



European Handball Federation
2008 Annual Report





European Handball Federation 2008 Annual Report



Contents

<i>Introduction from the President</i>	4	<i>Bringing People Together</i>	37
<i>The Highlights</i>	7	9th EHF Extraordinary Congress	38
EHF EURO 2008 Norway	8	9th EHF Ordinary Congress	39
EHF EURO 2008 FYR Macedonia	11	Competitions Conference	41
EHF Men's Champions League	14	Meetings	44
EHF Women's Champions League	17	Workshops & Working Groups	46
EHF EURO 2010 Draw Event	20	Partners	48
2008 EHF Men's 20 European Championship	23	<i>Moving Forward</i>	49
2008 EHF Men's 18 European Championship	24	CAN	50
<i>The Old Favourites</i>	25	Handball Arena	52
European Cups	26	European Beach Handball	53
2008 Men's Champions Trophy	30	New initiatives & established competitions	54
2008 Women's European Open	31	<i>The Service Partnership</i>	55
2008 Women's Champions Trophy	32	Communications	56
2008 Draw Highlights	33	European Handball Federation Websites	57
Euro Select Matches	34	European Handball Federation Publications	59
IHF Competitions	35	Referees	60
		Transfers	62
		Methods & Developments	63
		<i>Behind The Scenes</i>	65
		EHF Corporate Network	66
		EHF Corporate & Office Structure	68
		EHF Executive & Commissions	70
		EHF Office	73
		EHF Marketing GmbH	75
		EHF Secretary General's Message	78

Introduction from the President



Tor Lian
EHF President

A year of superlatives

Here we are again, at the end of another year, taking a few moments to look back over a busy handball year, a year full of superlatives, highlights, challenges and developments. We are working in an energetic, developing and transforming environment, which we embrace with open arms.

A year which started and ended with a climax

The handball year of 2008 was quite something, as with all “even” years the January belonged to the 8th Men’s European Handball Championship. This year, eyes were on the north of Europe and the winter wonderland of Norway. The event has followed an upwards curve since its establishment on the market some 14 years ago. The development of the sport of handball and, in turn, the sheer scale of the event dimensions has exploded.

As we know, it is often easier to understand just how important the EHF EUROs are to the market and for our sport by taking in some of the figures. For the first time in Norway the magical 1 billion viewer boundary was crushed, over 1.2 billion viewers watched over 1000 hours of handball. The sporting aspect is obviously the absolute prime element and we could see just how elite the level of handball is in many countries across Europe – we saw a unique final of Denmark against Croatia, with Denmark taking the title for the first time.

At the end of the year it was the turn of the ladies, 16 top European teams converged on FYR Macedonia to fight for the title. This was the biggest sporting event ever to take place in the country and the fans were elated. The brand new arena, especially built for the event, was alight with atmosphere. A competition marked for its new generation of players, which we first saw back in 2005 at the Women’s 17 European Championship, the talent is coming through.

A year of progression

2008 was a year of continued progression. Open and pro-active discussion is essential to keep the ball rolling. Within any successful organisation, there are many stakeholders, interest groups, demands, needs and challenges. We see it as our duty to create synergies through joint activity, regular consultations, shared and continued analysis and common work on future developments while never losing sight of our objectives and duties to our sport and its evolution.

A joint approach may sound to all of us self-explanatory. This, in particular, but not exclusively concerns the cohesion between national team competitions and club competitions. The EHF works closely with all its partners, whether it is the national federations, leagues, clubs, players, media or marketing partners. The strong link to each and every member of these groups is highly important. Of course there are different interests, differing perspectives and expectations but it is a necessity to find a balance for the equation and react quickly and professionally to changing trends and demands.

A year of communication

Over the year, there have been extensive talks with all of these groups, whether it be in the form of Conferences, Congresses or meetings. Talking brings the people together. Changes have been made to the EHF structure, in turn with the developments of the sport and to ensure that all stakeholders are integrated into the EHF working mechanisms and processes.

Following the Rome Congress last year, an additional Extraordinary Congress was held in Lillehammer on the final weekend of EHF EURO 2008 in January. Here, the EHF Member Federations voted to form additional bodies, to accentuate the status and consult on the progress of club and national team competitions – these are in the form of technical Committees within the structure of the EHF (men’s club, women’s club and national teams), and parallel to this, Boards for men’s and women’s club competitions within the spheres of EHF Marketing.



Introduction from the President

We also held a unique event in 2008, a Competitions Conference for Men's Handball, where representatives from all areas of handball were invited to get together, exchange ideas, thoughts and opinions on key topics which affect the development of handball. This highly interesting mixture of people, including former players, provided us with crucial and resting feedback and analysis which help shape the future of our sport. (editor: more information can be found on this event on page 41)

A year setting the future

The EHF Executive reacted quickly to the Congress decisions and set the ball rolling immediately to make the appropriate and necessary adjustments to the structure. It was also a year to continue to "look out of the handball window" and take a look at the European Sports model as a whole. It is our duty and mission to guarantee and strengthen the principle fundamentals of the sporting model. The leadership of the EHF had an array of meetings with the European Team Sports' Federations, one of which took place at the EHF Headquarters in Vienna. All federations underlined the importance of working in close cooperation, that many themes are common to all team sports and that each and every federation can learn and gain from each other. (editor: more information on page 43).

A year of highlights

I have only briefly mentioned the competitions and activities of the EHF in this introduction as you can take a look over the highlights once again over the next pages. One thing that holds true for all competitions and activities of the European Handball Federation is the passion, expertise and skill which can be found on our continent. Of course, when we watch the European Championship matches, the Champions League and the European Cup competitions you see handball at its best and see the delights which top level handball brings to the crowds but let us not forget the stars of the future.

Each year, the EHF holds a wide compendium of younger age category events, 2008 was no exception. I always find the level and professional nature of these events absolutely exceptional. The level of handball is increasing that the youngsters take everything they do with the utmost of seriousness. We will, not doubt, see great handball in the years to come.

A year of partnership

I have focused my introduction on the different stakeholders who contribute to our sport and the importance of communication. Of course the stronger our sport gets on the market, the more people wish to profit from it. We can only achieve the results we seek by working together in partnership. The EHF and IHF have also taken steps to strengthen the relationship and have resolved differences to work together on future developments. This phase was characterised by a joint desire to take into account the often contradictory needs of Europe and the other continents.

Each and every person is essential to the further development of handball. This year it has become ever apparent to me how important this partnership is and I am proud of the strength that it represents. I cannot thank everybody enough or go close to expressing my appreciation of the contributions, whether it is by the national federations, leagues, clubs, players, media or marketing partners, or my colleagues within the EHF. Thank you, I am looking forward to continuing our partnership through 2009 and beyond. Let us take on the challenges and keep the ball rolling in the right direction.

I wish you all the very best, enjoy looking over the events of 2008!



► Safety, Durability
► Design, Performance
Winning solutions!

Taraflex® Sports Flooring



GERFLOR

43 Boulevard Garibaldi - 69170 Tarare - France

Phone : +33.474.05.40.00

Fax: +33.474.05.04.60

e-mail: sportevents@gerflor.com

www.gerflor.com

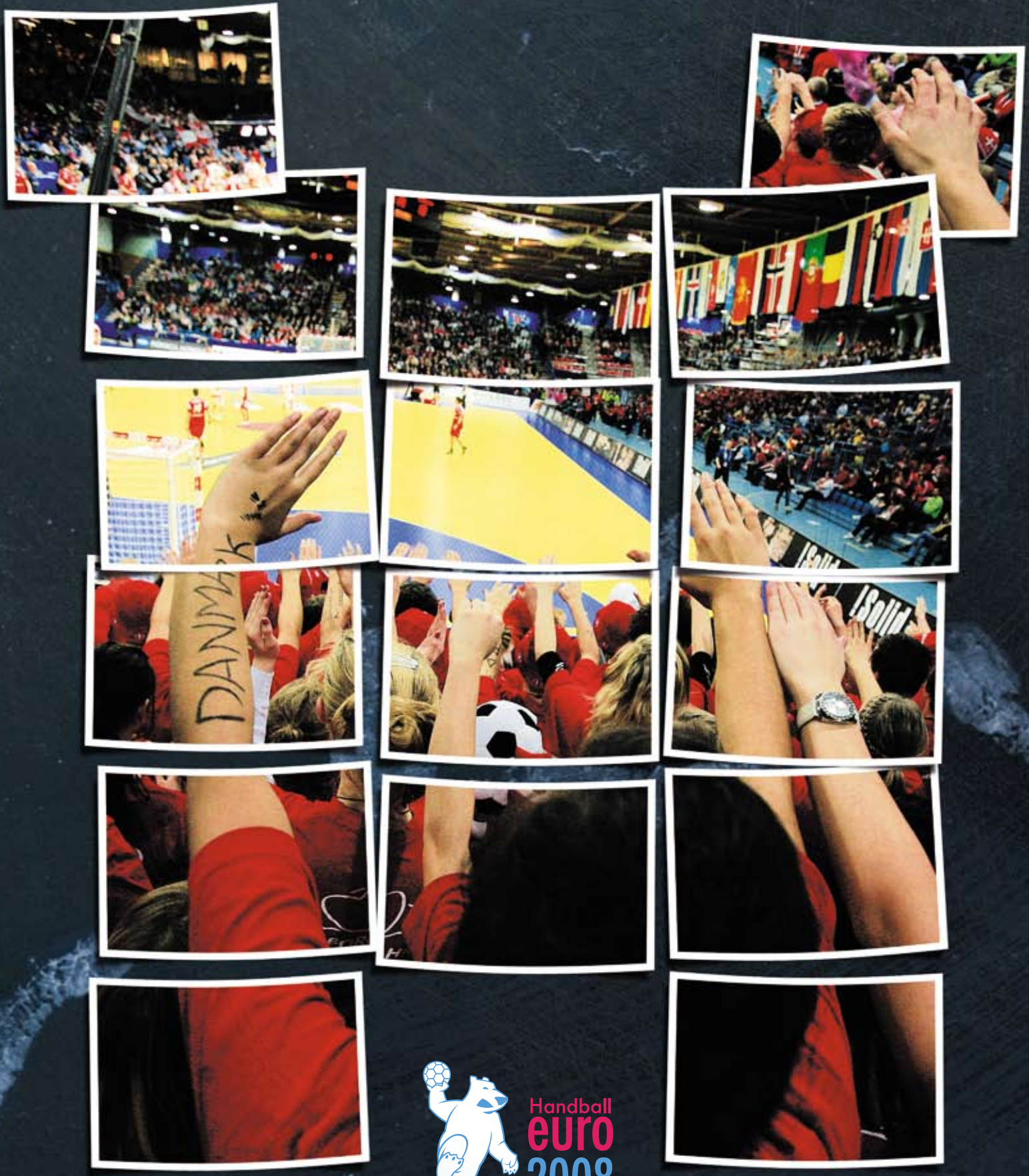
Gerflor



European Handball Federation
2008 Annual Report

The Highlights





EHF EURO 2008 Norway Men's Championship





The 8th edition of the Men's European Handball Championship came to an end on Sunday 27th January with Denmark winning the European Championship title in front of a lively crowd in the Hakons Arena in Lillehammer, Norway. This was the first European Championship title for Denmark, with a final match (Denmark and Croatia) that has never been seen before at a EURO Final.

