectations as it was an action-packed weekend. In all 16 Beach Handball club teams competed in the Final Tournament of the men's and women's competitions consisting of eight participating teams each from across Europe, who qualified through their EBT performances from the previous last season. The eight teams in each competition were split into two groups of four, with the top two teams in each group moving straight through to a semi-final and then to the final.

In a stunning double for Croatia, the male team of Detono Zagreb retained their 2010 title, beating Panaitolikos from Greece, whilst the females defeated AWF Wrozlav from Poland to take the title from holders Playadettes & Playacanteras, champions in 2010.

Final Ranking – 2011 European Beach Tour Finals in Fungierola, Spain

MEN

Detono Zagreb (CRO) v Panaitolikos (GRE) 2:0

1. Detono Zagreb (CRO)
2. Panaitolikos (GRE)
3. BHC SKKM EKATERINODAR (RUS)

WOMEN

Detono Zagreb (CRO) v AWF Wrozlav (POL) 2:0

1. Detono Zagreb (CRO)
2. AWF Wrozlav (POL)
3. OVB Beach Girls (HUN)

Men's 18 and Women's 18 Beach Handball European Championships

The third edition of the younger age category event in Beach Handball will take place in Batumi, Georgia from 6 - 8 July 2012 on the beautiful Black Sea coast. Signing the agreement of cooperation on the occasion of the EHF 20th anniversary, Secretary General Zurab Kakabadze of the Georgian Handball Federation said: "We are very happy and proud to host this event. Beach Handball is just beginning to get established in our country and we hope that it will become a big sport."



2011 DRAW HIGHLIGHTS

Draw events provide some of the most tense and exciting off-court moments both for those attending the events and for the thousands following the proceedings around the world on television, live streaming or through the live ticker at euro handball.com. Many draw events take place throughout the season in the EHF Office in Vienna and at venues across Europe for a whole host of different competitions including club, national team, YAC events and beach handball.

Women's EHF EURO 2012

Castle Nienoord in Leek, the Netherlands was the location on 27 April 2011 for the draw for the EHF EURO 2012 Qualification, which saw 28 teams drawn into seven groups to compete for the 14 places available at the final event to be played in December 2012. The event also included the draw for the 2011 Women's 19 European Championships. Jan Tuik, Chairman of the EHF Competitions Commission and Michael Wiederer, EHF Secretary General conducted the draw assisted by members of the Dutch women's 19 national team. It was also broadcast live and free of charge on the www.ehf-euro.com website.

Men's EHF EURO 2012

In June 2011, the draw for the Men's EHF European Championship was carried out in Belgrade, the capital of the event host, Serbia. This spectacular event, attended by hundreds of invited guests from Serbia, the EHF and participating teams saw the four preliminary groups for the EHF EURO 2012 drawn with the assistance of current and former players, including Dragan Skrbic, world player of the year in 2000. The event also saw a performance of the official EHF EURO 2012 anthem by Nikola Cuturilo and the presentation of the event's official mascot, Tasa the Eagle.

EHF Champions League

High profile draw events have now become an important part of Europe's premier club competitions; the VELUX EHF Champions League and the EHF Women's Champions League. With live streaming of the most important draws and immediate reaction with live and recorded interviews on ehfTV.com, handball fans and the media have instantaneous access to the latest news from the events.

Highlights from 2011 included the draw for the Last 16 of the 2010/11 season on 7 March; additionally on this occasion, the innovative perimeter LCD advertising system developed jointly by EHF Marketing GmbH and Sharp was presented to the clubs for the first time. Moreover, the draw for the VELUX EHF FINAL4 on 2 May, on the 28th floor of KölnSky overlooking the City of Cologne was also an unforgettable event.





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20th ANNIVERSARY

HeartBeat
HandBall
20th
Anniversary
17 November 2011

HeartBeat HandBall

17 November 2011 saw the European Handball Federation (EHF) celebrate a tremendous milestone. The organisation responsible for the promotion and development of handball in Europe marked 20 years of existence with an event of great proportion at the Eventhotel Pyramide in Vösendorf, Austria. Under the banner of HeartBeat HandBall, the EHF welcomed over 500 internal and external handball stakeholders to the anniversary celebrations.

20 Years of the European Handball Federation

The EHF was founded in November 1991 in Berlin, Germany - the result of meetings that took place in Madeira (POR) and Manchester (GBR) during 1990 and 1991. The President of the Swedish federation, Staffan Holmqvist was chosen as the first EHF President; Hans-Jürgen Hinrichs, President of the German Federation, was elected as EHF Vice President and Michael Wiederer, Secretary General of the Austrian Federation, became EHF Secretary General, and with this, the EHF found its home in Vienna.

Starting with Michael Wiederer who successfully campaigned for the position of Secretary General, as a solitary full-time employee in 1991, the EHF has now grown to a team of over 50 full-time office staff and many officials, referees and associated staff throughout Europe.

In the past 20 years, the EHF has overseen the further innovation of the game both on and off the court including the introduction of the EHF EURO, EHF Champions League and VELUX EHF FINAL4 alongside the Professional Handball Board and European Court of Arbitration. Events such as the VELUX EHF Champions League and EHF EURO now attract millions of fans from across the world and the game continues to grow, develop and evolve.

A Full Programme

HeartBeat HandBall officially began on 16 November with working meetings of the EHF Advisory Board, EHF General Assembly, EHF Court of Appeal, Technical Refereeing Committee, and EHF Executive Committee Meeting. Following the meetings on an administrative level, on 17 November, the day of celebration began with a full working sessions. The EHF held eight workshops covering the various areas of the sport including 'Club Competitions - A Living Product', 'Women's Handball - A Chance for Our Sport', 'Media Matters - Raising the Profile', 'Beach Handball - A Professional Sport?', 'Handball & Law - A Working Balance', 'EHF Euros - Professional Brand Performance', 'Game Management - Future Challenges' and 'Coaching Licensing - A Tribute to the Next Generation'. The workshops were open to all interested participants and were well attended.

The working sessions concluded with the 10th Conference of Presidents. This marked the start of the Celebratory Act and the HeartBeat HandBall Gala Evening. Moving into the event area, the President of the International Handball Federation, Dr. Hassan Moustafa was the first to congratulate the EHF and presented Tor Lian with a special certificate in recognition of the EHF 20th anniversary.



OF THE EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

In his speech, **Dr. Moustafa** highlighted the exceptional cooperation between the two organisations stating that *“During the last 20 years the EHF has not only been a competent and reliable partner of the International Handball Federation. The executives of the EHF and the IHF sit on a number of bodies and thus have a common line on major topics evidenced by joint working groups. For that reason I trust the IHF and the EHF will pull together in all areas of international handball in the future. I am confident that this will continue to progress further to such an extent it has done over the last 20 years – and I am looking forward to an even closer partnership on all levels.”*

HeartBeat
HandBall
20th
Anniversary
17 November 2011

Among the many well-wishers, the former EHF Vice President **Hans-Jürgen Hinrichs** and EHF Honorary Member said: *“I have been playing handball since I was 14, back in 1947 and have experienced a lot of course! I was witness to the growth of handball from its original form as ‘Field Handball’ through to what is now known simply as ‘Handball’ but was known as ‘Indoor Handball’ back then. Moving to Vienna was the best thing that could have happened to such a young organisation. The way the EHF and their professional staff are dealing with the complex challenges of today’s sport is impressive. Everyone can now see the potential of handball – times have changed especially the last 20 years and they will keep on changing!”*

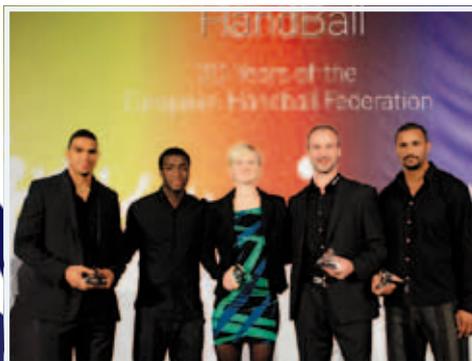
The EHF Handball Award

On this special occasion, the European Handball Federation was also given the opportunity to honour the people that have made the sport great. This evening saw special awards presented in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the European Handball Federation. As part of the ‘HeartBeat HandBall’ celebrations in Vienna, the EHF handed out awards in the three different categories of ‘Players’, ‘Officials’ and ‘Partners’.

The award for the players, entitled ‘The EHF Handball Award’ was awarded in acknowledgement of those players (Didier Dinart, Luc Abalo, Thierry Omeyer, Daniel Narcisse & Rikke Skov) who have won the highest honours in the game such as the titles of European Champion, World Champion and Olympic Champion, not to mention those who have the VELUX EHF Champions League, EHF Women’s Champions League and other European and club titles. Here is what two recipients of the awards had to say.

“It feels really good to win this award tonight. This award is for everything I have achieved in handball including victories, finals and games. I am so proud. This award is a symbol for all of that. Like any sporting career I have had my ups and downs and this is big thanks for all the work I have put in as a player.” Denmark and Viborg HK star **Rikke Skov**.

“To receive this trophy means that my colleagues and I have reached something special in handball. This award means a special success and honour for us. Unfortunately our whole French team is not here, as without all the others we never would have been able to win all those titles and this award. It is my special hope that in 20 years the next French generation will be awarded at the 40th EHF Anniversary! When I return home, my wife will take care of this trophy - she will find a nice place for it!” France and THW Kiel star **Daniel Narcisse**.



20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

HeartBeat
HandBall
20th
Anniversary
17 November 2011

The award for the officials (Jesus Guerrero, Rui Coelho, Jan Tuik, Sandor Andorka, Bogdan Macovei) was in acknowledgement of those officials who were influential in the early days of the EHF back in 1991 and who are still active in the handball world. Here is another snapshot from the winner's podium:

Member of the EHF Methods Commission **Bogdan Macovei** said: *"Back in 1991, I was the federal trainer for the Romanian Handball Federation, coaching the women's senior, junior and youth teams. I am very proud to have been with the EHF since the beginnings back in Berlin in 1991 and again when the EHF started in Vienna. I am proud of all the friends I have made, the development of all the tournaments and the sense of the EHF and their 'European Family'. The concept of Fair Play has also been an important achievement. Handball for me is my life."*

President of the Court of Appeal **Rui Coelho** said: *"I was representing the Portuguese Handball Federation, one of the 23 federations who voted to establish the European Handball Federation. For me, this has been the most important moment in European handball of course, but the constant improvement of the organisation and promotion of our sport from the very base to the top in an environment of democratic participation of all federations and clubs has been very important. The friendships and emotions within the game make my 'HeartBeat HandBall'!"*

Honorary President International and Austrian Handball Federation **Erwin Lanc** said: *"I remember the long and fruitful negotiations we had with the City of Vienna back in 1991 which led to the EHF establishing themselves in the city. The present Mayor of Vienna, Dr. Häupl, was responsible for sports back in 1991 and was involved with the successful negotiations too. Handball has rapidly increased its presence on TV over the past 20 years, winning new friends for our sport, but it is obviously healthy heart training as I am 81 now!"*

The Celebratory Act led into the premiere of the EHF 20th anniversary film. The film combined history and handball. With acrobatics and musical harmony, the guests were enraptured as they went to dine. Going back to this unforgettable evening, the final words are given to the **EHF President Tor Lian**:

"It gives me great pleasure to look back on the achievements of the EHF during this time of celebration. I have been witness to many positive changes within the game and have been lucky enough to meet members of the handball family across Europe. I have also seen a huge amount of hard work and dedication throughout my travels. The events to celebrate our 20 years will not only provide a great opportunity for us to look back, but forward, so we can continue to push this wonderful sport to be one of the very best in the world."



11th EHF EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

The 11th Extraordinary EHF Congress took place on 29 May 2011 in Cologne, Germany. 48 EHF Member Federations, Applicant Federation Andorra and Associated Federation Kosovo were registered and approximately 110 people were in attendance. The EHF Congress was co-chaired by President Tor Lian and Vice President Jean Brihault. Six motions were tabled to be decided by the Congress which is the highest body within the federation. The Congress served as a discussion and decision making forum for the motions proposing changes to the EHF Statutes and regulations.