The Championship, which took place in cities around Norway, from 17 – 27 January 2008 was an event of superlatives, reaching new heights, which have never been reached before in handball. The event began in Oslo with the whole EHF Delegation meeting for introductory sessions, team building exercises and important training for the Championship. The preliminary groups played for a place in the main round in Drammen, Stavanger, Trondheim and Bergen with the main round taking place in the beautiful cities of Stavanger and Trondheim. The finals were held in the spectacular Olympic, winter wonderland setting of Lillehammer.

The sheer framework of the event was of a dimension which had never been seen. Holding an event of this status is highly complex and professional planning and management is absolutely essential. The EHF worked extremely closely with both its partners and the Norwegian Handball Federation to present a sporting event to the market which would power the sport of handball further. The European Championships are highly recognised as being the gateway and most important platform for handball to present itself, not only for Europe but also the World.

The figures speak for themselves and give you an insight into the heights which were reached.



FACTS & FIGURES

Did you know?

- A new viewing record for a single EHF EURO event: magical figure of 1.2 billion TV viewers
- Over 1100 programme hours
- Over 1000 accredited media representatives
- Broadcast agreements with more than 70 broadcasters and almost 20 radio stations
- Broadcast in over 85 territories
- Over three times more viewers followed the live transmissions on ARD and ZDF in 2008, in comparison to the event in Switzerland in 2006
- In Denmark, 2,022 million viewers watched the final match itself. TV2 Denmark reached a market share of 86.5 percent with the live transmission
- High number of matches broadcasted in non-participating countries
- 180,000 spectators in the arenas of Norway
- 5.8 million page impressions on the official website



EHF EURO 2008 Norway Men's Championship



Preliminary Round

Group A

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Croatia	3	3	0	0	14	6
2. Poland	3	2	0	1	4	4
3. Slovenia	3	1	0	2	-9	2
4. Czech Republic	3	0	0	3	-9	0

Group B

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Norway	3	3	0	0	17	6
2. Denmark	3	2	0	1	10	4
3. Montenegro	3	0	1	2	-13	1
4. Russia	3	0	1	2	-14	1

Group C

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Hungary	3	2	0	1	8	4
2. Spain	3	2	0	1	6	4
3. Germany	3	2	0	1	4	4
4. Belarus	3	0	0	3	-18	0

Group D

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. France	3	3	0	0	14	6
2. Sweden	3	2	0	1	17	4
3. Iceland	3	1	0	2	-8	2
4. Slovakia	3	0	0	3	-23	0

Main Round

Group I

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Denmark	5	4	0	1	32	8
2. Croatia	5	3	1	1	8	7
3. Norway	5	2	2	1	2	6
4. Poland	5	2	1	2	7	5
5. Slovenia	5	2	0	3	-10	4
6. Montenegro	5	0	0	5	-39	0

Group II

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. France	5	4	0	1	14	8
2. Germany	5	3	0	2	3	6
3. Sweden	5	2	1	2	0	5
4. Hungary	5	2	1	2	-2	5
5. Spain	5	2	0	3	6	4
6. Iceland	5	1	0	4	-21	2

Semi-Finals

Denmark	vs	Germany	26:25 (10:13)
Croatia	vs	France	24:23 (11:09)

Finals

Denmark	vs	Croatia	24:20 (13:10)
---------	----	---------	---------------

Final Ranking

- Denmark
- Croatia
- France
- Germany
- Sweden
- Norway
- Poland
- Hungary
- Spain
- Slovenia
- Iceland
- Montenegro
- Russia
- Czech Republic
- Belarus
- Slovakia





EHF EURO 2008 FYR Macedonia Women's Championship



The 8th Women's European Championship took place in FYR Macedonia from 2 – 14 December 2008. This was the first time that an event of this scale had been held in the country. The Boris Trajkovski Hall in Skopje was built especially for the event, and during the matches of the home team, the atmosphere was electric. Some of team coaches stated that they had never seen such an atmosphere at a women's handball event.

The EHF EURO 2008 belonged to the young and up-and-coming players of the future, we obviously also saw many experienced and highly talented players but this was the beginning of a new Olympic cycle and many teams have entered a new generation. The new players have gone through the younger age category competition process. Their talent was first seen at the 2005 Women's 17 European Championship in Austria and their path to the top can be followed through the various younger age category events of the past three years. They are now at the top and have shown their talent and indeed their future potential once again.

The Norwegians took their fourth European title. It was their third consecutive EURO victory. While congratulations go to this highly skilled team, the silver medallists also have to be mentioned. Spain was the surprise of the tournament for many; they were 9th at the last championship and went all the way to the final to take a silver medal at EURO 2008!



FACTS & FIGURES

Did you know?

Not all figures were available at the time of going to press but here is just a taster..

- Over 500 media representatives
- 35 TV stations have covered the championship
- Broadcast in over 58 countries
- Also broadcast on Dubai Sports Channel
- Over 1 million 600 thousand page views at www.ehf-euro.com
- 284 160 visits to the official website
- People spent over 6 minutes on the site
- People from over 145 countries checked out the site
- The site was most popular in Romania, FYR Macedonia and Norway



EHF EURO 2008 FYR Macedonia Women's Championship



Preliminary Round

Group A

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Romania	3	3	0	0	13	6
2. Denmark	3	1	1	1	-1	3
3. Hungary	3	1	1	1	-3	3
4. France	3	0	0	3	-9	0

Group B

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Norway	3	2	1	0	28	5
2. Spain	3	1	2	0	5	4
3. Ukraine	3	1	1	1	1	3
4. Portugal	3	0	0	3	-34	0

Group C

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Russia	3	2	1	0	13	5
2. Sweden	3	1	2	0	14	4
3. Belarus	3	1	1	1	6	3
4. Austria	3	0	0	3	-33	0

Group D

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Germany	3	3	0	0	9	6
2. FYR Macedonia	3	2	0	1	0	4
3. Croatia	3	1	0	2	-3	2
4. Serbia	3	0	0	3	-6	0

Main Round

Group I

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Norway	5	4	1	0	45	9
2. Spain	5	2	2	1	7	6
3. Romania	5	3	0	2	2	6
4. Hungary	5	1	1	3	-20	3
5. Ukraine	5	1	1	3	-18	3
6. Denmark	5	1	1	3	-16	3

Group II

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Germany	5	4	1	0	24	9
2. Russia	5	3	1	1	21	7
3. Croatia	5	2	0	3	3	4
4. FYR Macedonia	5	2	0	3	-16	4
5. Sweden	5	1	2	2	-15	4
6. Belarus	5	0	2	3	-17	2

Semi-Finals

Spain	vs	Germany	32:29 (12:13)
Norway	vs	Russia	24:18 (12:07)

Finals

Norway	vs	Spain	34:21 (13:12)
--------	----	-------	---------------

Final Ranking

1. Norway
2. Spain
3. Russia
4. Germany
5. Romania
6. Croatia
7. FYR Macedonia
8. Hungary
9. Sweden
10. Ukraine
11. Denmark
12. Belarus
13. Serbia
14. France
15. Austria
16. Portugal





2007/08 EHF Men's Champions League

In the 2007/08 season, the EHF Champions League reached new heights once again, the newly introduced Main Round guaranteed more excitement than ever before and with the continued development of the event identity and the placement of the product on the market, it was a season of superlatives, both in sporting and event terms, with fans flooding into the arenas and more TV coverage than ever before. The development curve continues to move in the right direction. The key now is to keep this ball rolling and transmit the passion of the game to an ever increasing audience of delighted handball fans, whether at home, around the globe or in the arenas around Europe.

BM Ciudad Real took the EHF Champions League title for the second time, beating THW Kiel, the defending Champions, in Kiel by 31:25. THW Kiel won the first leg in Ciudad Real which made for an extremely exciting second leg. BM Ciudad Real last won the Champions League in 2005/06. This was the first time both teams had met in the EHF Champions League. The Top Scorer prize was shared last season. Following a thorough count by the EHF, Kiril Lazarov of HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb and Olafur Stefansson of BM Ciudad Real, both scored 96 goals in the 2007/08 season. Both are also high in the ranks of the current season's top scorer ranks.



FACTS & FIGURES

Did you know?

- 150 matches were played in the 2007/08 EHF Men's Champions League season
- 495,050 Spectators watched EHF Champions League handball last season
- 8,736 goals were scored
- There were 828 warnings, 1,267 two-minute suspensions, 48 red cards, 11 direct red cards, 5 two-minute suspensions to coaches this season, 28 yellow cards, no disqualification of a coach
- 1,600 metres of EHF Champions League branding was produced for the arenas, 300 roll-ups, 162m² backdrops
- Approximately 250km of cable were laid for the TV production this season
- 10 km of cable were laid for the TV production of the Champions League Final 2nd leg match in Kiel
- 12 cameras produced the TV pictures of the 2nd leg final
- 40 Champions League Floor Systems were used in 150 matches. A total of 1,088 rolls of flooring, 31,648m² of floor and 3,750 rolls of tape
- THW Kiel and BM Ciudad Real met for the first time in the EHF Champions League
- To reach the finals, both finalists travelled a total of 27,659 kilometres
- The Champions League Trophy weighs 20 kgs
- 22 matches were broadcast live at ehfCL.com
- Over 500 articles on the EHF Men's Champions League were published on ehfCL.com



2007/08 EHF Men's Champions League



GROUP 1	won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1 GER THW Kiel	5	0	1	191:160 31	10
2 RUS Chehovskie Medvedi	3	0	3	183:176 7	6
3 ESP C.B.M. Ademar Leon	3	0	3	173:171 2	6
4 FRA US Ivry Handball	1	0	5	173:213 -40	2

GROUP 2	won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1 ESP BM Ciudad Real	5	0	1	167:148 19	10
2 GER VfL Gummersbach	3	0	3	179:170 9	6
3 FRA Montpellier HB	3	0	3	175:179 -4	6
4 SLO RK Gorenje Velenje	1	0	5	156:180 -24	2

GROUP 3	won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1 GER HSV Hamburg	3	2	1	187:180 7	8
2 ESP Portland San Antonio	2	2	2	179:172 7	6
3 CRO HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb	3	0	3	170:177 -7	6
4 GER SG Flensburg-Handewitt	1	2	3	176:183 -7	4

GROUP 4	won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1 ESP FC Barcelona	4	0	2	194:174 20	8
2 DEN GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme	3	1	2	184:184 0	7
3 HUN Pick Szeged	3	0	3	169:176 -7	6
4 SLO Celje Pivovarna Lasko	1	1	4	172:185 -13	3

Men's Semifinals

ESP BM Ciudad Real
34:27, 26:32 (60:59)

GER THW Kiel
41:31, 37:44 (78:75)