**11th Extraordinary
EHF Congress 2011**
29th May 2011 Cologne / Germany

The motions, which include legal matters, related to the amendment of the EHF Statutes and Regulations. Furthermore, elections were also on the Congress agenda with two elections taking place. The final points on the agenda of the 11th Extraordinary EHF Congress included interim reports on the Professional Handball Board (PHB) and the Women's Handball Programme given to the member federations.

Motion 1: English as official language at EHF competitions

Reaching the necessary 2/3-majority needed to amend the EHF Statutes, the Congress voted in favour of defining English as the common and official language for the EHF competitions.

Motion 2: General obligation of the organisers of EHF competitions

The relationship between the EHF and the organisers of EHF competitions is now defined within the applicable legal framework. For this purpose, a new provision was adopted and the EHF Statutes amended.

Motion 3: Amendment of the Legal Regulations and the List of Penalties, Implementation of a Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions

The Arbitration Regulations were revised and renamed Legal Regulations. The List of Penalties was also revised. A Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions was created to give a legal framework to the infringements of administrative nature. The Congress voted in favour of the motion

Motion 4: Competence to amend the List of Penalties

The Congress voted in favour of the motion. A list of penalties will ensure the adequacy in accordance with the needs of the sport optimising the impact of legal frameworks. The EHF Executive Committee was charged with the issuance and amendment of competition regulations and the List of Penalties. The decision and the amended clause of the EHF Statutes became valid as of 1 July 2011.

Motion 5: Competence to amend the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions

The Congress rejected this motion, as it failed to reach the necessary 2/3-majority for changes to the EHF Statutes.

Motion 6, tabled by the National Federation of Austria: Amendment regarding the advertising rights relating to the EHF EURO Qualification Regulations

The Congress voted in favour of the motion as it reached the necessary 2/3-majority for changes to the EHF Statutes.

Conclusion

All details from the Congress and decisions in detail can be found on www.eurohandball.com. The 11th EHF Ordinary Congress will be hosted by the Federation Monegasque de Handball in Monte Carlo on 22 June 2012.



10th CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS



The 10th Conference of Presidents took place on 17 November 2011. Within the framework of the EHF 20th anniversary celebrations, President Tor Lian welcomed over 280 guests who included National Federation representatives, internal and external handball stakeholders and other guests. In an unprecedented step, the Conference was held as an open event. Following the formal welcome the sitting opened with the presentation of the European Handball Study.

The study was conducted based on a very strict methodology and is intended to be a major reference for the EHF in the coming years. Vice President Jean Brihault highlighted the tradition in European handball to make decisions following open debates as it was the best way to ensure that all aspects of the issues have been envisaged and heard. With a visual presentation, Marc Rapparlié, CEO of Global MMK GmbH, expanded on the topic supported by statistical information that was based on both qualitative and quantitative input.

Moving on to the Women's Handball Development Programme, Carmen Manchado and EHF Executive Committee member Arne Elovsson presented the six mid-to-long term objectives, which were a result of the meetings held by the Women's Handball Development Programme Steering Group.

The recommendations were:

- The introduction of a Women's Handball Board
- Measures for more female representatives in European handball
- Full time position dedicated to women's handball in the EHF Office
- Branding of women's handball at European level
- Restructure of competitions for young female players
- Recruitment projects for girls and study on ball size

Following the conclusion of the address by Carmen Manchado, Vice President Brihault thanked the steering group for the presentation and responded positively to the presentation of the recommendations.

On this occasion, the new EHF logo was unveiled. Coming into effect as of 1.7.2012, the European Handball Federation saw the 20th anniversary as the right moment to develop the new logo.

The presentation highlighted the necessity to be unique but also compatible with existing systems. Further items on the agenda included the signing of development programmes (see page 49), a motion from the Austrian Handball Federation that was consigned to the 6th Conference for Secretaries General and personal message to the participants from Snežana Markovic-Samardžić, Serbian Minister for Youth and Sports who thanked the Conference participants for their confidence in Serbia in the organisation of EHF EURO 2012.



6th CONFERENCE FOR SECRETARIES GENERAL

The 6th Conference for Secretaries General took place on 18 November 2011 in Vösendorf, Austria. The representatives of the member federations in attendance voiced their opinions on a number of current handball affairs. Further discussions on this level will resume at the next Conference for Secretaries General that will convene in Copenhagen, Denmark in April 2012. An overview of the meeting highlighting the main points has been reproduced below:



Qualification Draws

The 6th Conference for Secretaries General was punctuated with three qualification draws for younger age category competitions taking place in 2012 (M18 – AUT; M20 – TUR; and WU20 WCh – CZE). The draws were carried out by the Chairman and Members of the Competitions Commission with the assistance of the respective National Federation representatives. The outcome of the three draws including playing dates and technical information can be found on www.eurohandball.com.

Welcome and Introductory Words

Following the draw, EHF Secretary General Michael Wiederer welcomed the participants to the Conference and highlighted that this conference would be a short meeting and that a meeting date would be found for a longer meeting at the end of the session. He also stated that this conference was also very different to the fifth SG Conference in 2007; reminding the participants that in two days, they covered eight topics. Continuing, Wiederer made reference the meeting between the IHF and EHF in September 2011 that looked at the current situation and the calendar in the future.

Calendar 2012/13 and Further Years

Information was given to the European Cup competitions and the changes to the next season (2012/13) and beyond. Supported by the calendar, distributed to all National Federation representatives, the subject was expanded upon. Further to the merging of the men's EHF Cup and Cup Winners' Cup competitions in the 2012/13 season, the Member Federations were informed that the playing schedule had been approved by the EXEC. Discussion followed on other calendar issues and a draft of calendar 2013/14 was distributed.

EHF CAN Services/Innovations

Information to the advancements in the area of the EHF Competence Academy and Network (EHF CAN) was presented by the EHF. Services offered by the website underscoring the transfer of knowledge and highlighting specialist tools for use by referees and coaches were emphasised. The EHF informed on the range of academic papers and eBooks available such as the EHF EURO Set-Up manuals, a handball basics section in addition to the availability of analyses and statistics were all underlined.

Emerging Nations' Competitions

A brief history of the situation and the desires of the emerging nations such as qualifications to competitions with home and away matches were reiterated by the EHF Secretary General. David van Dorpe from the Belgian Handball Federation was invited to the panel to co-host the topic and presented a brief on the progress stating that 28/50 Member Federations participate in the Qualifications. There were three requests from the meeting of the emerging nations that took place in Luxembourg: more national team matches, opportunity to play top nations and more (financial) support for emerging nations. This was followed by a lengthy open and overall positive discussion. Further items on the agenda included various requests from the National Federations to which Secretary General Wiederer responded.



MEETINGS

Over the course of any given year, the Executive and administrative bodies of the European Handball Federation are part of numerous meetings executed on an international level not only exclusive to handball. Whether at the EHF Office in Vienna, Austria or abroad, the leadership of the European Handball Federation fully engages in dialogues conducive to European handball on all levels and also to sport in general. Here are a few of the highlights.

January

The European Handball Federation is one of the founding organisations of the Association of European Team Sports (ETS). A primary ETS objective is to secure the recognition of the European sports model and its constituent parts, namely the specificity of sport and the autonomy and central role of the sports federations. On 18 January, the ETS held a working session in Brussels that coincided with the European Commission's Communication on Sport.

The Communication proposes ways in which the EU's new competence in sport (Article 165 TFEU) can be implemented, thus reinforcing the European dimension of sport. Representing the EHF, Secretary General Michael Wiederer and Vice President Jean Brihault were in attendance. Following the working session, Brihault said: "We are delighted to see this long-awaited Communication address so many of the key issues for European team sports. The Commission has provided an excellent contribution to the debate on the future of sport in Europe and the Association of European Team Sports is looking forward to playing an active role in shaping it."

March

Officials from the European Handball Federation visited the City of London on what is classified in the EHF as a cooperation visit. Vice President Jean Brihault was in attendance to sign a new agreement with the England Handball Association and national sports body, Sport England. The agreement will see the European Handball Federation providing funding through its Infrastructure Support Programme (ISP), to support the further development of England Handball's infrastructure, focused in particular on providing part-funding for the employment of a full-time handball development officer in London. The cooperation visits are an important element in strengthening the relationships between the European Handball Federation and its member federations.

Later in March, the City of Tarare in France was one of the destinations for the EHF leadership when they paid a visit to the official EHF flooring partner Gerflor on 17 March. The cooperation between the two organisations began in 2004. The benefits of working with Gerflor are seen at every match of the Champions League and European Championship on a youth and senior level – handball is instantly recognisable and the coloured floors attached to the brands make the event unique. The meeting in Tarare held the objective of exchanging information and identifying the needs of both organisations as the partnership was extended in the presence of President Tor Lian and Vice President Jean Brihault.

May

Within the framework of the VELUX EHF FINAL4, the second meeting of the Professional Handball Board was held. On this occasion, all the handball stakeholders from the clubs (Forum Club Handball), leagues (European Professional Handball League Association), the national federations (Nations Board) and players (European Handball players Union) had the opportunity to meet with the representatives of the EHF. Prior to this meeting the EHFU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the EHF. This meant that the constitution of the Professional Handball Board was now complete. This was its first meeting as a unified body, and at this meeting the PHB concluded the election of the Chairman Joan Marin. Following the formalities, the group exchanged opinion on a number of topics. Further information to the Professional Handball Board is given on page 66.



MEETINGS

August

Later in the summer, the President of the International Handball Federation, Dr. Hassan Moustafa invited EHF President Lian and Secretary General Wiederer to Basel, Switzerland for a meeting. With multiple points of common interest on the agenda, the two organisations also discussed the international calendar. The ongoing work on this topic later led to a working group being convened in the presence of more key stakeholders.

September

Just a few days after the start of the current handball season, President Tor Lian travelled to Gdansk, Poland to partake in the High Level Consultations Meeting on the integrity of sport organised in Gdansk under the Polish Presidency of the EU. The meeting involved representatives of several EU Member States and representatives of the European Sports Movement. Representing the EHF, President Tor Lian shared the common view and firm opinion that it was essential to take rapid and concrete steps to tackle the growing threat of match-fixing in sport. Later, President Lian gave a short statement highlighting the importance to be part of this movement not only to retain the integrity of handball but also for the future development of sport.

Towards the end of the month, the Women's Handball Development Programme steering group held its second meeting in Aarhus, Denmark. Following their inaugural meeting in August on the fringes of the Women's 19 European Championship in the Netherlands the group, composed of chairperson Marit Breivik (NOR), Arne Elovsson (SWE), Narcisa Lecusanu (ROU), Panis Linde (BEL), Carmen Machado (ESP) and Katrine Thoe Nielsen (DEN), restarted discussions, which led to clear proposals in various fields such as competitions, representation within the EHF and national federations, branding and recruitment. The proposals were presented to the EHF Executive Committee by Arne Elovsson during their meeting in London on 23 September 2011 and later on at the Conference of Presidents in November.

November

November was an extraordinary month packed with multiple meetings and the celebrations of the EHF 20th anniversary. Nevertheless, the EHF leadership found time to undertake two additional cooperation visits. At the beginning of the month, the Finance Delegation travelled to Limerick, Ireland. After their meeting, the group held additional meetings with the leadership of the Irish Olympic Handball Association. In Ireland, the delegation was introduced to the latest developments. Irish handball in the future was also a topic of discussion. The third cooperation visit of the year was to the city of Yerevan in Armenia. Meeting with the leadership of the Armenian Handball Federation, EHF President Lian was presented with the latest happenings within the federation and the progress made in the area of youth handball thanks to the SMART programme.

The first meeting in 2012 will be the meeting of the EHF Executive Committee to be held on the Final Weekend of the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia.



WORKSHOPS

Women's Handball Development Programme

In the fast paced world of handball, intricate situations arise giving cause for the formation of a working group. The Executive Committee of the European Handball Federation designates the respective experts according to topic to drive the area of focus to resolution. Following the discussions at the 2009 EHF Extraordinary Congress in Cyprus and the subsequent initiatives of 2010, which included the Women's Competitions Conference and Women's Handball Round Table; the EHF continued with measures that thrust the area of women's handball into the spotlight culminating in a high-profile presentation at the 10th Conference of Presidents in November 2011.

The steps taken in 2009 and 2010 laid the foundation for the steering group of the Women's Handball Development Programme. EHF Executive Committee Member Arne Elovsson of Sweden was named to represent the voice of Executive and in April 2010 the Executive Committee nominated the 'Steering Group' for further developing the programme. Nominated to the Expert Group were Marit Breivik (NOR), Narcisa Lecusanu (ROU), Linde Panis (BEL), Carmen Manchado (ESP) and Katrine Thoe Nielsen (DEN).

In August 2011, the Women's Handball Development Programme Steering Group held their first meeting in Rotterdam, Netherlands on the occasion of the Final Weekend of the Women's 19 European Championship. In the meeting, ideas for the future of women's handball were discussed in detail. Starting with the current situation, the group also tackled potential objectives, technical matters, competitions and sport-political structures.

After a first meeting in Rotterdam, the EHF Women's Handball Development Programme Steering Group assembled for their second meeting in Aarhus, Denmark. At this time, the proposals were presented to the EHF Executive Committee. In the meantime, the expert group continued to work on each of the proposals that were put before the participants at the 10th Conference of Presidents (see page 40).

Younger Age Category Workshop

In preparation for future national team competitions, the European Handball Federation held a workshop for the four organising nations of upcoming Younger Age Category (YAC) events Federation in Vienna on 27/28 February 2011. The EHF assembled representatives of the National Federations of Austria, Denmark, Poland and Turkey to exchange information with focus on the preliminary organisation of the events. The federations will organise the following tournaments:

- 2012 Men's 18 European Championship – Austria
- 2012 Men's 20 European Championship – Turkey
- 2013 Women's 17 European Championship – Poland
- 2013 Women's 19 European Championship – Denmark

The European Handball Federation views Younger Age Category events as full EHF EURO events that are executed on a smaller scale. With the vision that these events should incorporate standards on a level with the adult events and to optimise the organisation, the workshop covered general rules and guidelines, a spectator concept to avoid empty halls and a Corporate Identity for each tournament.

As next steps in the preparation of the events inspections and further workshops will take place in the organising countries.



EHF PARTNERS

During the past two decades, the European Handball Federation is proud to have established partnerships that continue to last. The strong cooperation has undoubtedly brought handball forward, this is proven by the continuous growth on the international sports market. On the occasion of the EHF 20th anniversary under the banner of HeartBeat HandBall, the organisation used the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the partners who have and continue to support the European Handball Federation in their endeavours to promote the sport. Those awarded were:

adidas

EHF Partner since 1992 – Competition balls, clothing and sports equipment

Synonymous with stability and durability, adidas AG is celebrated for supplying EHF competitions. From referee clothing to the official match ball of the club competitions and national team events.



At the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia, adidas has redesigned the official match ball to correspond with the national colours of the host nation. A sports supplier of the highest calibre, adidas has supplied the men's and women's Champions League since the 04/05 season.

Upon receiving the EHF accolade, adidas AG Head of Global Sports Marketing Max van der Doel said: *"adidas is extremely proud to be a partner of the EHF. adidas and the EHF go side-by-side to develop handball in the past and will continue to do so in the future. We are absolutely honoured to be here to celebrate this anniversary. The relationship with the EHF is very personal and human for us – there's great respect between us. Together we are going to improve handball and this gala is a great occasion to meet all those people involved with handball."*

Infront Sports & Media AG

EHF Partner since 1993 - TV and marketing partner for EURO events

Infront Sports & Media AG continue to be the exclusive commercial partner of both the men's and women's EHF EURO by marketing the television and media rights in addition to sponsorship packages including the commercial rights for the rotating board advertising. For over 18 years their innovative practices have led to wide-reaching advancements that have contributed to the presentation of the EHF EURO events and the betterment of handball on and off the court.



Accepting the special honour CEO and President Philippe Blatter said: *"It is a great honour and privilege to receive this award. It is even more of a privilege having contributed to the success of the EHF in the last 20 years. It is also a privilege to be a part of this celebration today and many more in the future."*

Gerflor

EHF Partner since 2004 – Flooring supplier for EURO events

Gerflor has been working with the EHF since 2004 to provide the EHF European Championships for Men and Women and the Younger Age Category events with a high quality event floor which satisfies the needs of both the athletes and the requirements of a modern top class event. As one of the most influential sports flooring supplier; Gerflor expanded its cooperation with the EHF to include the EHF Champions League providing the exclusive blue lagoon and black flooring system. The Tareflex flooring has provided a unique and recognisable image for handball.



In 2011 the EHF – Gerflor partnership was extended until 2016. During HeartBeat HandBall, Gerflor International Sport Floors Director Pierre Lienhard said: *"For Gerflor, the EHF is a benchmark federation who are incredibly professional and nice people to work with - we have a lot of trust and a very good understanding with each other. I believe we should do everything we are doing and even double our efforts; more events and more games! Here's to another 20 years!"*

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FORMING THE FUTURE



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GRASSROOTS HANDBALL CUP WINNERS' CUP HANDBALL GENERAL MANAGEMENT SECOND WAVE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK BUSINESS UNIT FAST SKILL LEAGUE BUSINESS CUP CHALLENGE CUP COMMISSION OFFICE CHEERING STRUCTURE EHF FINAL4 BUSINESS CUP CHALLENGE CUP COMMISSION REFEREE EXCITING PLAYER TOP EVENTS ORGANISATION DYNAMIC COACH EHF CUP FAST BREAK CONGRESS HANDBALL CLUB OPERATION SPECTATOR EHF EURO CHAMPIONSHIP MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE YOUNGER AGE CATEGORIES POWERFUL



EHF COMPETENCE ACADEMY & NETWORK (EHF CAN)



The EHF Competence Academy & Network is the affiliate unit within the confederation dealing with the transfer of technical knowledge. The evolution of the EHF CAN dates back to 2005, beginning with a comprehensive concept presented to the Executive Committee. In 2008, the educational division was fully absorbed in to the structure of the European Handball Federation. Now in its third successful year, EHF CAN continues to work in close cooperation with internal technical divisions and external partners which include 36 European universities, 35 lecturers, more than 10 equipment and know-how partners and other various sport establishments. Helmut Hörtsch leads the EHF Competence Academy & Network.



EHF Scientific Conference 2011

In cooperation with the Union of University Handball Teachers (UUHT), EHF CAN co-hosted the first conference designed solely to present science and analytical expertise in handball. Within the framework of the EHF 20th anniversary celebrations in Vösendorf, Austria, the EHF Scientific Conference welcomed over 100 presenters and participants for this convergence of experts.

The objective of the Conference was to bring professional and scientific experts together in order to describe and formulate problems of modern handball on all organisational levels and forms (male/female, youth, beach handball, street handball, disability handball) and to bridge the gap between science and practice in handball. The conference topics covered three specific categories 'humanities', 'natural sciences' and 'training and the game'

Over the past year handball experts from across Europe were asked to submit articles under the following headings. All received articles were reviewed and then published in the 'Science and Analytical Expertise in Handball (Scientific and Practical Approaches)' and following the conclusion of the EHF Scientific Conference, all participants were given a copy of the publication.

Frantisek Taborsky, Chairman of the EHF Methods Commission, played a key role in the development and organisation of the conference. He opened the event with a keynote speech entitled 'Phenomenon Handball'.

Supported by 55 presentations, the attendees heard from European university sport professors on subjects such as the Educational Aspects in Handball, which dealt with recruitment, talent identification, long-term development and the modern approaches to training. As the conference progressed the topic turned to Biological Aspects in Handball. The areas of discussion included physiology, anthropometrics, nutrition, injuries and prevention. Issues surrounding management, coaching, organisation were part of the Social Aspects in Handball.

For all information pertaining to the EHF Scientific Conference 2011, please visit www.activities.eurohandball.com



DEVELOPMENT

For many European National Handball Federations, development continues to be at the heart of operations. In 2011, with the support of long-term projects, some countries managed to introduce and secure a place for handball on the physical education curricula in many schools. Additionally, the European Handball Federation was also in a position to support countries in other ways. The organisation was able to provide material support to 13 national federations with 580 balls, 90 bibs, 280 beach handballs, 26 beach goals, 2 shooting walls and 22 line systems.

In 2011, the EHF had nine active SMART programmes, including one new programme, while another three were completed with great success. The national federation of Malta began a new SMART programme in June 2011, while an additional cooperation with the national federation of Georgia was finalised. However, within the framework of the 20th anniversary celebrations in November, Georgia represented by President Georg Godabrelidze and Secretary General Zurab Kakabadze, signed another 3-year SMART Programme agreement with the special focus on Beach Handball, Minihandball and Handball at School. The SMART programmes of Belgium, Finland and Albania were completed, while the agreements with Armenia, Kosovo, Moldova, England and Serbia continue in 2012.

During the course of all nine SMART programmes, the EHF has provided the aforementioned national federations with the following kinds of support including material support for handball and beach handball. Moreover, EHF lecturers and coaches were delegated to various seminars with the EHF covering the expenses and in some cases, bearing the organisational costs. The EHF also absorbed the costs for some promotional materials.

Furthermore, the EHF continued its supervision of the three ongoing Foster programmes, namely: England & Sweden, Croatia & Israel and Italy & Spain. The EHF Infrastructure Support Programme also saw some changes in 2011. It was following the conclusion of the 10th Conference of Presidents that Malta, represented by President Louis Borg and Vice President Clyde Borg Conti, signed a 3-year part funding of a Maltese development officer as part of the ISP agreement.



COURSES & SEMINARS

2011 EHF RINCK Convention Seminar for Signatory Nations

The 2011 EHF RINCK Convention Seminar for Signatory Nations took place in February at the EHF Office in Vienna, Austria. The EHF Methods Commission (MC) in cooperation with the EHF Competence Academy & Network organised the seminar to find ways of encouraging and assisting non-signatories to join the RINCK Convention for the sake of a coherent development of coaches' education in all EHF Member Federations and also to use the opportunity to introduce an EHF licensing system that is currently being developed for future use.

The seminar welcomed participants representing the 21 RINCK Convention signatories: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. All in all, the RINCK Convention has certified 123 Master Coaches and continues to support freedom of movement for handball coaches in Europe.

Since the last RINCK Convention held in 2009, work has continued. An administrative workshop initiated by the Methods Commission was undertaken. This and other issues led the EHF MC to initiate contact among the signatory nations and present them with various proposals, and based on high percentage of positive feedback, the educational programme was restructured from a 5 level to a 4 level educational framework. Naturally, the changes are compliant with the EU requirements and framework established by ENSSEE (European Network Sport Science Education Employment) in accordance with the "Bologna" Process.

The objective of this convention is the mutual recognition of standards and certificates in the field of coaches' education in handball in Europe by preserving and safeguarding the regional and national characteristics of coaches' education, in order to facilitate the direct admission to work as a handball coach, in each signatory Member Federation.

At the 10th Conference of Presidents in November 2011, England, represented by President Michael Briers, and Ireland represented by President Fintan Lyons, signed level two RINCK Convention agreements. Latvia, represented by Vice President Anrijs Brencans, signed a level three RINCK Convention agreement.

2011 Courses and Seminars

In all, 11 national federations held seminars and courses supported by the European Handball Federation in areas of the Beach Handball, officiating & referees and coaching.

2011 EHF Lecturers' Seminar

In June, the EHF Office in Vienna, Austria was once again, host the 2011 EHF Lecturers' Seminar. The fifth event in this field welcomed numerous lecturers from across Europe to discuss possible amendments to the EHF Lecturers' Manual, the curricula of the EHF educational activities and Street Handball. The main objective of the seminar was to create a common line in all EHF educational activities and to set up standards in the fields of presentation and practical exercises.