GER HSV Hamburg

ESP FC Barcelona

Men's Finals

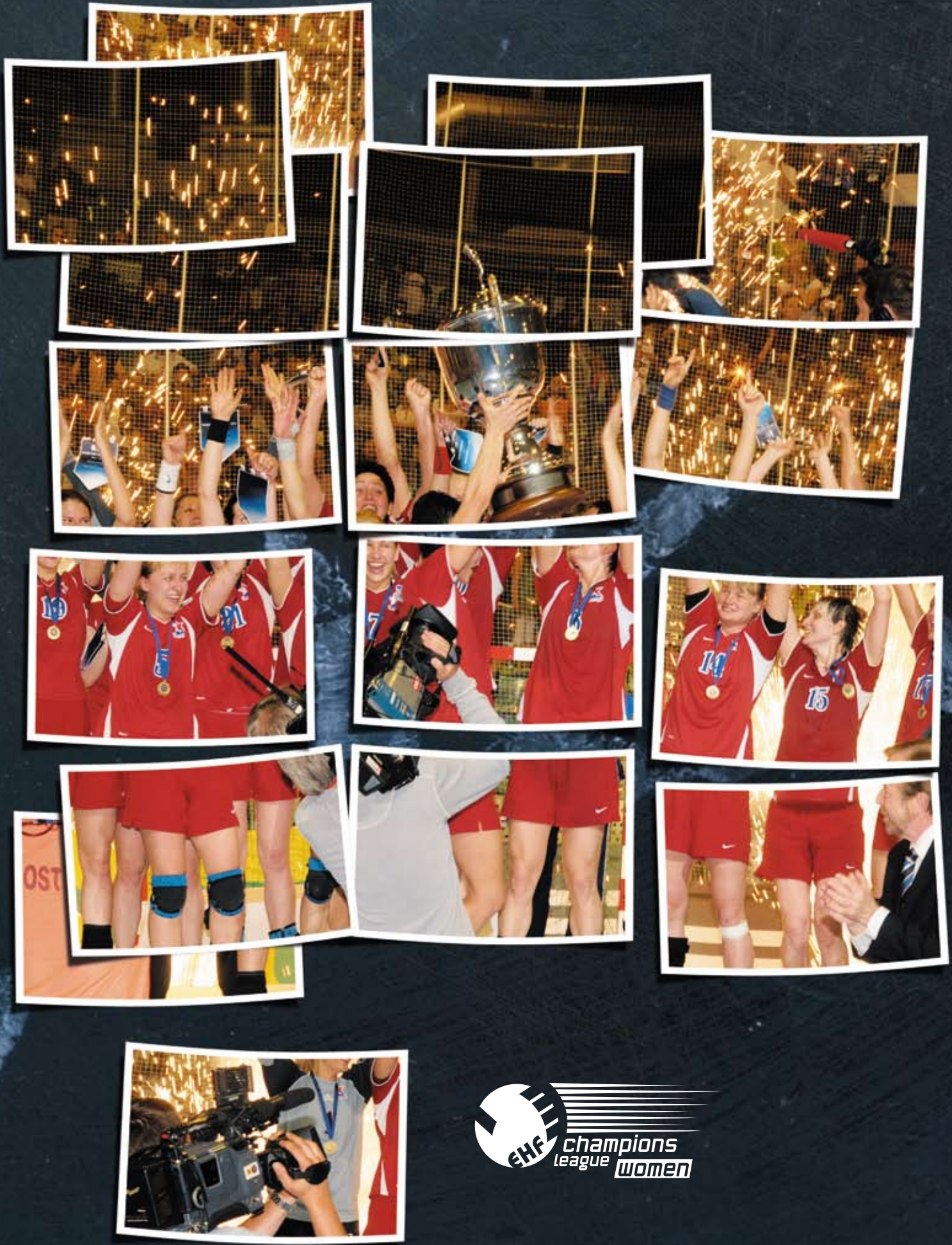
ESP BM Ciudad Real
27:29, 31:25 (58:54)

GER THW Kiel

Men's 07/08 Champion

ESP BM Ciudad Real





2007/08 EHF Women's Champions League



In the 2007/08 season, the crème de la crème of women's club handball had quite a similar outcome to that of the men's. The most successful club in the history of the EHF women's club competitions, Hypo Niederösterreich, narrowly lost the first leg in Russia by just one goal to lose at home in an exciting second leg matches against Zvezda Zvenigorod. Close to 4,000 spectators filled the Arena Nova in Wiener Neustadt to watch the famous trophy being lifted by the Russian team, who had won the EHF Cup the previous season. The finalists also headed the top scorer table with Tímea Tóth topping the table with 127 goals.



FACTS & FIGURES

Did you know?

- 78 matches were played in the 2007/08 EHF Women's Champions League
- 141,372 spectators watched EHF Champions League handball last season
- 4,437 goals were scored
- There were 424 warnings, 608 two-minute suspensions, 16 red cards, 4 direct red cards, 33 warnings to coaches, 15 two-minute suspensions to coaches, 1 disqualification of a coach
- Hypo Niederösterreich have won the title four times (1994, 1995, 1998, 2000), no Russian team had ever won the title before.
- To reach the finals, both finalists travelled a total 24,762 kilometres
- The Champions League Trophy weighs 20 kgs
- Over 300 articles on the EHF Women's Champions League were published on ehfCL.com



2007/08 EHF Women's Champions League



GROUP 1	won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1 HUN Györi Audi ETO KC	4	0	2	184:165 19	8
2 RUS HC "Lada Togliatti"	4	0	2	179:181 -2	8
3 ROU C.S. "Oltchim" Rm. Valcea	3	1	2	188:168 20	7
4 GER 1. FC Nürnberg	2	1	5	163:200 -37	1

GROUP 2	won	draw	lost	goal difference	points
1 AUT Hypo Niederösterreich	6	0	0	190:153 37	12
2 RUS Zvezda Zvenigorod	3	1	3	187:172 15	6
3 DEN Viborg HK A/S	3	1	3	173:164 9	6
4 DEN Slagelse DT	0	0	6	119:180 -61	0

Women's Semifinals

RUS Zvezda Zvenigorod
23:25, 27:21 (50:46)

RUS HC "Lada Togliatti"
31:28, 29:36 (60:64)

HUN Györi Audi ETO

AUT Hypo Niederösterreich

Women's Finals

RUS Zvezda Zvenigorod
25:24, 31:29 (56:53)

AUT Hypo Niederösterreich

Women's 07/08 Champion

RUS Zvezda Zvenigorod





HANDBALL
EURO·MEN
2010
AUSTRIA



European Handball Federation EURO 2010 Draw Event

The Men's and Women's European Championships have been carried out a total of 16 times, in host countries all over Europe. Sixteen of the best national teams take part in each of these events and they continue to reach new heights. Recent figures show a continuous upwards spiral, with a cumulative audience in the 2008 men's event of over 1 billion views and more than 1000 hours of programming.

The EHF EURO EVENTS are handball's greatest event – the organisation of an event of this dimension demands the highest standards, a professional event management strategy, specialists from all fields and a state-of-the-art working foundation and infrastructure. This poses a unique challenge to each and every host, to put their special touch and bring their unique charm to an EHF EURO EVENT. The final round of the 2010 EHF EURO will be played with a total of 16 teams. The tournament in Austria will take place from 19 to 31 January 2010. Austria is directly qualified for the final tournament as organiser, Denmark is directly qualified for the final tournament as defending champion. All other teams have to participate in the qualification groups in order to qualify for the final tournament. There are a total of 14 places available at the final tournament for those teams from the qualification groups.

The calendar for the qualification season includes 5 periods of two matches each for these qualification groups, as the playing schedule is based on 7 groups of 5 or 6 teams. This is a newly introduced system and the draw for the qualification groups took place on Friday evening, April 18, 2008, on the occasion of the EHF Competitions Conference in Vienna - 639 days to go before the throw-off of EHF EURO 2010!

The Draw Event was in the form of gala evening in central Vienna. The atmosphere on the evening hit the nail right on the head and gave the 200 guests from Austrian and European sporting circles just a little taste of what the world is going to experience in 2010 in Austria.

The EHF EURO 2010 comes under the motto of "Magic Moments". The draw event in the charming centre of Vienna, in a historical building, mirrored this feeling exactly. The EHF knows that the organisation of the 2010 Men's EHF European Championship is in good hands. The European Federations awarded the Austrian Handball Federation the honour of hosting the final event back in May 2006 and the Organising Committee got to work immediately. The Austrian Handball Federation is no stranger to hosting large events and with its experience, professional approach and enthusiasm; a great event awaits us. On the evening, four of Europe's top coaches were given the job of drawing the teams for the qualifications. Now we have to wait and see who will join Denmark and Austria in the heart of Europe in 2010.



**HANDBALL
EURO·MEN
2010
AUSTRIA**



European Handball Federation EURO 2010 Draw Event



**HANDBALL
EURO MEN
2010
AUSTRIA**



2010 Men's European Championship

Qualification matches played up to 30.11.08.

The qualification matches will resume in the new year.

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Sweden	3	3	0	0	34	6
2. Romania	4	2	0	2	1	4
3. Montenegro	3	2	0	1	-2	4
4. Poland	3	1	0	2	3	2
5. Turkey	3	0	0	3	-36	0

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Serbia	4	3	1	0	51	7
2. Russia	4	3	0	1	28	6
3. Bosnia Herzegovina	4	2	1	1	16	5
4. Switzerland	4	1	1	2	-5	3
5. Italy	4	1	1	2	-24	3
6. Faroe Islands	4	0	0	4	-66	0

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Norway	4	3	1	0	27	7
2. Iceland	2	1	1	0	19	3
3. Fyro Macedonia	2	1	1	0	9	3
4. Estonia	4	1	1	2	-12	3
5. Belgium	4	0	0	4	-43	0

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Hungary	4	4	0	0	40	8
2. Greece	4	2	0	2	1	4
3. Croatia	2	1	0	1	17	2
4. Slovakia	2	1	0	1	-2	2
5. Finland	4	0	0	4	-56	0

Group 5

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Slovenia	4	3	0	1	51	6
2. Germany	2	2	0	0	32	4
3. Belarus	2	2	0	0	10	4
4. Israel	4	1	0	3	-12	2
5. Bulgaria	4	0	0	4	-81	0

Group 6

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Czech Republic	4	4	0	0	28	8
2. Portugal	2	2	0	0	8	4
3. France	2	1	0	1	6	2
4. Latvia	4	1	0	3	-3	2
5. Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	-39	0

Group 7

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1. Netherlands	4	2	2	0	29	6
2. Ukraine	4	3	0	1	19	6
3. Spain	2	1	0	1	10	2
4. Lithuania	2	0	2	0	0	2
5. Cyprus	4	0	0	4	-58	0

For the 9th Men's European Championship, the EHF implemented a completely reformed competitions structure. The new qualification process is based on three years of intensive and extensive cooperation between National Federations of Europe and the continental Federation, which began at the EHF Congress in Portugal in 2005 and ended with a decision at the EHF Extraordinary Congress in Norway in 2008.

The European Handball Federation will closely monitor and analyse the new qualification system. Due to the complexity of the situation as a whole and naturally all the technical issues that such a radical change entails, the EHF has, of course left room for possible necessary adjustments for future qualification processes.