Education, Further Education and Training are part of the core activities of the EHF Technical Bodies and the EHF Lecturer system aims at the cooperation with European handball specialists who help the EHF to produce various publications, to discuss and clarify handball related questions, but most of all to support and carry out national and regional EHF technical courses.



COACHING

Coaching Licensing

Introduced in 2000, the RINCK Convention (RC) concerns the mutual recognition of standards and certificates in the field of coach education in handball in Europe. From the original six founding nations, it has expanded to 21 signatory nations so far, with an additional three nations joining at the 20th EHF anniversary event. An initial prerequisite of the EHF RINCK Convention was that all signatories maintain a 4-level national coach education model, plus an additional international level of Master Coaches. Following a decision of the European Council, coach education in Europe now consists of three national levels and one international level.

The 2010 edition of the RC, approved by the EHF Congress, paved the way to new roads and activities in order to attract all the not-yet-signatory-nations by reducing the initial 4+1 levels to 3+1 levels. The experts of the signatories have been involved in this reframing of both the structure and contents of the 2010 edition of the RINCK Convention.

In the future, the EHF RINCK Convention will accept all nations that apply for the convention, irrespective of how many national levels of education they have. Thus, having the possibility, gain access to more knowledge on coach education tools, which can be applied on national level.

EHF Open Master Coach and Licensing courses

During the 10 years of the RINCK convention, approximately 150 Master Coaches have been trained and educated, most of which come from only a few nations. This number is relatively low and needs to increase within the next years. Therefore, in the future, the EHF will be offering Open Master Coaches and Licensing courses for further personal training and promotion. Each signatory nation on level three will be allowed to host their own master coaches' courses in addition to the aforementioned EHF Open Master Coaches courses.

The EHF Open Master Coach and Licensing Course will be held in three parts. This move has to be seen in the light of an upcoming overall EHF licensing system in the near future. The first course will be the '2012 Open EHF Master Coach and Licensing Course' that will consist of three stages with the first taking place at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia from 16 – 22 January 2012. The first three days will consist of this course only; from 19 January on the course will take place in a joint venture with the regular EHF Top Coaches Seminar.

The second module of the 'Open' course will take place in Vienna / AUT from 9 -14 July 2012. This part shall focus on generic items like science of training, proprioception work and issues of psychology and pedagogy linked with coaching and training of teams. The third module planned to take place during the Women's EHF EURO 2012 in the Netherlands in December 2012 will be organised similar to the first module; however, the first three days will focus on practical drills conducted by participants. Between the second and the third course modules, all participants will be required to write a short thesis on a topic of their choice (top-level handball, youth handball, etc.). The thesis shall be presented and defended in the third part of the course. Following this, the participants will be awarded with the "EHF Master Coach" diploma and at the point of time of the implementation of the EHF Licensing System, they will receive the highest EHF license for coaches.

Participants of less developed nations which do not have the full-scale education in their home countries cannot achieve the 'EHF Master Coach' diploma. However, they will receive a coaching license of a certain level according to their merit.



REFEREES

In 2011, as expected, there were many changes in the area of officiating on a European level; the EHF continued with the Young Referees Programme (YRP), numerous courses were undertaken by referee candidates with some attaining EHF status. New referees were welcomed into the YRP and some referees decided to hand over their red and yellow cards to the next generation.

With over 700 matches per season on a club and national team level, the European Handball Federation takes the matter of officiating very seriously. In front of millions of TV viewers and thousands of spectators in the arenas across Europe, the EHF referees are the men and women who ensure that all matches are played in accordance with the rules of the game. Over the next few pages the EHF Annual Review pays homage to those who protect the integrity of our sport on the court.

“Once in a lifetime you get a chance like this”

In December 2010, Danish referees Mads Hansen and Martin Gjeding were selected to preside over the Final match of the Women’s EHF EURO 2010 in Herning – a Scandinavian duel at which the Norwegians won over Sweden. For Hansen and Gjeding it was the second major nomination; a year earlier, the Danes officiated at the Final of the Women’s World Championship in China in which Russia faced France. Hansen and Gjeding were also chosen by the International Handball Federation once again to ‘whistle’ at the 20th Women’s World Championship in Brazil.

Here is what they had to say about being part of the EHF EURO 2010 in Denmark/Norway...

What did it mean to you being able to preside over the Final of the EHF EURO 2010 in Herning on home soil?

Hansen: That was our big goal. When it was clear that Denmark had missed the Final, it was our big chance. And I think you get once in a lifetime opportunity to lead such a Final at home. It was absolutely great being able to have this chance.

Gjeding: And it was a very unusual situation for us because we were used only in the Main Round in Norway, because the two young Danes and Bettina Kristensen Malene Lythje were used in the Preliminary Round. So we had only two Main Round matches to recommend us for the Final, but I think we have done our job very well.

How did you rate the dual solution with two Danish referee pairs for Preliminary and Main Round?

Hansen: Very positively, this we reported back to the EHF Chief of Referees Sándor Andorka. A young duo in the first week followed by a more experienced pair should be considered more often. This way the referee pair can collect more experience. I think the experiment has succeeded.

Nanjing in 2009, then Herning in 2010 – this was already the second major Final for you...

Gjeding: I think there has been only one other referee pair that has experienced a World Championship and European Championship Final within 12 months. This makes us very proud.



REFEREES

Although you are not yet one of the oldest referee couples on the scene right now, you have a lot of international experience. Are you currently seeing a new generation of referees?

Gjeding: It is clear to see that those who are refereeing now will not be doing so at 50 years, because we all started much earlier internationally. For example, we were 26 and 27 when we had our first international games.

Hansen: What stands out above all is this team spirit among the current referees. We're all teammates, not competitors; there is a really good partnership.

Gjeding: Moreover, the preparation for the tournaments has also changed. It is no longer only about knowledge, experience and condition, but it has also been expanded to include team spirit.

A look ahead to 2012, the Olympic Games in London - is this your big goal?

Hansen: In any case, we had the great pleasure to be there as early as 2008 in Beijing, and we are eager to return to the Olympics - but the competition is obviously very large.

The EHF says Congratulations!

Based on their success at the 2011 EHF Referee Candidates Course held in Brno & Zlin/CZE (June/July) and in Rijeka/CRO (July), the following new couples are qualified to officiate as of the 2010/11 season.

Tatjana Prastalo / Vesna Todorovic	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Tomislav Cindric / Robert Gonzurek	Croatia
Bedrich Frieser / Lukas Frieser	Czech Republic
Martin Lillepea / Marion Kull	Estonia
Robert Schulze / Tobias Tönnies	Germany
Viktorija Kijauskaite / Ausra Zaliene	Lithuania
Jelena Vujacic / Andjelina Kazanegra	Montenegro
Malgorzata Gutowska / Urszula Gutowska	Poland
Cristina Nastase / Simona Raluca Stancu	Romania
Allan Stokes / Brian Bartlett	Scotland
Marko Boricic / Dejan Markovic	Serbia
Mirza Kurtagic / Mattias Wetterwik	Sweden

The following four referee couples from Europe were awarded the IHF Referee status:

Marcin Piechota / Bartosz Leszczynski	Poland
Duarte Santos / Ricardo Fonseca	Portugal
Brian Bartlett / Allan Stokes	Scotland
Alexandra Siewert Delle / Natasha Engberg	Sweden

The EHF says Goodbye and Thank You!

In 2011, the following referees finished their professional career:

Vaclav Kohout	Czech Republic
Jens Carl Nielsen / Peter Lorentzen	Denmark
Ferry Van de Beek / Niels Egberts	Netherlands
Kim Andersen / Per Morten Sodal	Norway
Gheorghe Bejenariu	Romania
Alexander Bashmak / Dmitrij Frolov	Russia
Peter Hascik / Zbislav Otapka	Slovakia
Tomo Vodopivec / Robert Krasna	Slovenia
Aleksandr Liudovyk	Ukraine

REFEREES



Bernd Methe & Reiner Methe

1 June 1964 – 11 November 2011

In November 2011, the handball world was saddened to hear about the tragic passing of brothers Bernd Methe & Reiner Methe. Bernd and Reiner began their referee career in 1993. In 1998, the pair stepped on to handball courts around the world presiding over 850 matches for the (German) National, European and International Handball Federations. In 2010, Reiner Methe gave an exclusive interview to the EHF which was published in the 2010 EHF Annual Review. Well respected and liked by players, the brothers were voted the best referee couple in Germany for two consecutive seasons. They will be missed.

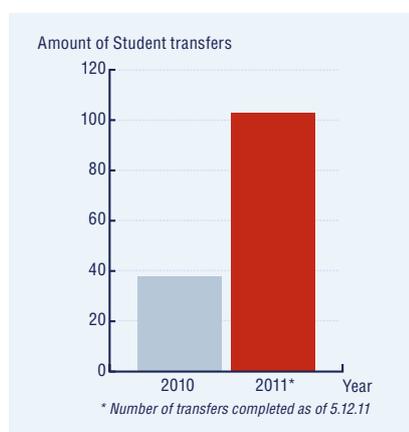
TRANSFERS

At the 2011 Congress of the International Handball Federation, the body approved new regulations for transfers between federations and made adjustments to the Player Eligibility Code. The changes that became valid on 1 July 2011 included an increase in fees paid for transfer administration.

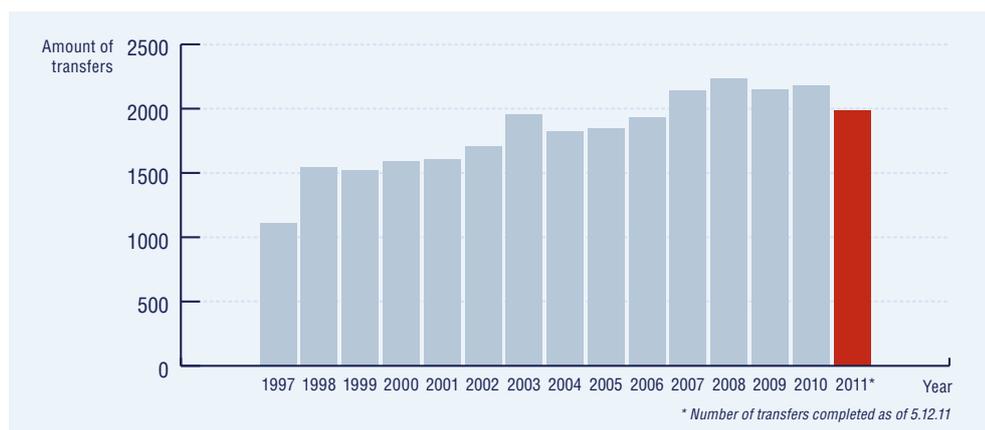
Recognising the impact that the modifications would have on member federations and players alike, the European Handball Federation introduced measures – partial reimbursement of transfer fees – that would ease the financial burden on receiving clubs which transfer amateur players (previously known as ‘non-contract players’).

Furthermore, due to the past regulations showing some issues with the recognition of certain study programmes, it was decided that all students who are registered either with a university exchange programme or whose field of study stipulates foreign education are to be considered as amateur players.

Moreover, the age limit set on amateur players has been lowered from 18 years to 16 years. These measures have resulted in a threefold increase in the transfer activity of students (without fees) and by that in an increase of transfers of amateur players.



At the same time the numbers of transfers of professional players decreased which resulted in lower figures of transfers overall (*status 5.12.11*).





ANNUAL REVIEW THIS IS THE EHF

2011



GRASSROOTS HANDBALL
CUP WINNERS
HANDBALL
EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
GENERAL MANAGEMENT
SECOND WAVE
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
BUSINESS UNIT
FAST SKILL
OFFICE LEAGUE
BUSINESS GROUP
SEMINAR

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PROGRESS
COACH
EHF CUP
FAST BREAK
CONGRESS
DYNAMIC
TOP EVENTS
ORGANISATION
HANDDBALL
FEDERATION
PLAYER
EXCITING
SPECTA
OPERATION
CLUB

EHF EURO CHAMPIONSHIP
MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP
YOUNGER AGE CATEGORIES
POWERFUL



EHF CORPORATE NETWORK

The European Handball Federation (EHF) came into existence on 17 November 1991. In time, the organisation has become the driving force of handball on the continent as the main objective of the EHF was, and remains, the development and promotion of the sport in Europe.