The new look qualification procedure started in October 2008. So far approximately 60 matches have been played in venues across Europe and the qualification matches will resume in March and June of 2009. From the 36 national teams participating within the seven qualification groups only the national teams occupying place 1 and 2 in the group table will advance to the final tournament.



2008 EHF Men's 20 European Championship

At the beginning of the year, thirteen teams made it through the qualification stages to join the two teams that automatically qualified based on performance and the host nation. The Men's 20 European Championship was played from the 25th July – 3rd August and saw 56 matches carried out over 10 days. Once again, with the necessary infrastructure in place, having held a YAC competition in 1996 and a senior European Championship in 2000, Romania played host to another top European competition.



From the very first match in the preliminary round right through to the final, the matches were played out under a tremendous atmosphere where great emphasis was placed on Fair Play – which is at the heart of any EHF Younger Age Category competition.



The final match saw Denmark defeat Germany in an exciting match that ended with 26:21. Both Denmark's and Germany's performance in this competition earned the national teams a place at the Men's U-21 World Championship. The IHF event will take place in Egypt from the 6th – 19th August 2009.

Final: **Denmark vs Germany 26:21 (13:11)**
Best Player Team A: **Niklas Landin Jacobsen (DEN)**
Best Player Team B: **Sebastian Faißt (GER)**



2008 EHF Men's 18 European Championship



The European Handball Federation continues to uphold the importance of the Younger Age Category (YAC) competitions. The Continental Federation and the National Federations of Europe have striven to nurture the up-and-coming younger players, the European Champions of tomorrow. This was strongly reiterated in the 2008 Men's 18 European Handball Championship that took place from the 8th – 17th August in Brno in the Czech Republic bringing the European summer sporting calendar to a conclusion.

The competition targeted at players born in or before 1990. From the qualification process, that took place in the spring of 2008, a total of 38 entries were whittled down to the final sixteen teams that participated in the final tournament. For this event, the teams made good use of halls in the Metsky Sportovni Areal.

In the final match, Germany defeated Denmark in a 31:27 victory to win their first ever title in this age category. In an exciting match, both teams kept up the pressure in the first half, which after 30 minutes, the score was tied. In the second half, Germany seemed to get a second wind and although they tried, Denmark just could not match the pace and energy of the German team.

As EHF Men's 18 European Championship finalists, Denmark and Germany secured their places at the Men's Youth U19 World Championship that will take place in Tunisia from the 20th to 31st July 2009.

Final:	Germany vs Denmark 31:27 (14:14)
Best Player Team A:	Steffan Fäth (GER)
Best Player Team B:	Kasper Olsen (DEN)





European Handball Federation
2008 Annual Report

The Old Favourites



EHF European Cup ~ The figures



2007/08 Men's and Women's EHF European Club Season sets new precedents

The 2007/08 Men's and Women's EHF European club season came to an end, underlining the ever increasing interest in club handball throughout Europe. The season saw a record number of clubs taking part in the EHF club competitions, which comprise of the EHF Champions League, EHF Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and Challenge Cup. A total of 162 clubs from 42 EHF Member Federations and the associated federation Kosovo registered teams for the men's competitions, and a total of 139 clubs from 37 EHF Member Federations registered for the season in the women's competitions.

Women's competitions

EHF Champions League:	32 clubs from 26 nations
EHF Cup:	39 clubs from 32 nations
Challenge Cup:	39 clubs from 23 nations
Cup Winners' Cup:	29 clubs from 28 nations

A total of 366 matches were played in the four competitions and 397,900 spectators followed the action live in the arenas around Europe. This was an increase from 385,200 in 2006/07. The number of goals totalled 20,044, which increased from last season's 17,219!

Men's competitions

EHF Champions League:	40 clubs from 29 nations
EHF Cup:	48 clubs from 37 nations
Challenge Cup:	38 clubs from 25 nations
Cup Winners' Cup:	36 clubs from 35 nations

All in all 442 matches were played in the four competitions and they attracted a total of 866,200 spectators, which was an increase of almost 100,000 in comparison to the 776,700 spectators of last season. The number of goals increased too with a staggering 25,750 goals being scored – increasing from 24,014!



EHF Cup 2007/08

Men's EHF Cup

Both finalists in the EHF Cup experienced their first European Cup final. HSG Nordhorn (GER) took the title; despite losing in the 2nd leg in Copenhagen, after a strong first leg at home where they won by 4 goals. Over 4 000 spectators filled the hall in the small town of Nordhorn. Due to the limited size of the hall in Copenhagen only around 1 000 fans could watch the 2nd leg, despite the fact that demand for tickets was immense. Many had to be content with watching the match live on television which was shown in both Germany and Denmark.



Men's Semifinals

SLO	RK Cimos Koper 30:35, 34:36 (64:71)	ESP	CAI BM. Aragon 26:25, 30:39 (56:64)
DEN	FCK Handbold A/S Kopenhagen	GER	HSG Nordhorn



Men's Finals

GER	HSG Nordhorn 31:27, 29:30 (60:57)
DEN	FCK Handbold A/S Kopenhagen

Men's 07/08 Champion

GER	HSG Nordhorn
------------	---------------------

Women's EHF Cup

In the Women's EHF Cup, the European Cup old timer club Dinamo Volgograd has taken their first title. The club has been part of the EHF European Cup competitions since 1997/1998, despite reaching the higher ranks of the competitions on numerous occasions this is their first European title. They beat the Spanish club Itxako-Navarra. The final result was 50:45!

Women's Semifinals

HUN	Dunaferr NK 27:23; 22:28 (49:51)	DEN	Ikast Bording Elite Handbold 37:31; 28:39 (65:70)
ESP	Itxako-Navarra	RUS	HC Dinamo Volgograd

Women's Finals

RUS	HC Dinamo Volgograd 27:25; 23:20 (50:45)
ESP	Itxako-Navarra

Women's 07/08 Champion

RUS	HC Dinamo Volgograd
------------	----------------------------



Challenge Cup 2007/08



Men's Challenge Cup

UCM Resita (ROU) successfully defended their title in the Challenge Cup. They beat Alpa Hard of Austria convincingly in the final. Last season was Resita's first season where they also took the title. Again both matches were shown live on TV.

Men's Semifinals

AUT	Alpa HC Hard
	35:24; 31:39 (66:63)
SUI	Pfadi Winterthur

POR	Sport Lisboa e Benfica
	31:26; 25:32 (56:58)
ROU	UCM Sport Resita

Men's Finals

AUT	Alpa HC Hard
	29:28; 18:26 (47:54)
ROU	UCM Sport Resita

Men's 07/08 Champion

ROU UCM Sport Resita

Women's Challenge Cup

Always full of surprises, the Women's Challenge Cup saw European Cup newcomers, VfL Oldenburg, taking the Challenge Cup title, beating the French club Merignac Handball convincingly in both legs, with a final score of 51:60. They lifted the Cup in front of 2500 fans in their home arena.

Women's Semifinals

GER	VfL Oldenburg
	30:31; 29:25 (59:56)
ROU	H.C. „Dunarea“ Braila

SVK	SKP Bratislava
	23:28; 26:30 (49:58)
FRA	Merignac Handball

Women's Finals

FRA	Merignac Handball
	25:31; 26:29 (51:60)
GER	VfL Oldenburg

Women's 07/08 Champion

GER VfL Oldenburg



Cup Winners' Cup 2007/08

Men's Cup Winners' Cup

An all time record was set in the Cup Winners' Cup Final (2nd leg), a total of 13 500 handball fans were in the SAP Arena in Mannheim to watch the first European Cup final ever for Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER). The tickets were sold out within three days. MKB Veszprem took the title making it third time lucky – this was their third Cup Winners' Cup Final!



CUP WINNERS'
CUP



Men's Semifinals

GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen	SUI Kadetten Schaffhausen GCZ
27:27, 34:31 (61:58)	28:28, 24:30 (52:58)
ESP BM Valladolid	HUN MKB Veszprém KC

Men's Finals

HUN MKB Veszprém KC
37:32, 28:28 (65:60)
GER Rhein-Neckar Löwen

Men's 07/08 Champion

HUN MKB Veszprém KC

Women's Cup Winners' Cup

Larvik HK of Norway took the 2007/2008 Women's Cup Winners' Cup beating the Romanian team of CS Rulmentul-Urban Brasov in both final matches. Larvik entered the competition in the EHF Champions League and were third in the group matches which automatically qualified them for the Cup Winners' Cup. They are no strangers to the Cup Winners' Cup, they won it back in 2004/2005!

Women's Semifinals

ESP AKABA Bera Bera	CRO HC Podravka Vegeta
28:27; 30:39 (58:66)	29:27; 30:33 (59:60)
ROU C.S. Rulmentul-Urban Brasov	NOR Larvik HK

Women's Finals

NOR Larvik HK
25:21; 25:19 (50:40)
ROU C.S. Rulmentul-Urban Brasov

Women's 07/08 Champion

NOR Larvik HK



2008 EHF Men's & Women's Champions Trophy



2008 UNIQA EHF Men's Champions Trophy

The 2008 UNIQA EHF Men's Champions Trophy was just one of the season opening highlights. On the weekend of the 20th/21st September, four top teams convened in Veszprém, Hungary to play the Men's Champions Trophy. BM Ciudad Real represented the EHF Champions League, the host MKB Veszprém (Cup Winners's Cup winner) and HSG Nordhorn joined the Champions Trophy from the EHF Cup and as it is tradition in this competition, there was a "Wild Card" team, THW Kiel from Germany.

In the final match, it was clear that BM Ciudad Real was extremely focused in their task throughout the match during which 5 penalties were awarded that resulted in a goal each and every time. The top scorer of the match, Sjarhei Rutenka, scored 10 goals for BM Ciudad Real, closely followed by Jonas Källman and Olafur Stefansson. It was quite a different story for the host team, MKB Veszprém, who only managed to achieve a 50% success rate when taking penalty shots. As the pressure from BM Ciudad Real increased, it was obvious that a few MKB Veszprém team members had a hard time keeping their head in the game; this was proven by four suspensions in the second half of the final match.

In front of 5500 spectators, it was a captivating contest from start to finish. Under a fantastic atmosphere, the 2008 edition of the Champions Trophy inaugurated the brand new sporting arena in Veszprém. BM Ciudad Real took the title in a spectacular finish against the host team MKB Veszprém.

Final:	MKB Veszprém vs BM Ciudad Real 28:32 (13:10)
Top Scorer:	Bjarte Myrhol (HSG Nordhorn)
Most Valuable Player:	Marko Vujin (MKB Veszprém)
Best Goalkeeper:	Árpád Sterbik (BM Ciudad Real)



2008 Women's Champions Trophy

The 2008 edition of the Women's Champions Trophy was held in Chekhov, Russia over the weekend of the 13th/14th September 2008. Russia featured their top women's handball teams, Dinamo Volgograd and Zvezda Zvenigorod, who officially hosted this top sporting event. Larvik HK of Norway and this years Wild Card entry – Hypo Niederösterreich, also convened in Russia to participate.