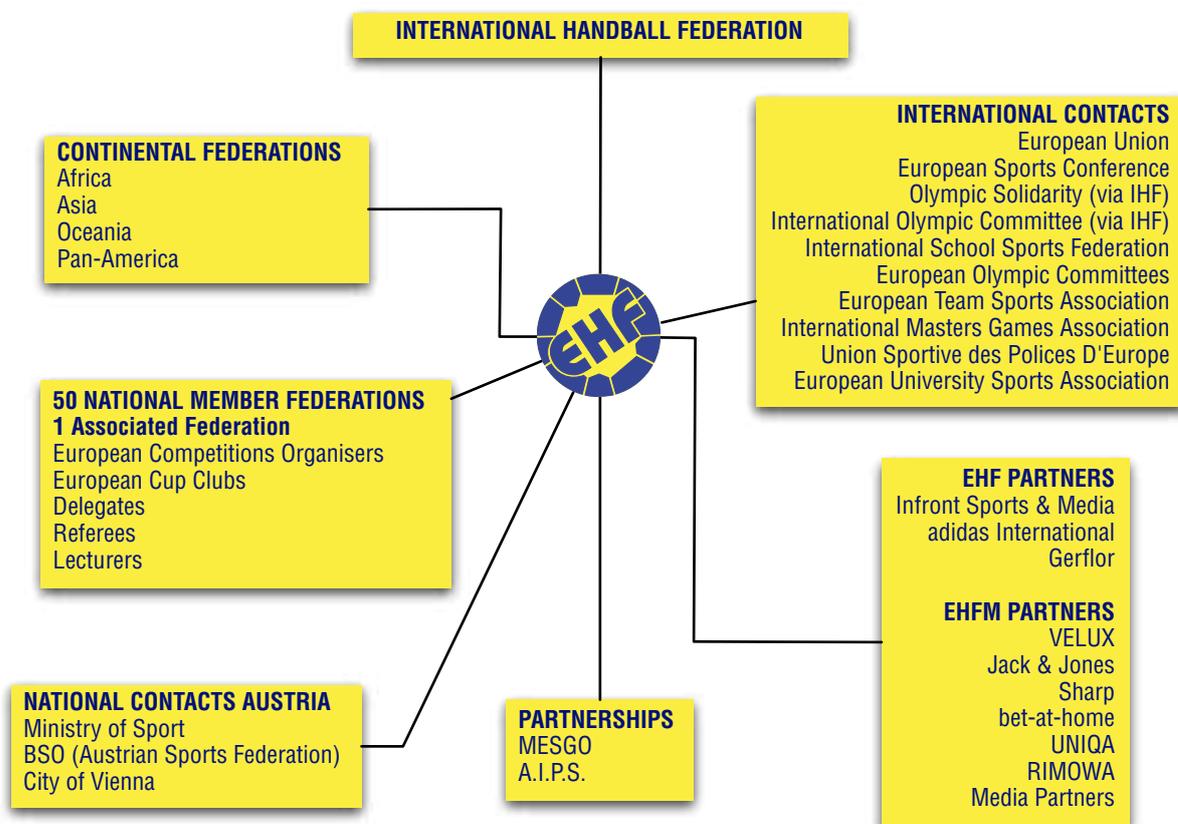
Every year on the level of sport performance the EHF organises club competitions involving hundreds of teams with over 700 matches per season. On a national team level there are minimum of three national team events per year for senior and younger age categories; moreover, the EHF oversees and regulates the European qualifications to World Championships organised by the International Handball Federation (IHF) and the Olympic Games controlled by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

On the level of strategic business, the European Handball Federation works daily with internal and external stakeholders in order to fulfil the primary objective. To achieve the targets set and build the reputation of the sport and gain a strong placement on the international sports market, the EHF had to construct a Corporate Network conducive to the promotion and development of handball.

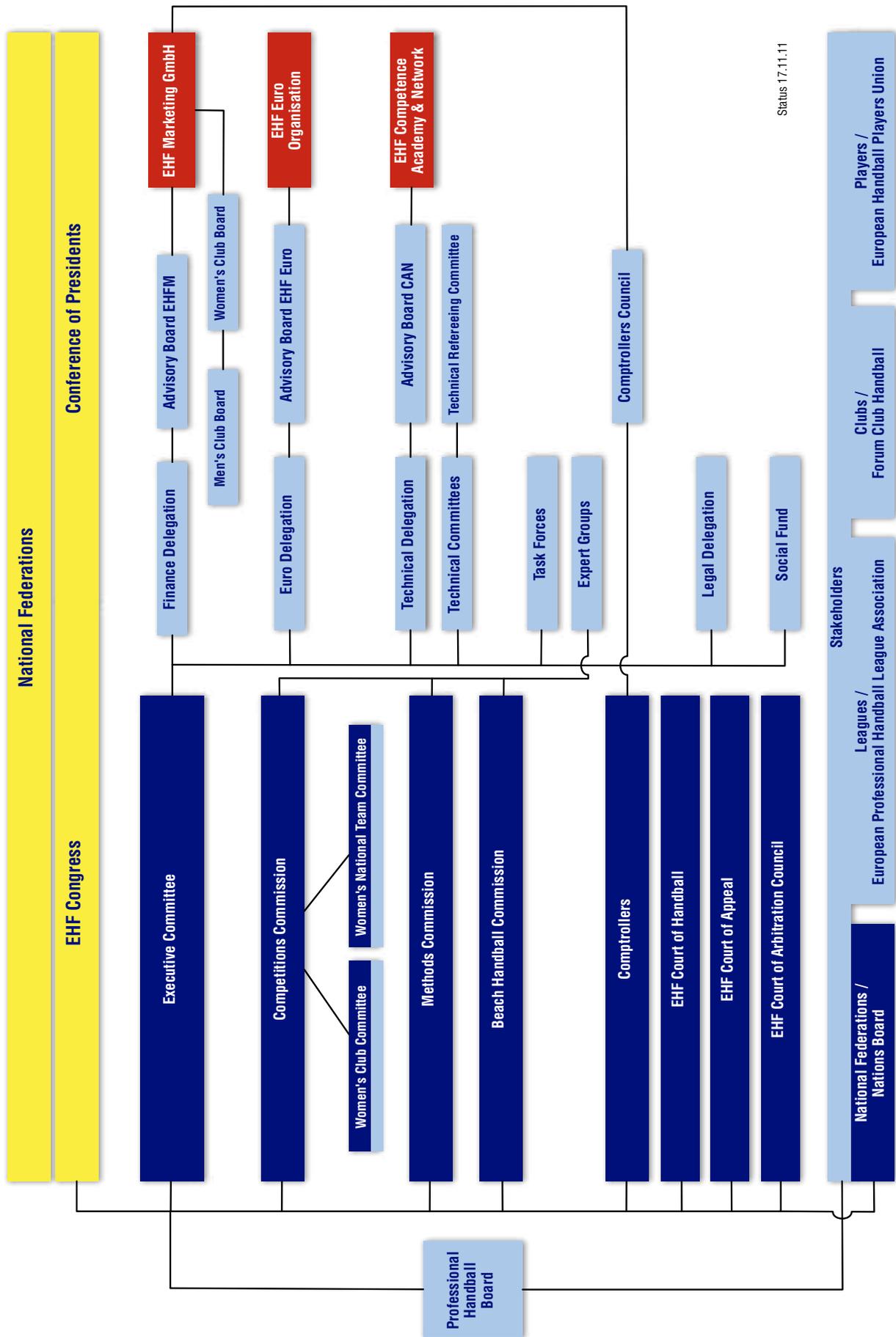
One of the most positive aspects of the European Handball Federation is its ability to adapt to the constant changes in the realm of handball and European sport governance. The structure of the EHF Corporate Network has transformed over the years and it provides a transparent visual of the internal workings of the European Handball Federation.

In all its endeavours, the European Handball Federation is answerable to the 50 National Member Federations and its sole Associated Federation Kosovo. From Albania to Ukraine, the EHF continues to provide support to emerging nations and utilises the experience of developed nations – all aiding the original objective of the organisation.

Across the various and dedicated business units (see page 61) the European Handball Federation and EHF Marketing GmbH have 47 full-time employees who ensure that daily business is transacted in accordance with the EHF Statutes and Regulations.

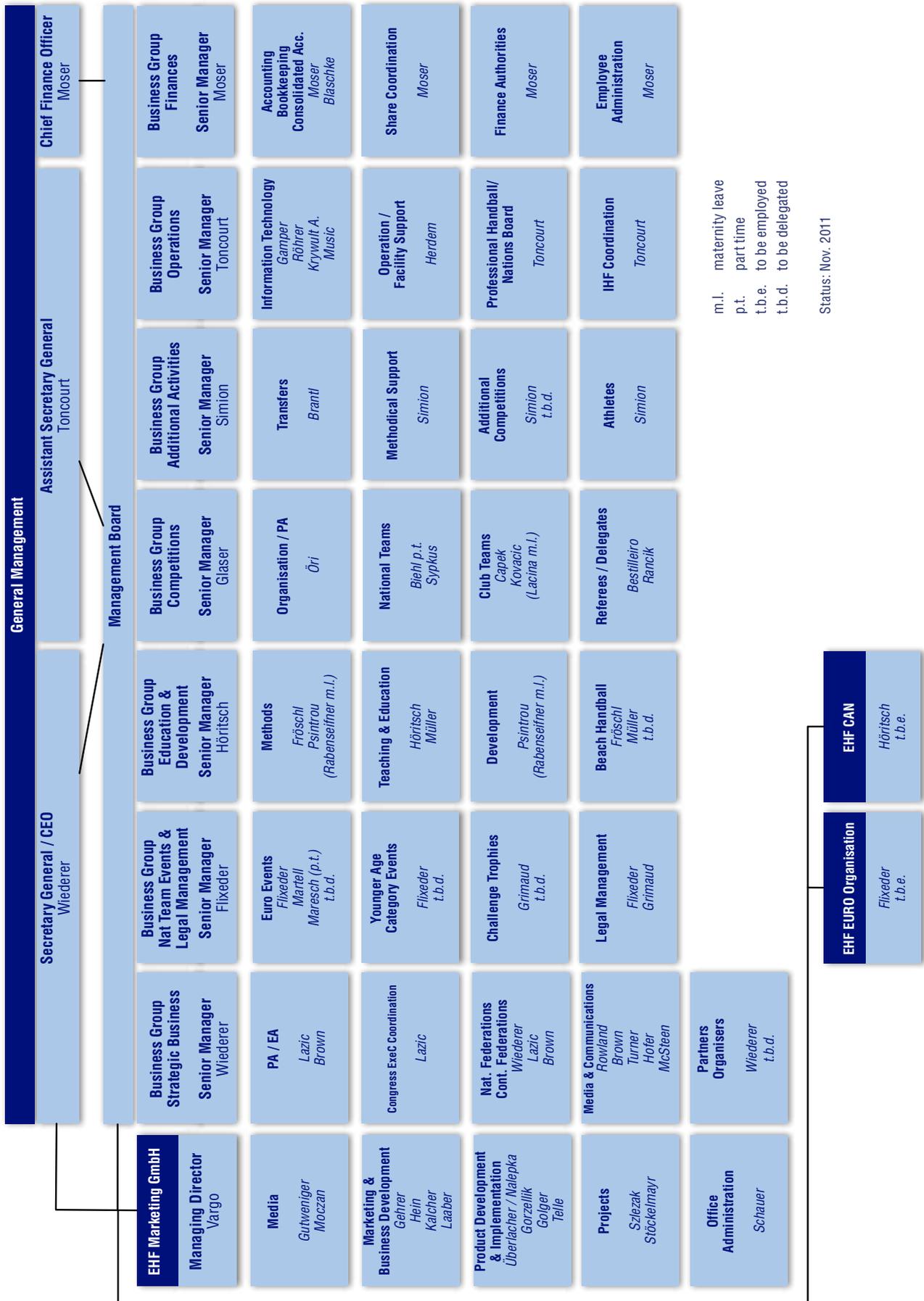


EHF CORPORATE STRUCTURE



Status 17.11.11

EHF OFFICE STRUCTURE



EHF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

“With the assistance of a dedicated expert group, the Executive Committee of the European Handball Federation has been able to deliver on the promise made in 2010. A tremendous amount of effort has been made in bringing women’s handball to the forefront of operations in 2011. Without a doubt, this will continue into the future with the full support of the members of the EHF Executive Committee.”