Over the weekend the fans that filled the Sport Hall "Olimpiyskiy" Chekhov were treated to four thrilling matches, where the teams played intense handball for a chance to take the Championship plate back to their home club. The final match was action-packed. At times, the ladies of handball suffered a great lack of composure, identified with a total of 6 warnings, 12 two-minute suspensions and one red card. Zvezda missed two penalty shots from a total of nine attempts. On the other hand, from the four penalties awarded to them, Hypo Niederösterreich managed to hit the back of the net every time.

The final match was decided by one single goal in an extremely close match, where both teams were on even footing even at half time. Hypo Niederösterreich lost out to hosts Zvezda Zvenigorod, 07/08 EHF CL winners, who proved to be the superior team at the end of the 60 minutes.

Final:	Zvezda Zvenigorod vs Hypo Niederösterreich 28:27 (14:14)
Top Scorer:	Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth (Larvik HK)
Most Valuable Player:	Seong Ok Oh (Hypo Niederösterreich)
Best Goalkeeper:	Inna Suslina (Zvezda Zvenigorod)



Women's 18 European Open

The thinking behind the European Open competitions is to encourage, support and promote the players and referees of tomorrow. The EO showcases the graduates of the EHF Younger Referee Programme. The actual competition for young women born in 1990 or later showcased 7 days of energetic matches, which cumulated in a thrilling final.

The second edition of the Women's 18 European Open returned to Gothenburg, Sweden from the 1st to the 5th July, bringing the first of the summer highlights to the fans of the European Handball, on a different level. The EHF invited the YAC national team of Azerbaijan to participate with 21 additional European teams. A total of 81 matches were played and through the concerted effort of the EHF Activities department, the majority of the matches were streamed live over the internet, thus reaching handball fans across the globe.

In a captivating final, the YAC national team of Spain took on the Norwegian squad. The match, carried out in the Lisaberg playing hall in front of 1800 spectators, ended in favour of Norway, who took the title in a clear victory. Norway dominated the match from the outset despite the Spanish team putting on a strong performance. In the end the best team won.



Final: **Spain vs Norway 17:25 (8:12)**

Top Scorer: **Beate Scheffknecht (AUT)**
 Most Valuable Player: **Anna Roxå (SWE)**
 Best Goalkeeper: **Nora Moerk (NOR)**

2008 European Youth Beach Handball Championship

This year will be remembered for being a very important year. The Beach Handball Commission was elected and inaugurated in September and for the first time the game was played with a new youth category. The Beach Handball business unit of the EHF realised the void in this area of Handball and supported by a demographic study, the proposal of initiating a competition for the youth category was presented and ratified in 2007.

The 1st European Youth Beach Handball Championship took place in Nagyatád, Hungary from the 27th – 29th June 2008. Fourteen teams signed up for the tournament, which concluded in yet another Hungarian double victory. In the men's competition, it came down to the shoot-out to decide the match against Serbia and in the women's competition; it was a clear victory against Turkey.



Most Valuable Players: Women **Kitti Grósz (HUN)**
 Men **Sandro Affolter (SUI)**

Top scorers: Women **Kitti Grósz (HUN)**
 Men **Alexandr Poltoratskiy (UKR)**

Best goalkeepers: Women **Line Alm (NOR)**
 Men **Vladimir Rakitin (UKR)**



2008 Women's Challenge Trophy



The Challenge Trophy, in terms of location, has come full circle returning to the country of its debut, Cyprus, who held the very first challenge trophy in 1999. The nations that participated in this years' event were Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Great Britain, Israel and Malta.

The city of Larnaca was the setting for the 2008 edition of the Champions Trophy. This was the fifth event in the women's category since the competition began. The Challenge Trophy is renowned for being the competition from the EHF stable that is solely for the developing handball nations of Europe, assisting them in their quest to gain experience on an international level.

The tournament came to an end after 4 days of intense competition. The national teams from the Faroe Islands and Finland made it through to the finals after defeating Bosnia Herzegovina and Great Britain respectively. The final match was held in the Larnaca Hall under a fair and sporting atmosphere. In a clear victory, Finland defeated the Faroe Islands to lift the 2008 Women's Championship Trophy plate.



Final: **Faroe Islands vs Finland 17:25 (10:12)**

Best Defence Player: **Linda Cainberg (FIN)**

Most Valuable Player: **Anette Tallqvist (FIN)**



Draw Highlights

The EHF has a wide compendium of events and competitions, falling under the auspices of the European Handball Federation authority. Before the actual matches and competitions can take place, the teams must be drawn. There are many draws over the course of the year and 2008 was, of course, no exception. All draws are public events and while the majority take place at the EHF Headquarters and are just part of daily business, there are some special highlights which draw more attention. The EHF takes great care to select the perfect location and occasion, often combining them with an actual handball event.



Here are some of the highlights of 2008.

Women's EHF EURO 2008 Draw

A beautiful amphitheatre setting in Ohrid, MKD, was chosen for the draw for the final round of EHF EURO 2008. Ohrid was also one of the two venues for the event. The 16 best teams in Europe were drawn into four groups for the Championship which took place from 2 – 14 December 2008. The match was broadcast live on Macedonian television and at www.ehf-euro.com.

EHF EURO 2010 Draw Event

An historic building in the centre of Vienna was the location chosen for the 2010 Men's European Championship Draw. A gala evening was held to draw the qualification groups for EHF EURO 2010. This will be the first time that the qualification will be played in this way, with home and away matches. Four top coaches were in Vienna to draw the lots: 2004 Olympic Champion – Lino Cervar, 2007 World Champion – Heiner Brand, 2008 European Champion – Ulrik Wilbek and Dagur Sigurdsson - Coach of Austria. Over 200 guests were present to follow the draw, which was also streamed live and offered via the EBU network.

EHF Handball Champions League Draw

The draw for the EHF Men's Champions League Group Matches went north this year. The famous Partille Cup, which attracts thousands of young and up-and-coming handball players to the centre of Gothenburg each year, provided the perfect setting for this elite draw. The impressive Scandinavium Arena and the occasion of the Leaders' Party were used to draw the lots. Top Scorer from the 2007/08 season, Kiril Lazarov, was in Gothenburg to draw the lots. All clubs were represented, the draw was streamed live at ehfCL.com. It was also offered via the EBU network.

2009 Women's World Championship Play-offs (EUROPE) Draw

The "draw season" came to an official end on Final's Day of EHF EURO 2008. Over 150 people attended the EHF EURO 2008 Press Conference in the Skopje Arena, which preceded the draw. There was much tension in the press conference room, while the attendees waited to see which teams would be drawn against each other for the play-offs, which will take place in June 2009.



2008 European Selection



Based on the initiative of the Rukometni Savez Crne Gora and Magyar Kezilabda Szövetség and in cooperation with the EHF, two European Selection matches took place in 2008 to mark the playing career of Montenegrin national team player Maja Bulatovic and to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Hungarian Handball Federation.

The European Selection serves the purpose of bringing to centre stage, those who have successfully served handball and who have now ended their international sports career. The retirement of national player Maja Bulatovic presented a great opportunity to the stars of yesterday from women's handball to play together once more and this opportunity was used honour the "artists of the ball". The match between Montenegro and the European Selection took place in the "S.C. Moraca" hall in Podgorica on May 18th 2008 and was attended by some 3,000 handball fans.

Just over a month later, the Hungarian Handball Federation had cause to celebrate, anew, bringing the stars of European women's handball to centre stage to mark the deep significance of 75 years of professional handball in Hungary. The Women's European Selection stepped on court on this occasion to face the Hungarian national team preparing for the Olympic Games.

The greatest stars of women's handball met in the Phönix Arena in Debrecen, Hungary on June 1st, 2008 in front of 3,000 fans who created splendid atmosphere for the stars. The team of coaches Marit Breivik and Evgeni Trefilov was equal in the first half, but the hosts won the game by six goals at the end. EHF President Tor Lian handed over an award to the MVP of the European Selection, Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth (NOR).

Celebrations preceded the game. On the occasion, the Hungarian Handball Federation gave awards to Hungarian players who ever won World Player of the Year titles: Erzsébet Kocsis (1995), Bojana Radulovic (2000 and 2003) and Anita Görbicz (2005). The award for Anita Kulcsár, World Player in 2004, who died in a car accident in 2005, was handed over to the mother of the player.

Montenegro vs European Selection 25:24 (18:12)

European Selection:

Dinu, Cumplova-Khehova, Petika, Kolega, Urbanke-Rösicke, Kastratovic, Durkovic, Németh, Garwacka, Yeraminok, Knezevic, Bozovic

Hungary vs European Selection 38:32 (16:16)

European Selection:

Riegelhuth, Gogirla, Pádár, Johansen, Soit, Postnova, Radulovic, Herbrecht, Görbicz, Teodora Dinis-Vartic, Poltoratskaya, Pálinger, Nicolas, Suslina.



IHF Competitions

Women's U18 World Championship in Slovakia (IHF Event)

The second edition of the Women's U18 World Championship took place from the 11th – 20th July 2008. The competition was organised in a joint cooperation between the Slovensky Zvaz Hadzanej and the International Handball Federation. All seven participating European teams ranked within the top ten in the final standings. The final ranking with the European participants in **BOLD** print can be seen in below:



1. RUS	2. SRB	3. DEN	4. FRA	5. ESP	6. KOR	7. SVK	8. ANG
9. NED	10. BRA	11. ARG	12. TUN	13. JPN	14. PUR	15. HKG	16. QAT

Women's U20 World Championship in FYR Macedonia (IHF Event)

The 16th edition of the Women's U20 World Championship, which was organised in cooperation with the Macedonian Handball Federation and the International Handball Federation, took place from the 21st July – 3rd August 2008. Eighteen teams participated in this top event of which 11 were from Europe. On the whole, there were very strong performances from Germany and Denmark, who attained first and second place respectively. The final ranking is listed below with the European participants in **BOLD** print:

1. GER	2. DEN	3. KOR	4. ESP	5. HUN	6. CRO	7. FRA	8. MNE	9. BRA
10. ROU	11. ANG	12. ARG	13. ISL	14. JPN	15. SLO	16. ALG	17. TPE	18. MKD

2008 Olympic Games in Beijing (IOC event)

The 2008 Olympic Games took place in Beijing in the People's Republic of China from 08.08 - 24.08.2008. For the first time, there were 12 teams participating in both the men's and women's competition. Sixteen of the twenty-four teams were from Europe. In the final standing, the European men fared better than the women with seven teams in the top ten. Ramona Maier of Romania was named Top Scorer after hitting the back of the net 56 times in the women's competition and Katrine Lunde Haraldsen was honored with the Best Goalkeeper award. In the men's Competition Juan Garcia of Spain was awarded the accolade of Top Scorer and Johannes Bitter of Germany was named Best Goalkeeper. All European teams represented at the Olympics fared well as you can see below:

Men's competition

1. FRA	2. ISL	3. ESP	4. CRO	5. POL	6. RUS
7. DEN	8. KOR	9. GER	10. EGY	11. BRA	12. CHN

Men's finals:

Place 1 / 2: **FRA – ISL 28:23**
Place 3 / 4: **CRO – ESP 29:35**

Women's competition

1. NOR	2. RUS	3. KOR	4. HUN	5. FRA	6. CHN
7. ROU	8. SWE	9. BRA	10. KAZ	11. GER	12. ANG

Women's finals:

Place 1 / 2: **NOR – RUS 34:27**
Place 3 / 4: KOR – **HUN 33:28**





THE BEST IS STILL TO COME

Infront Sports & Media's marketing partnership with the European Handball Federation is highlighted by the successful and sustained expansion of the European Handball Championships (EHF Euro).