Tor Lian
EHF President

Five meetings

With the exception of the EHF Congress, the Executive Committee is the leading administrative body of the organisation on an internal level. Over the past 12 months, the Committee has dealt with a number of issues requiring resolution. In all, five meetings were held and the Executive Committee hereby thanks the national handball federations of Sweden, Malta and England for hosting a meeting in 2011.

Ten members

The Executive Committee of the European Handball Federation met in April 2011 for their second meeting of the year at the Federation’s headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Joining the Executive Committee for his first meeting was Chairman of the Professional Handball Board (PHB) Joan Marin who was elected to his position within the PHB in March 2011. His addition to the EHF Executive Committee brings the number of members to 10.

Twenty years

The members of the Executive were highly involved in the EHF 20th anniversary ‘HeartBeat Handball’ celebrations. In their final meeting of the year, the group met prior to the start of the event on 16 November, where in the Pyramid Event Hotel in Vösendorf they discussed and agreed on a number of competition issues. The 2012 edition of the Masters European Championships was awarded to Ljubljana, Slovenia. The 2012 IHF/EHF Women’s Challenge Trophy was awarded to Bulgaria, with further discussions on a possible second host to be discussed. The event will be held 23-25 March 2012. The Executive confirmed its decision and new agreement with the City of Cologne and LANXESS arena for the hosting of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne, Germany from 2012-2014. The Executive concluded their meeting with preparations for the event, which included the 10th Conference of Presidents, 6th Conference of Secretaries General and the Gala evening.

Additional topics handled in 2011 included player eligibility, insurance for injured players, the men’s and women’s Champions League and the new IHF Transfer Regulations. The EHF Executive Committee will reconvene in January during the Final Weekend of the EHF EURO 2012 in Belgrade, Serbia.

Fifty Federations

By majority vote, the application of the National Federation of Andorra was granted. The decision took immediate effect with Andorra becoming the 50th Member Federation of the EHF as of 29 May 2011.



Tor Lian



Jean Brihault



Ralf Dejaco



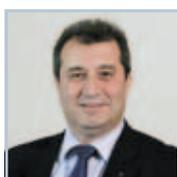
Jan Tuik



Frantisek Taborsky



Laszlo Sinka



Tarik Cengiz



Arne Elovsson



Andrey Lavrov

EHF COMPETITIONS COMMISSION

“2011 was an process intensive year for the members of the Competitions Commission as we continued to develop the club competitions, including the Champions League, on a technical level. Although some changes were implemented in 2011, the merging of the EHF Cup and Cup Winners’ Cup will come into effect in the 20th club season in 2012/13. We believe that this initiative will be beneficial to all handball stakeholders. The decisions that we have made this year continue to validate the purpose of the Competitions Commission.”

Jan Tuik
Chairman of the EHF Competitions Commission

The eight competitions of the men’s and women’s European Cup – September 2010 to May 2011 – were all carried out to a high standard. With hundreds of matches being played across Europe, the Competitions Commission (CC) are pleased to report that only a handful of challenging issues were brought to the attention of the CC. These cases were disposed of in accordance with EHF arbitration regulations.

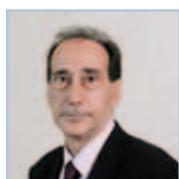
In technical refereeing matters, the new system of nominating EHF referees for friendly matches has proven effective with hardly any complications. Eighty successful nominations were undertaken in the four month test period. The Competitions Commission will continue with this initiative. Furthermore, the Competitions Commission received many positive reports on the performance of European referees at international tournaments in 2011.

In addition to National Team questions and proposing amendments to the regulations, the Competitions Commission dealt intensely with other topics central to the future of handball. The International Calendar has been discussed at all CC meetings in 2011. One of the related subjects was the scheduling of events at the end of the 2012/13 season. After an evaluation of all aspects the Competitions Commission decided to leave the VELUX FINAL4 two weeks prior to the matches of the EHF EURO 2014 qualification and therefore offering a free weekend to the leagues to have their last match day on 8/9 June 2013. Moreover, the issue of anti-doping was on the agenda. Anti-doping controls were introduced in the matches of EHF EURO Qualifications in addition to the final phase of club competitions.

The EHF Competition’s Commission finalised a proposal on the playing format of new Men’s European Cup competition, formed from the existing EHF Cup and Cup Winners’ Cup to be launched at the start of the 2012/13 season. The EHF Executive reached a decision and approved the proposal. Further information on the new playing format was released to the National Handball Federations of Europe.



Jan Tuik



Jesus Guerrero



Helga Magnúsdóttir



Sandor Andorka



Leopold Kalin

EHF METHODS COMMISSION

“In 2011, the Methods Commission (MC) continued to make tremendous headway in the area development, coaching licensing and work on the RINCK Convention reached heights with the newly instigated changes – all in keeping with the processes of the ‘MC Master Plan’. Prioritising the tasks of the MC has allowed for the four main areas of business on a methodological level to progress and record numerous successes.”

Frantisek Taborsky
Chairman of the EHF Methods Commission

In the realm of development, it was not only the surface aspects of the programmes that were coordinated in 2011, but also on a contractual level, the Methods Commission members certifying the fundamental integrity of the programmes. The Methods Commission also undertook procedural measures confirming that the objectives set by the National Federation involved in a development programme was consistently working towards the achievement of targets. For all short-term to long-term support measures MC member Allan Lund was responsible for the stringent technical verification ensuring that half-yearly progress reports were submitted where necessary.

The Methods Commission, the technical body for methodological matters of the EHF, has the mammoth task of overseeing the many developmental aspects of European handball. In 2011, the focus of the Commission was education, specifically the education of coaches and referees. The lecturer's course held in June 2011 was especially significant for the sport on a technical and methodological level. The EHF lecturers convene on a biennial basis, however, on this occasion representatives from all of the Technical Commissions (Competitions, Beach and Method Commissions) were present as well as coach, referee and beach handball lecturers. Opening with the topics pertaining to daily business the group also discussed their visions of handball in the future on a technical level. Furthermore, the lecturers responded to a survey and shared their valuable opinions in this area.

The Methods Commission placed great emphasis on the fact that coaches' education is not only a sport matter; but also mainly an educational process. Thus, the MC has undertaken an in-depth analysis of the situation and discovered that in many countries, the federations deal with coaches' education mainly as a sport matter and less as an educational issue. Therefore, many coaches do not have a proper educational background. Currently, with uncertainty remaining around certain questions the EHF introduced a governed coaching licensing system directly linked to the EHF RINCK Convention. "The Methods Commission believes that the EHF Coaching convention can be an effective means for the development of handball" said Wolfgang Pollany, EHF MC Member for Education and further training.

The EHF MC presented the developed conceptual approach towards a European Licensing system based on the EHF RINCK Convention. All existing master coaches will receive the highest EHF License (PRO License) automatically whereas in the future, any coach who receives the title nationally has to attend either an EHF Licensing course module (3 stage thesis stage) or the EHF has to be involved in all national Master Coach course modules by nominating 2 EHF lecturers.

Coaches' education programmes have to be implemented in all EHF member nations, bearing in mind that the migration of well-educated coaches within Europe is an important matter for the development of European handball in general.

In 2012, the EHF Methods Commission are eager to take this particular further.



Frantisek Taborsky



Bogdan Macovei



Wolfgang Pollany



Jerzy Elias



Allan Lund

EHF BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION

“Especially in the area of the National Team Competitions it was an exceptional year in Beach Handball. In an unprecedented step, the senior European Beach Handball Championships and the younger age category events were held within days of each other. Furthermore, the organisation of these events in Umag, Croatia exceeded all expectations! As the administrative year comes to a close, the Beach Handball Commission is very pleased with the developments of 2011 and we look forward to further positive progressions in 2012”

Laszlo Sinka
Chairman of the Beach Handball Commission

It has been three years since the introduction of the Beach Handball Commission and in this comparatively short time, the Chairman and the members of this body have taken the sport to a higher level. The Commission met on two occasions in 2011 and, among other subjects, the European Beach Tour, European Beach Handball Championships, Officiating and Education were the main topics on both agendas.

European Beach Tour

The European Beach Tour (EBT) is the framework for the Beach Handball Club season. With hundreds of male and female teams participating each season, the competition has seen consistent levels of growth, not just in terms of team numbers, but also on the level of organisation. At the EBT Final in Fuengirola, Spain the performance of the Beach Handball referees reached was of a very high quality. Nevertheless, the evolution of the European Beach Tour has resulted in the Beach Handball Commission taking essential action. In 2011, the EBT Regulations were taken under review and the analysis thereof is in progress at the time of publication.

European Beach Handball Championships

Following the success of the senior and younger age category Beach Handball Championships that took place in Umag, Croatia (see pages 12 – 15), the Commission continued with a follow-up of the 2011 events, the organisational processes for upcoming (2012 Georgia) and future (2013 & beyond) events. Furthermore, the bid book and event set-up manual for imminent editions of the Championships are nearing completion.

Officiating & Education

In the area of Beach Handball education for referees and delegates, course curricula on national level, detailed lectures, shoot-out guidelines and physical and theoretical tests were finalised in 2011. Moreover, intense work has been carried out on a restructuring of Beach Handball education system. Now in the stages of finalisation, the new system is set to be implemented in the summer of 2012. The Beach Handball Commission continues to make use of the EHF Family Portal successfully facilitating the transfer of knowledge.

Beach Handball Commission

On 2 May 2011, Koray Akgüloğlu responsible for Game Design & Coaching resigned his position on the commission due to professional commitments.



Laszlo Sinka



Marco Trespidi



Ole R. Jørstad



Koray Akgüloğlu



Georgios Bebetos

OTHER EHF COMMISSIONS

Nation's Board

Introduced into the EHF Structure in 2010, the Nations Board (NB) is an autonomous group of experts forming a body that is directly elected by Congress. Having replaced the National Team Committee and the National Team Board, the Nations Board convenes to represent the interests of the Member Federations. It is the duty of the Board to ensure the overall development of handball by working in the interests of the emerging and established national federations. A further function of the Nations Board is to analyse and develop the input received prior to submitting proposals to the Professional Handball Board or EHF Executive Committee.

In 2011, the Nations Board held two meetings (March & September) in Vienna, Austria. Items on the agenda included the EHF EURO, the competition system, calendar questions and the awarding of events.

Sitting on the Nations Board are:	Morten Stig Christensen	DEN / Chairman
	Phillpe Bana	FRA
	Ulrich Strombach	GER
	Bozidar Djurkovic	SRB
	Paul Hoes	NED
	Anrijs Brencans	LAT

Professional Handball Board

The Professional Handball Board (PHB) is a common strategic platform for the key stakeholders within European men's handball. It is made up of representatives of National Federations, Clubs, European Professional Leagues and Players, with two representatives from each stakeholder group making up the Board and EHF EXEC representatives. The Chairman of the Professional Handball Board also has a seat on the EHF Executive Committee.

The Professional Handball Board met on four occasions in 2011. Discussions surrounding the EHF European Championships led to proposal submitted to the EHF Executive Committee and the approval of introducing an additional rest day for the athletes at the EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia. Other agenda points included an overall insurance system for national team players and the education of handball managers. Strategic questions were also discussed in-depth.

Sitting on the Professional Handball Board are:	Joan Marin	FCH / Chairman
	Reiner Witte	EPHLA
	Morten Stig Christensen	NB
	Phillpe Bana	NB
	Gerd Butzeck	FCH
	Arne Josefsen	EPHLA
	Marcus Rominger	EHPU
	Marc-Olivier Albertini	EHPU
	Jean Brihault	EXEC
	Jan Tuik	EXEC
	Tor Lian	President
	Michael Wiederer	Secretary General

EHF Representation in IHF Bodies in 2011

<i>Council</i>	Vice President Europe – Tor Lian Member Europe – Jean Brihault
<i>Commissions</i>	COC Jan Tuik PRC Sandor Andorka CCM Frantisek Taborsky MC Hans Holdhaus CCP Helmut Höritsch

OTHER EHF COMMISSIONS

EHF Comptrollers

The EHF Comptrollers are an elected body charged with the internal examination of all EHF financial activity including EHF Marketing GmbH. In 2011, the Comptrollers met on three occasions, prior to independent audits, at the EHF Office in Vienna. Following the inspections, the Comptrollers prepared reports, which were then put before the EHF Finance Delegation. In 2012, the Comptrollers will prepare an all-encompassing written report that will be presented before Congress in Monte Carlo.

Members: Helmut Schebeczek (AUT), Wolfgang Gremmel (GER), Bozidar Djurkovic (SRB)

New internal legal system

Following the 2010 EHF Congress in Demark and the 2011 EHF Congress in Cologne, the EHF has introduced a new internal legal system with new legal regulations in order to offer all the handball family an updated and efficient internal legal organisation more capable to answer the needs and the values of EHF competitions. All amendments to the internal legal system including a new List of Penalties and a new Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions entered into force on 1 July 2011.

EHF Court of Handball (CoH) - 1st Instance

(Former EHF Arbitration Tribunal)

The EHF Court of Handball treats disputes in the first instance. Cases of 1st instance refer to infringements of the EHF / IHF Regulations, disciplinary offences and disputes in connection with competitions between National Federations or clubs. Since 01.07.11, the CoH brought 16 cases to resolution. Prior to the disbandment of the EHF Arbitration Tribunal, the body treated 15 cases up to 30.06.11. One case is pending; proceedings were suspended due ongoing civil action.

Members: Rui Coelho (POR), Moshe Herman (ISR), Tapio Arponen (FIN), Viktor Konoplyastyy (UKR), Henk Lenaerts (NED) as of 29 May 2011, Jolanta Jankeviciene (LTU), Willy Tobler (SUI), Ioannis Karanassos (GRE)

EHF Court of Appeal (CoA) – 2nd Instance

The EHF Court of Appeal was created to examine and decide on cases in the second instance. Since 1 July 2011, the CoA successfully concluded 1 case. A second case is pending.

Members: Markus Plazer (AUT), Jens Bertel Rasmussen (DEN), Nicolae Vizitiu (MDA), Marek Szajna (POL), Lucio Correia (POR), Milan Petronijevic (SRB), Roland Schneider (SUI)

EHF Court of Arbitration Council (ECA)

When any of the parties to the EHF legal proceedings is not satisfied with the final decision of the EHF legal bodies, a claim may be filed with the independent EHF Court of Arbitration (ECA). The EHF Court of Arbitration is external to the EHF, despite being created by the EHF Congress. ECA proceedings are handled in accordance with its Rules of Arbitration and its decisions are recognised by the EHF and binding on all parties. A party having recourse to the EHF Court of Arbitration proceedings to solve a dispute renounces to the civil court remedies. For further information about the EHF Court of Arbitration, visit www.eca-handball.com. In 2011, 3 disputes were treated by ECA; one case is still pending.

EHF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

The European Handball Federation's media and communications operations were restructured at the beginning of the year when the "Corporate Communications" department became EHF Media and Communications, reflecting the increasing importance of the media in the work of the EHF and to the sport of handball.

With the restructuring of operations, came additional resources with the employment of a media relations expert and two freelance journalists providing written content not just for the EHF's websites but also its written publications.

The 'English language' experts in the Media and Communications department deal with a wide a range of different tasks and topics as part of their daily business, providing communication services across the EHF and its various departments. These tasks include producing the EHF's written publications, press conference moderation and coordination, media management at major events, website and editorial management, graphic design and dealing with media enquires.

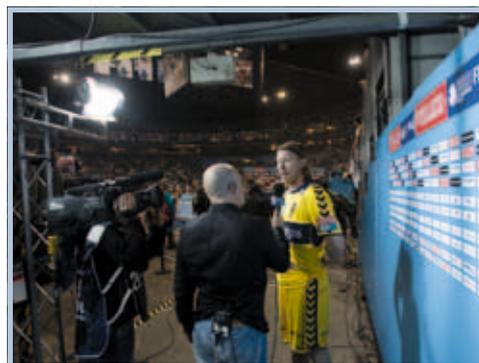
Through its work, the department seeks to promote the sport of handball and the European federation's key messages through a variety of communications channels.

AIPS and EHF sign partnership agreement

Moreover, to underline the EHF's strong and close cooperation with the media, the EHF signed an agreement with the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), an agreement that has seen the two organisations working together through the extensive contacts of the AIPS within the sports media world.

The agreement was signed by Secretary General of the European Handball Federation, Michael Wiederer, on behalf of the EHF President, Tor Lian, at the AIPS Sports Integrity Symposium in Lausanne, Switzerland on 27 January 2011. AIPS President Gianni Merlo signed the agreement on behalf of the International Sports Press Association.

AIPS (Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive) is the professional body representing sports journalists worldwide and is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as well as all of the leading international sports federations. AIPS has 10,500 members in 150 countries; they members are attached to the leading international daily newspapers, periodicals and radio and television channels across the five continents.



EHF PUBLICATIONS

Written publications continue to play an important role in the EHF's communication mix; for specific events, only a high-quality professionally produced written publication will suffice. 2011 was a busy year for publications; particular highlights included a VELUX EHF FINAL4 magazine, which was distributed to the 20,000 fans in the LANXESS arena in Cologne, a special 20 year HeartBeat HandBall publication and the VELUX EHF Champions League 2010/11 photo book.

Publications 2011 – Other mediums

9th EHF Referee Candidates Course
2011 Referee Seminar
2011 EHF Lecturers' Seminar
2011 EHF Youth Coaches' Course
2011 EHF 'RINCK' Convention Seminar for Signatory Nations
2011 Men's and Women's European Beach Handball Analysis CD
Beach Handball Promotion Video

Corporate / Event Identity Products

HeartBeat HandBall:
Information boards, flags, roll-ups, stationary, postcards, candle holders, etc...
European Cup roll-ups
EHF EURO 2012 Pocket sized match schedule card
EHF Champions League 2011/12 season
EHF Men's Champions League Regulations
EHF Women's Champions League Regulations
EHF Men's Champions League Corporate Identity Manual
EHF Champions League Host Broadcaster Manual
EHF Champions League Floor manual
EHF Champions League Promo trailer
EHF Champions League TV Master
EHF Champions League On-Screen Graphics and Slow Motion Wipes
EHF Champions League Intro and Outro trailer

Event Publications

EHF EURO 2012 Championship Guide - SRB
Women's 17 European Handball Championship Guide - CZE
Women's 19 European Handball Championship Guide - NED
Men's 20 European Open Championship Guide - SWE
2011 Men's and Women's European Beach Handball Championships Guide – CRO
2011 IHF/EHF Men's Challenge Trophy – IRL/MLT
HeartBeat HandBall - 20 Years of the European Handball Federation



EHF WEBSITES

The EHF manages a wide range of websites as well as social and new media pages, bringing the latest news, video, results and information as it happens to a large audience of handball fans, players, coaches and officials across the world. A professional network of editors, journalists and photographers works to provide top-quality content in English from the EHF itself and its top-level club and national team competitions.

Activities website relaunched

A new Activities website was launched in September 2011, featuring a new look and new functions in order to provide a unique tool to handball users worldwide on the EHF website. The new website is linked to the EHF CAN archive, which enables users to access information on all past courses, seminars, working groups, publications, competitions and events. This provides access to the EHF educational course documentation and to the latest developments. The new calendar functions on the starting page provide a clear overview over all EHF CAN events. Within one click, all information is at your disposal. The 'Expert corner' offers useful information on educational events, lecturer publications and educational material in the fields of coaching, refereeing, delegates and beach handball.

ehfTV.com

The EHF's online television platform continued to deliver matches from the VELUX EHF Champions League and Women's EHF Champions League live and on-demand as well as match highlights, a weekly magazine programme, Rewind – The Handball Show, and Match of the Week, one match from each round commented live in English by Tom O'Brannagain.

Social Media

The growing importance of social media in sport is reflected in the EHF's presence in Facebook, with more than 12,000 fans having already 'liked' the EHF Champions League Facebook page as well as there being official Facebook pages for both the Men's and Women's EHF EUROs. The pages offer fans the chance to stay informed and give their opinions on the EHF's flagship club and national team competitions.

Looking to the future

In 2012, a major review of the EHF Online presence will be undertaken with a relaunch of many of the EHF's current websites planned during the course of the next year and beyond. The redevelopment of the websites will see not just an overhaul of the design but also the introduction of new features and content, to ensure that the EHF's online presence keeps place with the latest trends in the digital world.



EHF OFFICE STAFF



Michael Wiederer



Markus Glaser



Helmut Hörtsch



Alexander Toncourt



Vesna Lazic



Peter Fröschl



Monika Flixeder



Doru Simion



Sevgi Herdem



Christoph Gamper



Ines Capek



Nicole Rabenseifner



Nadine Biehl



Andrea Moser



Marcos Bestileiro



Claudia Brantl



Marsha Brown



Nadja Lacina



Richard Turner



Marlies Röhrer



Rima Sypkus



Andreas Krywult



Sasha Martell



Yannick Maresch



Maëlle Grimaud



Vladimir Rancik



Mario Kovacic



Charly Music



Hannes Müller



Adrienn Öri



JJ Rowland



Anna Psintrou



Andrew McSteen



Peter Sichelschmidt



Nicole Krutz-Gundolf

EHF MARKETING GmbH



High-performance lies at the core of EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM). Going to extraordinary lengths to fulfil the company mission, the organisation celebrated unparalleled success in 2011. EHFM Managing Director Peter Vargo and his team cemented existing partnerships and sealed new sponsorship deals securing handball's place as a leading competitor in the international indoor sports market.

Founded six years ago, EHF Marketing GmbH is a wholly owned ancillary of European Handball Federation. Responsible for the professional marketing and promotion of Europe's top club competitions namely the VELUX EHF Champions League, Women's EHF Champions League and the European Cup, EHF Marketing GmbH currently employs a team of 14 dedicated operatives. In close cooperation with a range of high-profile marketing and media partners, EHFM performs across four divisions: media, business development, product development and the VELUX EHF FINAL4. The organisation remains confident that it is well on the way to strategically placing handball as the number one indoor team sport and The success of the competitions as well as the technical development that resounds in handball arenas across Europe supports the performance of EHF Marketing GmbH.

The organisation has clearly defined goals for 2012; this includes enlarging the pool of sponsors: strengthening the link between high-performance sport and top brands. New projects will be launched in 2012, which will also embrace a VELUX EHF merchandising line. The EHF Marketing GmbH team takes this opportunity to extend its gratitude to our partners and sponsors for their unwavering support of handball and we wish you all the best for the upcoming year.

THE EHF MARKETING TEAM

Managing Director



Peter Vargo



VELUX EHF MEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



During the official kick-off press conference on 7 September 2010 in Cologne, EHF Marketing GmbH and the VELUX Group, one of the world's strongest brands in the building material sector, entered into a three-year partnership. This agreement was the start of a beneficial and challenging experience for both parties: The VELUX Group became the first title sponsor in the history of the EHF Men's Champions League.

Apart from the naming right the VELUX Group also acquired a broad spectrum of on and off court rights, such as the TV presenting rights.