The best is still to come, as we enter our 15th year of co-operation. Planning, teamwork and partnership continue to deliver exciting marketing results.

The most recent men's EHF Euro tournament took place in January 2008 and was the most extensively covered and viewed tournament in the history of this event.

It was broadcast in 85 territories with 1,100 programme hours and a cumulative television viewing audience of more than 1.2 billion.

This already matches the combined viewing audience of both the men's and women's tournaments in 2006 - once viewing of the 2008 Women's European Handball Championship in Macedonia is counted in, a new record will be set.

Infront Sports & Media — Exclusive Marketing Partner to the EHF for the European Handball Championships.

infront
SPORTS & MEDIA



European Handball Federation
2008 Annual Report

Bringing people together



9th EHF Extraordinary Congress



9th EHF Extraordinary Congress

The European Handball Federation welcomed close to one hundred delegates from 47 EHF Member Federations to the 9th EHF Extraordinary Congress in Lillehammer on Saturday 26th January 2008. The event was originally called as an add-on to the Extraordinary Congress, which took place in Rome in October 2007.

European Championship Qualifications

The principle reason behind the calling of this Extraordinary Congress was to deal with the matter of European Championship Qualifications. The European Championship Qualification Working Group, which was formed after a decision-made at the Rome Congress, has now presented its findings which primarily focus on the TV and marketing situation. The motion, seeking to further develop the qualification phase of the EHF premier national team event, was passed by the Congress. While respecting all existing contracts, the European Handball Federation will invest resources to establish a universal standard for these matches and make use of unutilised rights and offer marketing packages. Since this Congress, the qualifications have begun in the form of home and away matches.

Club Handball and National Team Handball

EHF Structure

Motions by the German Handball Association propose the establishment of bodies to act as Advisory Committees to the EHF Competitions Commission and to EHF Marketing GmbH. The individual bodies will focus on men's club handball, women's club handball and national teams to allow for a permanent dialogue on the highest level.

This motion was passed with the necessary majority, which means that three Advisory Committees: Men's European Club Handball, Women's European Club Handball and National Teams Competitions with 5 members will report to the EHF Competitions Commission, with the chairman of each Advisory Committee positioned also within the Competitions Commission.

EHF Marketing GmbH

On a further motion, the Congress voted positively to introduce Boards, mirroring the same structure of those described above. These Advisory Boards are a permanent counsel, dialogue and monitoring panel to consult to EHF Marketing GmbH.

Tor Lian stated after the end of the Congress: *"The very large support obtained by these motions is a clear sign of Europe's national federations' desire to preserve the unity of handball in Europe, to recognise the fundamental role of clubs in the success of European handball and to keep handball in the hands of those whose sole motivation is the success and development of sport."*

European Handball Championships

The third motion tabled by the German Handball Federation focused on the European Championship Regulations was passed in principle. The matter specifically deals with the distribution of revenues from the European Championship Final Rounds. The exact details relating to this motion were worked on by a Working Group which presented its findings at the EHF Congress in September 2008.

Conclusion

The decisions and discussions which took place at this Congress formed the progression points for the work during the year, leading to the 9th Ordinary Congress which is detailed on the next pages.



9th European Handball Federation Ordinary Congress

The 9th EHF Ordinary Congress commenced in Vienna/AUT on Friday 26th September 2008, with all 49 EHF Member Federations and associated member Kosovo present for this important sport political event. Over 200 participants listened to the Chairman of the Congress, President Tor Lian, supported by Vice-president Jean Brihault, opened the event welcoming all member nations, guests and partners.



Presidential Report

The President of the European Handball Federation presented a report on the EHF and the progressive work of the past period 2004 – 2008, looking back at the spectrum of EHF activities during this period. Lian stressed the need for permanent dialogue, shared analyses and joint activity, involving all stakeholders of European handball. The EHF continues to strive to optimise this in a rapidly developing handball Europe. The EHF President underlined the necessity to “contribute to a better articulation of the interests of the various stakeholders taking into account our partners in and outside Europe, in and outside handball”. This is to be achieved by involving all stakeholders in the reflection and decision-making process, work through dialogue in the interest of the European Sports Model.



EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM)

Michael Wiederer, Managing Director of EHFM until 1 July 2008, gave an in depth report on the business activities of EHF Marketing. He looked at the activities and the field of operation of EHFM since its foundation on 1 July 2005. While he detailed the milestones in achieving the set objectives, particularly in the area of creating an event identity, the setting of event standards and the continued market placement of the product, especially as far as TV coverage is concerned, he also addressed the Congress on areas which are in need of constant attention, for example securing minimum requirements for handball arenas and the highly-competitive and challenging marketing situation.

EHF Elections

The first day of the Congress was taken up with elections for the period of office 2008 – 2012: Executive Committee, Competitions Commission, Methods Commission, the newly installed Beach Handball Commission, Comptrollers, Arbitration Tribunal, Council of the Court of Arbitration and nominations to the IHF Congress. The Chairmen of the Competitions Commission Men's Club, Women's Club and National Teams Committee were also approved. The results of the elections can be found in the final section of this Annual Report, with a look at who's who behind the scenes at the EHF.

Motions relating to Statutes and Regulations

The Members voted to recognise the EHF Statutes and Regulations, as well as decisions met by the EHF Bodies and pass this obligation onto their members. A further motion concerning participation in international competitions was also voted upon and passed.

National Team Competitions

The EHF tabled a motion relating to national team competitions, with the focus at this stage on the men's competitions. Following consultation with all stakeholders - the contribution of all parties resulted in the motion. This served as a discussion platform targeted at moulding the future shape of the European Championships and the sporting framework for national team events after 2010, which is a highly complex matter and resulted in in-depth discussions.



9th European Handball Federation Ordinary Congress



Scheduling

Due to the complexity of the matter, concerning scheduling and the congestion of the playing schedule across the handball stage, it was agreed to set up a Task Force with representation from all stakeholders in order to prepare the decision about the timing of the 2011/2012 Men's European Championship by the Executive Committee. The Task Force will present the findings to the Executive Committee of the EHF in March for a decision; they had their first meeting on 5th December.

Finances

The Congress voted in favour of changing the distribution of the EHF EURO event revenues. The revenues from European Championships final tournaments will be distributed according to a percentage key after the deduction of organisational costs starting from EURO 2012.

EHF EURO awarding procedure

The Congress voted on the awarding process of EHF EURO events. The necessary majority to delegate the awarding process to the Executive was not achieved (64% in favour), therefore the Congress will continue to decide the organisers of EHF EURO events.

EHF Marketing Committee for European National Team Competitions

A motion was tabled by the German Handball Federation regarding the activation of the National Team Board. This body was based on a decision decided of the Lillehammer Congress in January 2008. The Vienna Congress voted to activate this Committee within the EHF.

Awarding of Events

EHF EURO Events

2012 (2011) Men's European Championship	Serbia
2012 Women's European Championship	Netherlands

Younger Age Category Events (YAC)

2010 Men's 18 European Championship	MNE (12 – 22.08.2010)
2010 Men's 20 European Championship	SVK (29.07 – 08.08.2010)
2011 Women's 17 European Championship	BUL (23.06 – 03.07.2011)
2011 Women's 19 European Championship	NED (04.08 – 14.08.2011)
10th Ordinary Congress	Copenhagen/DEN (24/25.09.2010)

EHF Awards of Service

The following members of the EHF were awarded for their service and dedication to the European Handball Federation.

Jozef Ambrus / SVK	Honorary Member – founding member, EHF Executive since 1991
Ton van Linder / NED	Special Award – Methods Commission since 1994

Best Ranked Nation Award

The award for best ranked nation for both 2006 and 2007 was presented to France.



EHF Competitions Conference for Men's Handball

The EHF Competitions Conference took place on 18 – 19 April in Vienna, Austria. Over 180 handball experts and specialists from all areas of the sport and the handball business came together for this unique event, with the prime objective of working on and laying the foundation stones for a long-term European Competitions' Plan, conforming to the European Sports Model.

Tor Lian, President of the EHF officially opened the event, underlining the necessity of finding a balance, working together in the interest of a system of cohesion and the need to listen to all interest groups. Jean Brihault, Event Chairman and EHF Vice-president, accentuated the continuously changing balance and stressed the need to be flexible, while thinking globally. He emphasised the importance of the objective and requirement of a long-term plan.

Vision behind the event

The sport of handball has seen rapid changes over the past decade, especially on the European continent. The number of different interest groups within the sport has increased in line with the ever increasing interest in the sport. The stakeholders of top level handball rarely have the opportunity to get together to talk constructively about handball's future path, which is just one of the reasons why the EHF saw this event as being paramount to the sport and its continued development.

As EHF President Tor Lian confirmed, "This event had been on the handball calendar for many months. We know that there is a diversity of interests in today's handball business. Our job in these two days was to bring everybody together, make steps in the right direction to secure a cohesive system of balance - an extremely complex task, yet a very important one."

Event Design

Emphasis was set on the importance of an open-communication policy when preparing for the event. Key note speakers from the major branches of the sport made presentations on three key areas. These presentations set the tone for discussion forums in groups. The results were then presented, which clearly identified the important areas and trends necessary for a long-term plan.

National Teams, Club & Players – A system of mutual benefit

The Danish national coach Ulrik Wilbek was joined by a club manager and a former top player: Xavier O'Callaghan and Serbian player legend Dragan Skrbic to present the importance of a system which benefits all sides. All three speakers spoke from their own personal viewpoint, while emphasising the need for global thinking in the interest of handball. They highlighted the importance of this crucial equation of "national teams – clubs – players" in top level men's handball, while acknowledging that there is also a natural degree of conflict, which needs attention. It was agreed that a "give and take approach" is necessary to reach the desired goals for handball.



**Competitions
Conference**

18–20th April 2008 • Vienna, Austria



EHF Competitions Conference for Men's Handball



Competition balance – System and Calendar

This topic was presented by Jan Tuik, Chairman of the EHF Competitions Commission. This is a central topic and one which necessitates continual revision to correlate with the demands of the sport and the market value. All parties are of the agreement that this needs attention and the calendar must also be harmonised. The majority of participants were in favour of reducing the number of international competitions from five to four in a four year cycle as an initial step. The participants however also stressed the importance of national team competitions as flagship competitions for the sport, but finding the optimum number is key. It was decided that market studies are necessary to establish the market value implications for the events and top level handball. A proposal was made to introduce an intercontinental cup for those nations in need of more international matches.

Scheduling of the major international tournaments was a subject. Three windows were identified for international events: January, June and September, while it was agreed that a June slot would not be in the interest of the sport of handball. Further studies will be made to decide the right step.

The topic was concluded with a presentation by European Market Research Experts on the matter of Handball & Media. The media world plays a decisive role in the development of a sport and is an important partner in finding the optimum plan for the competition balance. All were in agreement that the handball calendar has to cohere with the demands of the market.

Focus: Athletes

Sport scientist, Hans Holdhaus, and former Spanish player, Jaume Fort Mauri, presented the key topic, focusing on the athletes. It was stressed that the athletes are paramount. This was a line which was continuously stressed throughout the course of the event. The participants actively discussed the integration of athletes in the system and the necessity of a forum within the European system for them to have their say.

It was also repeatedly stressed that athletes should receive further support after the end of their career and service to the sport. The EHF CAN (Competence Academy & Network) is currently looking into this actual matter by setting up an academic network to support players' further career, while retaining them in the handball family. The number of playing dates was also a matter brought up, focusing on European club and international competitions. The players present, the coaches and the sport scientists stressed the need for additional rest days during major tournaments. All participants were in agreement. This is a point which was implemented at the 2008 Women's European Championship. It was repeatedly mentioned that more players should be used. This said however, statistics show that the Official Squad system allowing for more players, which was introduced in 2004, has not been fully used at EHF tournaments.

Conclusion

Jean Brihault concluded the event, underlining the rich content, tolerance, and solidarity. It was unanimously agreed that a permanent dialogue is necessary for all stakeholders. While there are fields that conflict with each other, using the example of sports medicine and market demands, there is a mutual understanding. The EHF Vice-president ended his conclusion by stating, "Today the basis for a moral contract between all stakeholders and the EHF Executive Committee has been agreed upon". Tor Lian, EHF President brought the constructive and fruitful event to a close, stating that the event had been of paramount importance for the future of European handball. All the matters will now be actively dealt with as a matter of priority and a commitment to all stakeholders has been made.



Meetings

European Team Sport Federations meet at EHF Headquarters

On 20 June 2008, the European Team Sport Federations gathered in Vienna at the Headquarters of the European Handball Federation (EHF) for a meeting to discuss common issues in the overall structure of team sports, legal principles in sport and further steps of cooperation between the team sport federations of Europe. Highest representatives from the governing bodies of basketball (FIBA Europe), football (UEFA), handball (EHF), ice hockey (IIHF), rugby (FIRA-AER) and volleyball (CEV) were present. The core matters on the agenda for the meeting included:



EU and Sport Matters

Sport and its role in Europe has been highlighted as a key issue for the French Presidency of the EU, which commenced on 1 July 2008. While the “White Paper on Sport” has been acknowledged by the team sport federations as a step to recognise the status of sport and the issues faced by sport within a legal context, it has been widely accepted that these issues now need to be firmly addressed. Concrete proposals are being elaborated on, focusing in particular on training and education for the younger age categories and the values of sport for the youth. The agenda of the French Presidency, in view of the focus on sport, was discussed by the representatives attending the meeting.

Home-grown Players

The UEFA home-grown players rule was also on the agenda. This pioneering approach to secure the promotion of young player training is a matter which affects each and every team sport. The rule and its compatibility with EU law are of key interest to all who attended and were discussed in detail.

Future structure for cooperation between the Team Sport Federations

Over the course of the past decade, the major team sport federations in Europe have met on regular occasions to discuss matters of common interest and mutual understanding. While each and every sport has a unique structure, all are based on the European Sports Model. The Federations used the opportunity of the meeting to discuss closer cooperation and working structures for inter-related sport-political and technical matters. The team sports federations met on numerous occasions during 2008 and will continue to further their cooperation in the New Year.

Cooperation Visits

Związek Piłki Recznej w Polsce

In November, Związek Piłki Recznej w Polsce celebrated 90 years of handball in Poland. EHF envoy Ralf Dejaco visited Poland to join in a weekend of celebrations. Handball in Poland has been reinvigorated still riding on the fantastic performance of the Men’s handball team at the 2007 World Championships in Germany. The endeavours of the ZPRP that have brought handball firmly into the sporting spotlight such as hosting the 2007 European Masters Handball Championships in the city of Krakow. In 2009, the Polish Handball Federation under the leadership of President Andrzej Krasnicki will continue with the task of cementing the sport of handball in the Polish sporting market.

Bulgarian Handball Federation

The Bulgarian Handball Federation celebrated their fiftieth anniversary in 2008. President Emil Harsev welcomed Vice President Jean Brihault who made the first official visit to Bulgaria since 2001. Over the next two years, the BHF will be working in close cooperation with the EHF and this visit to Bulgaria presented the opportunity to hold informal discussion about the 2011 Women’s 17 European Championship that will be hosted by the cities of Varna and Sofia – the first official workshop is planned for March 2009. On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary the European Handball Federation presented the Bulgarian Handball Federation with a tradition blue and yellow championship floor.



Meetings



In the interest of sport and for the betterment and promotion of European handball, the EHF undertakes many meetings with a host of interest groups and stakeholders. Below is an excerpt from just a few of the meetings that took place in 2008.

Asian Handball Federation meets the European Handball Federation in Vienna

In February 2008 representatives of the Asian Handball Federation (AHF) met a delegation from the European Handball Federation (EHF) at the EHF Headquarters in Vienna (AUT). AHF President Sheikh Al Fahad Al Sarah led the AHF Delegation. The meeting was a courtesy visit. The Continental Federations used the opportunity to touch on matters including current questions in the global handball business, 2008/09 handball events, development topics and the future of the sport in general.

Cooperation Visit in FYR Macedonia

The EHF Leadership arrived in FYR Macedonia for a cooperation visit at the beginning of March. During the two-day cooperation visit, special focus was given to the 8th Women's EHF EURO. On the first day of the visit, the EHF President and Secretary General met the Director of the Agency for Youth and Sport, Ivica Georgievski and also visited one of the EHF Euro venues, the Boris Trajkovski Sports Hall in the FYR Macedonian capital, Skopje. On the second day of the cooperation visit, EHF President Lian and Secretary General Wiederer visited the Olympic Committee of FYR Macedonia.

EHF visits SPORTFIVE Headquarters

In March 2008, an EHF Delegation was in Hamburg to meet with EHF Champions League marketing partner SPORTFIVE. The newly appointed SPORTFIVE CEO, Richard Worth, welcomed EHF President Tor Lian, EHF Secretary General Michael Wiederer to discuss the ongoing active partnership with the principle objective to continue the innovative and pro-active development of the EHF Champions League.

Meeting with the International Handball Federation

The European Handball Federation places great value on the good relationship with the International Handball Federation. The leadership of the IHF and EHF continued their collaboration on issues that are vital to all handball stakeholders and to the progression of the sport discipline. As part of their regular cooperation, IHF and EHF held a meeting in Basel on 27th March 2008, jointly chaired by their respective Presidents. The IHF and EHF are in complete agreement that the solution to important questions such as competition rhythm and format, clubs as major stakeholders, physical pressure on players and presence in the media, will be jointly dealt with until satisfactory resolutions are reached.

EHF Men's and Women's Club Committees

The Lillehammer EHF Extraordinary Congress voted to make changes to the structure of the EHF and EHF Marketing GmbH; this decision resulted in the creation of the Men's Club Committee (MCC), Women's Club Committee (WCC) and National Team Committee (NTC). The chairmen of the committees were confirmed at the EHF Congress in September 2008. The work undertaken by these groups began at their respective meetings that took place in the months of May and June this year. Both groups initially received the basic and necessary information: general information on the Lillehammer motion, followed by details on the EHF and EHF Marketing structure, including general working procedures. EHF finances were also focused on as was the current competition system. The MCC and WCC will focus on the technical side of the men's and women's club competitions.



Meetings

EHF Marketing Boards

The Men's Club Board (MCB) and Women's Club Board (WCB) were introduced in 2008. The purpose of the respective boards is to act as a permanent counsel and monitoring panel in the respective fields, concentrating on the media and marketing matters of the men's and women's EHF CL competitions. Both the MCB and the WCB have their specific tasks relating to the EHF CL, however, in their respective initial meetings focus was given to the conceptual strategy for the time leading up to the 2009/10 season.



London 2012

VP Jean Brihault visited London to meet with the British Handball Association (BHA) - IHF Member - to talk about the preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games and about the development work undertaken by the England Handball Association (EHA) – EHF Member. The BHA / EHA delegation accompanied Mr Brihault to the offices of London 2012, where the party met representatives of LOCOG sports department. The organisational structure and the progress of British Handball's elite programme was presented. At another meeting at the offices of Sport England, the government body responsible for sport development in England, the Vice President met with senior sporting officials before visiting the offices of UK Sport responsible for elite sport in Britain and the funding body of the British World Class Handball Programme (WCHP)

Meetings in Vienna

As is usual, the EHF Committees held meetings throughout the year. However, towards the end of the year several key meetings took place at the EHF Headquarters in Vienna. With the reformation of the EHF Commissions in September, the newly elected members of the Beach Handball Commission, EHF Arbitration Tribunal and the EHF Court of Arbitration held their first meetings. This was an opportunity to distribute tasks and discuss plans to for the upcoming period, but also the daily business, competitions, club and national team matters, development projects was dealt with. The EHF CAN held their inaugural meeting in October.

Meetings at the UEFA HQ

On the 24th April 2008 the European Handball Federation, represented by Vice President Jean Brihault and Secretary General Michael Wiederer, were in Nyon, Switzerland, at the UEFA Headquarters where they participated in two meetings: the first being the meeting on the French-Dutch Memorandum on the Specificity of Sport in the EU and secondly a meeting of the European Team Sports Federations, where numerous issues of mutual interest were discussed.

EU & Sport – Biarritz, FRA

In November, the EU Commission organised the first ever Sport Forum. President Lian and Vice President Brihault represented handball. The implementation of the 2007 White Paper on Sport, the financing of grassroots sport and the specificity of sport were discussed. Over 200 leading representatives from European sport organisations, national sport confederations, National Olympic Committees and international sport stakeholders took part in discussions over two days.

EMSA General Assembly

The European Masters Sports Association called a General Assembly to order at the end of November to finalise the dissolution of the EMSA, which was implemented upon the advice of the International Masters Games Association. Peter Fröschl represented the EHF at the General Assembly, where one of the final ratifications decreed that the agenda of the EMSA will be absorbed and administrated by the IMGA.



Workshops



2008/09 Men's Club Workshop

In 2008, the EHF Marketing GmbH turned its attention to the CL workshops that focused less on the competition itself and more on the administrative and organisational side of the product that is the EHF Men's Champions League. In order to maintain a constant dialogue with the teams taking part in the competition, the EHF Marketing GmbH hosted the representatives of the CL clubs for the 2008/09 Men's Champions League Club Workshop in September and November in Vienna/AUT. The club managers discussed a number of matters including strategic questions, the new playing system, flooring, branding & advertising or media trends in addition to being party to the presentation of a possible new playing system and the cooperation with the Men's Club Board, which was constituted to enable continuous discourse between the key handball stakeholders and to give European handball protagonists a voice when handling significant decisions. The representatives were also informed about the new online services and coverage of the 2008/09 season on the ehfTV.com and ehfCL.com websites.