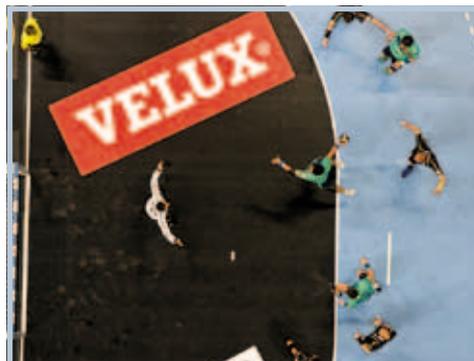
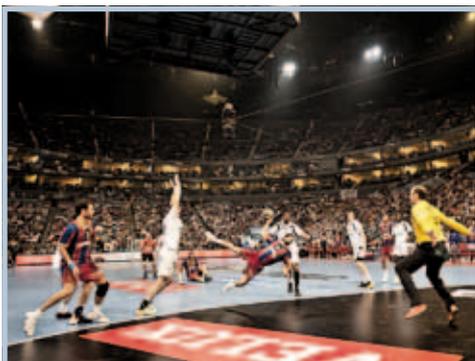
The desire for continuous innovation and a relentless focus on quality, both on and off the court, constitute some of the shared values that made it relevant for VELUX to become the title sponsor.

After the first season as title sponsor, Michael K. Rasmussen, Chief Marketing Officer of the VELUX Group, declared that 'We always enter a sponsorship with the purpose of making things better than if we were not on board. We consider sponsorship from a partnership perspective, it has to benefit both parties and therefore we work closely together with EHF Marketing GmbH to release the full potential of this sponsorship.'

The international corporation has sales companies throughout Europe and all over the world. During the first season, more than 3,500 VELUX VIP guests were invited to the VELUX EHF Champions League matches granting them the opportunity to experience unforgettable moments of sporting excellence and first-class hospitality.

Apart from offering key partners unique experiences in the playing halls, the partnership also ensures high media exposure for the VELUX brand and enables VELUX to bring business partners and customers together in a distinctive, more informal business context.

The EHF Marketing GmbH and The VELUX Group are looking forward to continuing this dynamic cooperation in the upcoming years and are eager to continue offering outstanding handball events to all stakeholders.



EHF MARKETING GmbH SPONSORS & PARTNERS

PREMIUM SPONSORS

The logo for Jack & Jones, featuring the brand name in white capital letters on a black rectangular background.

Jack & Jones

Through several years of strong partnership, Jack & Jones, the popular men's fashion brand, has been present all over European handball courts of the continent's foremost club handball competition, the VELUX EHF Champions League including its star event, the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne. The continuity of the cooperation between Jack & Jones and EHF Marketing GmbH has enabled both parties to develop challenging promotional tools and enhance both brands' awareness, not only in the European sphere but also on a global level. In the season 2011/12, the best examples of this fruitful and stable partnership include introduction of 3-dimensional stickers at selected VELUX EHF Champions League matches as well as the extensive visibility on the first-class LCD board systems.

The logo for bet-at-home.com, with the text in blue and green lowercase letters and a green swoosh underneath.

bet-at-home.com

Bet-at-home.com, the famous online betting service, has been a reliable premium partner of the VELUX EHF Champions League and EHF Women's Champions League at select matches across the continent for the past two seasons. This partnership helped to enhance its position as one of the European leaders in the sport betting industry. What could have been construed as a challenging cooperation in the initial stages has evolved into a rewarding and productive collaboration offering new opportunities to bet-at-home and its partner, EHF Marketing GmbH.

The logo for UNIQA, featuring a stylized 'Q' icon and the word 'UNIQA' in white capital letters on a blue rectangular background.

UNIQA

UNIQA, the Austrian-based international insurance group, is active in selected matches of the VELUX EHF Champions League and the EHF Women's Champions League in most of the Eastern European countries. UNIQA Group, as a leader of insurance services in this region, continues to be a valuable and long-term partner of EHF Marketing GmbH. In the current season, UNIQA Austria and UNIQA International's decision to extend their current contract with EHF Marketing GmbH for two more seasons with the recently created Regional Premium Partner Package shows the company's desire to maintain and strengthen the existing close relationship with the first-class European handball competition.

The logo for SHARP, with the word in bold red capital letters.

SHARP

SHARP, the global electronic company added its name to the prestigious list of EHF Marketing GmbH's premium partners. Together with EHF, SHARP has implemented original projects such as the introduction of the LCD board system in the VELUX EHF Champions League matches as a world premiere, first-class advertising tool. With the LCD board system, it was possible to create the Regional Premium Partner Package in season 2011/12. The cooperation with SHARP, being a globally renowned company, perfectly reflects the VELUX EHF Champions League's growth as a global brand and EHF Marketing GmbH's strategic position in the sport management industry.

The logo for Zillertal.at, with the text in white lowercase letters on a red rectangular background.

Zillertal

Based in Tyrol, Austria, Zillertal is the marketing agency responsible for the promotion and endorsement of the valley region. Zillertal undertakes this monumental task at international touristic events, fairs, etc. Following the successful use of the promotional Zillertal truck at both VELUX EHF FINAL4 events of 2010 and 2011, the Zillertal Tourist Agency has entered into a one-year partnership with EHF Marketing GmbH. This collaboration offers promotional opportunities in Scandinavia during the 2011/12 VELUX EHF Champions League season.

EHF MARKETING GmbH SPONSORS & PARTNERS

PARTNERS

adidas

adidas has been an integral part of the brand's professional development, especially being the official ball supplier of the VELUX EHF Champions League and the EHF Women's Champions League. During the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2011, adidas and EHF Marketing developed the first merchandising collection, which was a huge success. Thanks to the long-term and close partnership between the EHF and adidas, another new merchandising collection, especially designed for the event, will be launched during the 2012 VELUX EHF FINAL4 giving this current collaboration another opportunity to demonstrate its potential.



Gerflor Sports Flooring

In season 2011/12, the blue lagoon and black flooring system introduced thanks to the cooperation between EHF Marketing GmbH and Gerflor is now a core element of the VELUX EHF Champions League. Furthermore, prior to the start of season 2011/12, the consistent and characteristic look symbolising quality, professionalism and sporting excellence in the arenas throughout Europe as well as on TV was elected as a core element of the EHF Women's Champions League hereon in. The introduction of this branding enhancement in the playing halls of the EHF Women's Champions League demonstrates the efficiency of the partnership between EHF Marketing GmbH and the market leader in flooring systems, Gerflor.



Rimowa

Rimowa, one of Europe's leading manufacturers of luggage, started its first cooperation with EHF Marketing GmbH during the 2011 VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne. After this first success, both parties decided to strengthen their cooperation with an agreement enabling the well-known German company to become an EHF premium partner and to have consequent visibility on the LCD perimeter board systems during the 2011/12 VELUX EHF Champions League as well as during the season finale that is the VELUX EHF FINAL4. The starting collaboration with a leading brand of the luxury goods segment is a stepping-stone for EHF Marketing GmbH and its product, the VELUX EHF Champions league.



MEDIA FIGURES & PARTNERS

EHF Marketing, the federation's in-house marketing subsidiary, in conjunction with other agencies, has struck new television deals in all key Scandinavian markets such as Denmark, Sweden and Norway for the next three seasons. Agreements with DR and TV2 Sport for Denmark and TV2 for Norway were prolonged, while with Viasat Sweden a new strategic partner could be found for the Swedish territory. The cooperation with one of the most important partners in terms of media coverage was strengthened; Romanian media partner DIGI SPORT is now covering all Champions League matches of the teams in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Czech Republic, transmitting matches on their platforms such as Digisport 1, 2, 3 and on the internet. VELUX EHF FINAL4 was again one of the most followed events in European Cup history with more than 35 television networks covering the event.



Global MMK, the German media company and reporting partner, once again reported an increase in broadcast times last season, with a total of 2,883 hours shown across 22 analysed territories in the men's competition, reaching more than 600 million people following the Men's and Women's Champions League together. In addition to building on what the EHF described as "breakthrough" viewing figures, EHF will seek to further utilise its online platforms to spread the word about their flagship competition in the coming campaign.



Furthermore, the competition's weekly magazine round-up programmes, produced by Austrian company UNAS, an EHF Marketing GmbH partner, has increased their coverage for the ongoing season. The magazine now is covered in more than 20 territories and the introduction of the 'Match of the Week', established in 2010, from each Champions League round covering teams from all the competing nations, has already proved a strong asset for all media partners and well received by the followers.

EHF CALENDAR 2012

JANUARY

Men's World Championship - Qualification Europe (IHF Event)
EHF EURO 2012 in Serbia

FEBRUARY

VELUX EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's EHF Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

MARCH

Men's 18 European Championship – Qualification
VELUX EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's EHF EURO 2012 – Qualification
Women's EHF Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

APRIL

Men's National Team Week
Olympic Games – Qualification Men
Men's 20 European Championship – Qualification
VELUX EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's 20 World Championship – Qualification Europe (IHF Event)
Women's EHF Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws
EHF EURO 2014 – Qualification Draw

MAY

VELUX EHF FINAL4
Men's European Cup
Olympic Games – Qualification Women
Women's EHF EURO 2012 – Qualification
Women's EHF Champions League
Women's European Cup

JUNE

EHF EURO 2014 – Qualification 1
Men's World Championship – PO Europe (IHF Event)
EHF EURO 2012 – Final Tournament Draw
European Masters Handball Championships in Slovenia

EHF CALENDAR 2012

JULY

2012 Olympic Games (IOC Event)
Men's 20 European Championship in TUR
Men's 18 European Championship in AUT
Women's 18 European Open Championship in SWE
Women's U20 World Championship in CZE (IHF Event)
Men's 18 and Women's 18 Beach Handball European Championships in Georgia
European Cup Draws

AUGUST

2012 Olympic Games (IOC Event)
Women's U18 World Championship in MNE (IHF Event)

SEPTEMBER

VELUX EHF Champions League – Qualification
VELUX EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's EHF Champions League – Qualification
Women's European Cup

OCTOBER

VELUX EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's EHF Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws
Women's National Team Week

NOVEMBER

EHF EURO 2014 – Qualification
VELUX EHF Champions League
Men's European Cup
Women's World Championship – Qualification Europe (IHF Event)
Women's EHF Champions League
Women's European Cup
European Cup Draws

DECEMBER

VELUX EHF Champions League
EHF EURO 2012 in the Netherlands

EHF SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE



Michael Wiederer
EHF Secretary General

In 2011, you have been witness to so many happenings and events. You have seen it in arenas, in conference halls, online, live on TV and now we have summarised it all for you in the yearly annual review.

The highlight of the year that was HeartBeat HandBall, was not only a celebration of 20 years of development within the European Handball Federation, but also the starting point for a new phase: 5 years to come, to grow and excel in order to have something special to show you in 2016.

But for now looking to 2012, we can expect a rich year: the EHF EURO in Serbia and the Netherlands together with the Olympic Games in London will generate top level handball; the M18 in Austria, M20 in Turkey, W19 European Open, YAC Beach Handball in Georgia will develop the young players. There will be courses, seminars and workshops that will contribute to the development on a technical level. On a club level the Champions League with their climax in form of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 and the women's final is yet to come; moreover, a new look to the European Cup will be unveiled in the autumn.

Behind the scenes, those responsible for the organisation and structural development of our sport will continue to work in order to present the sport and product that is handball to the public; on stage, the protagonists – the players and the officials – create the face turned towards the outside world.

As we continue, the cooperation of the different interest groups will be of core importance for the future position of our sport in a challenging situation that is the current economic state of affairs.

The highlight of EHF business year on a sport-political level will be in June at the 2012 EHF Ordinary Congress in Monaco; this administrative event is viewed as a junction; a crossroad and the direction we take at this point will pave the way for the future. Furthermore, there will also be the awarding of the top handball events e.g. the EHF EURO in 2016 and the elections for the period 2012 – 2016, and much more...

So there you have it, a taste of what is to come in 2012 – a year that will be rich and full in sporting sensation. For this, we will need you and your input! Thank you for your unwavering support of the European Handball Federation and the sport.

I look forward to crossing paths with you in the New Year!



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Photos The European Handball Federation receives many photos over the course of the year. We would like to use this space to thank all the photographers, whether professional or just simply handball lovers, for the many photos which the EHF has used this year.

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 EHF EURO CHAMPIONSHIP
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 MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP
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 SCHOOL HANDBALL
 POWERFUL
 FAIR PLAY
 EHF EURO EVENTS



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