Marketing Supervisor Workshop

The third edition of the EHF Marketing Supervisor Workshop was hosted in Veszprém in the autumn of 2008 at the newly built Veszprém Arena. An almost unchanged pool of marketing supervisors were highly engaged and motivated in the season 2008/09. Over 30 participants were invited to this workshop on the occasion of the 2008 EHF UNIQA Champions Trophy. For the first time the workshop took place directly in an EHF Champions League hall. The agenda was built around the feedback received from the clubs representatives and the marketing supervisors regarding the previous season and was divided into two parts. In a very intense theoretical sitting, the cornerstones of being a Marketing Supervisor were reaffirmed and the participants were also part of a concentrated practical session directly in the arena.

Men's EURO 2010 Workshop

The preparations for this event have been in the making since the Österreichischer Handballbund was awarded the right to organise at the 2006 EHF Congress in Portugal. Meetings between the European Handball Federation and the 2010 Organising Committee have continuously taken place since 2006. In April 2008, representatives from the national teams participating in the 9th Men's EHF EURO used the opportunity on 20 April 2008 for a EURO Qualification Workshop after the gala event. The exchange of information was supported from all sides and the national federations were given detailed information on all technical, marketing and media matters.

Women's EURO 2010 Workshop

With the preparations for the 9th Women's EHF EURO, hosted by Denmark/Norway, well underway, the protagonists met in Vienna in November 2008 for a strategic round table discussion at the EHF Headquarters. The second Women's EHF EURO 2010 workshop was an opportunity for the representatives of the two organising Federations and the EHF to discuss organisational matters such as the event infrastructure, venues, playing schedule, preparatory events and the future timelines.

Women's EURO 2008 Workshop in FYR Macedonia

In May an EHF delegation visited FYR Macedonia for a three-day EURO 2008 technical inspection tour and workshop to deal with important organisational questions on the agenda. The parties have discussed television and event appearance details, match schedule and other issues. The delegation has also visited the two venues of the EURO 2008, Skopje and Ohrid.

European Challenge Championships: Coordination Workshop

A coordination workshop for the European Challenge Championships (formally the Challenge Trophy) took place in Vienna in November. Representatives from six developing handball nations attended the meeting chaired by Vice President Jean Brihault. During the meeting various aspects of the Challenge Championships were discussed, such as organisation, scheduling, coaching education and other related activities. The workshop presented the optimum opportunity to analyse the objectives of the Challenge Championships, the national team competition organised for developing nations since 1999.

Working Groups



Rule Simplification & Modification Working Group

In December 2007, the Executive Committee of the EHF endorsed the foundation of the Rule Simplification & Modification Working Group. The group members held two meetings in 2008 (February & July). The first meeting determined the goals of the working group, the outcome / finished product and what form the EHF Short Rule Version would take. The second meeting formalised, polished and finalised the publication and with the support of the EHF Competence Academy and Network, Methods Commission and Competitions Commission; a Shortcut to the Rules otherwise known as "Handball, The Game" went to print in August 2008.

The topic of rule simplification has been on the EHF agenda since late 2005. Throughout 2006, the EHF educators, lecturers and mentors gave their input to the topic and with the creation of the Youth Forum towards the end of the year more proposals were submitted. The idea of simplifying the rules – for emphasis, this was not a matter of changing the rules at any point – was an issue being handled jointly between the Method and the Competition Commissions of the European Handball Federation.

Working Group EHF Euro & Finances

The EHF headquarters in Vienna was the setting for the Working Group EHF Euro & Finances. The objective of this particular group was to develop a basis on which a concrete motion could be submitted before the EHF Congress. The topic initiated by the German Handball Federation wanted a review of the use of revenue from the Euro final rounds. Due to the complexity of the situation the EHF Executive sanctioned the formulation of a working group who have dealt with this issue since that time. The findings and suggestions of the working group were presented to the EHF Executive Committee, who then in turn formulated a motion that was submitted before Congress in September.

Beach Handball Task Force

The members of the Beach Handball Task Force met in February and in May of 2008. With the creation of the Beach Handball Commission, the BH Task Force was disbanded and their tasks and responsibilities transferred over to the new members of the commission. More on the Beach Handball Commission can be found on page 45. The final two meetings of the Beach Handball Task Force took place in Vienna. With a full agenda for both meetings, the group examined the procedure for the forthcoming Beach Handball events in 2009. Topics such as the Beach Handball Master Plan for the 2008-2012 period of office were discussed in great detail. The Task Force also continued their work with those Member Federations with a vested interest in Beach Handball. The many ongoing projects of the BH Task Force will now be finalised via the Beach Handball Commission.

Task Force Euro Calendar

The appointment of this particular task force was confirmed in September at the EHF Congress. The task force members, which include Vice President Jean Brihault, were charged with the responsibility of treating the specific issue of "periodisation of the events after 2010". The group met for the first time towards the end of the year in FYR Macedonia, where their meeting was held parallel to the 9th Women's EHF EURO. The working group focused on an in-depth situation analysis and various options were tabled and openly discussed. The Euro Calendar task force will continue their task in 2009 with the common aim of working together towards a practical solution for all stakeholders.



Partners



The EHF partners are an integral part of the future of European Handball. The EHF places great importance on the term “partnership” rather than “sponsorship” and strives to work with highly reputable global companies with a respected name on both the sporting and business markets. The emphasis is placed on long-term, deep-rooted, working relationships which power the sport of handball forward. The EHF would like to use this opportunity to thank its partners for their continued support and dedication to European Handball. We are proud to have our name linked to such professional companies.



Infront Sports & Media AG

official EHF TV and marketing partner for EURO events

Infront Sports and Media is the exclusive commercial partner of the European Handball Federation for the Men’s and Women’s EHF European Championships. This is a long standing and successful partnership, which commenced in 1993 and will run until 2014 under the present agreement. Infront markets the television rights, media rights, and main sponsorship packages including commercial rights for rotating and static boards, floor advertising and other arena signage.

The EHF works extremely closely with Infront and has regular working sessions in Vienna and Zug in both the preparatory period and during the European Championships to guarantee a sporting event of the highest standards. Infront has played a considerable role in securing the placement of the European Championship product on the sporting market, with the event proving to be as popular as ever.

adidas

official EHF partner for sporting equipment and clothing

The reputation of the adidas trademark precedes itself. adidas has been the official EHF partner for sporting equipment and clothing since 1992. The company supplies top class balls and sports clothing for the EHF events and officials. adidas has also supplied the Champions League ball since the 2004/05 season. The EHF is looking forward to being connected to adidas for many years to come.

Nijha

official EHF partner goal supplier for EURO events and Beach Handball supplier

The EHF official goal supplier for EURO events, both senior and the younger age categories have been working with the EHF since 2002 and has an agreement up to and including 2008. The specially developed goals meet the exceptional requirements necessary for high-class handball events. Additionally, NIJHA is the official Beach Handball partner of the EHF. Special balls and innovative goals for Beach Handball are subject to a cooperation agreement that commenced in 2005.

Gerflor

official EHF partner and flooring supplier for EURO events

The “blue and yellow” no line flooring system at the European Championship has become a trademark feature of the events and is recognised world-wide. The EHF has been working with Gerflor since 2004 to provide the European Championships for Men and Women, plus 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. In 2006 the agreement was extended to include a Champions League flooring system for the matches in the group phase and in all venues as of the last sixteen matches. The distinctive “Champions League colours” of blue lagoon and black will be used to present the event identity.





European Handball Federation
2008 Annual Report

Moving Forward



EHF Competence Academy & Network (EHF CAN)



Since 2008 the implementation of EHF Educational Services has been administered and carried out within the framework of the newly founded “EHF CAN”.

Already in 2005 a first basic concept on “EHF Technical Know-how Management and Transfer in the Future” was approved of with the result of the foundation of an internal EHF Education Group conceiving and coordinating educational courses for referees and delegates within the EHF as well as Officials’ Conferences at European Championships.

In 2006 the EHF Ordinary Congress in Vilamoura/POR unanimously adopted an EHF statutory motion on EHF Educational Facilities/Services.

At the 2007 EHF Conference for Secretaries General in Vienna there was a clear priority of the participating National Federations in voting for more educational courses for referees and delegates as well as sport management and English language training courses for full time handball employees of the EHF Member Federations as well as EHF Officials.

In their last 2007 meeting on 15/16 December in Paris/FRA the EHF Executive Committee confirmed the introduction of an EHF Competence Academy & Network.

As of 2008 it shall be developed step-by-step into a professional educational and research system, tailor-made for the needs of EHF and its Member Federations. The basis for all educational services and research activities will be worked out in the EHF Technical Commissions based on their budget and activity plan, the newly established EHF Technical Delegation and CAN Advisory Board (Competitions Commission, Methods Commission and Beach Handball Commission Chairmen) will finalize concrete concepts following a 2008-2012 masterplan and propose financial support measures to the EHF Finance Delegation, respectively the EHF Executive Committee that will take final decisions. New activity areas can only be activated by the consent of the EHF Executive Committee. The coordination and administration of activities shall be carried out by the EHF Office.



EHF Competence Academy & Network (EHF CAN)

Objectives

The European Handball Federation (EHF) is the governing body of Handball in Europe! Its 49 Member Federations and one associated federation (Kosovo) represent and stand for 50 different kinds of national and international handball know-how. Those individual national handball schools/philosophies shall be made use of by involving experts in order to contribute to the variety of handball education in Europe!

Handball know-how exchange and transfer in Europe shall be fostered as an EHF service for the EHF Member Federations by making use of national and international handball experts as well as external lecturers from sport science, medicine, other sports, economy (marketing, equipment suppliers) and media (press, TV, Internet).

The EHF "CAN" shall be established as an educational service centre for EHF Member Federations with the possibility of granting scholarships in order to minimize or delete financial burdens for them. The same holds good for internal EHF Office management training on the job.

The EHF "CAN" shall be established to develop and deliver sport specific educational and training programmes in order to ensure that coaches, officials, athletes and administrators from all over Europe (and the world) have access to the highest quality education relating to "handball know-how" and competence in e-learning, blended learning, interdisciplinary educational courses of various duration, summer schools or mainstream 2-4 semester courses within the European Education Credit Transfer System (ECTS framework).

The EHF "CAN" shall set-up Business Executive Education programmes for further educating and training sporting administrators, resort managers and event executives in the Handball Event Management Business, e.g. also in event-related courses.

The EHF "CAN" shall contain a documentation centre including production of modern teaching aids and media as well as cooperation agreements with research&developing partners, suppliers, universities and testifying institutions.



The Handball Arena



The European Handball Federation is fully aware what a huge challenge it is to present a “perfect” and finely tuned event setting in the highly-complex world of organising major sporting events, which is why it has consulted with experts from various fields to produce two manuals over the course of 2008. The EHF EURO Set-up Manual joins the EHF Arena Construction Manual, which was also put together to guide and advise organisers of major sporting events.

Over the past decade, the notion and understanding of a sporting event has changed significantly and, in some aspects, beyond recognition. We are no longer talking about a simple sporting match of two teams, where one team is declared the winner, but a multi-faceted event, which is dependant on extremely intricate organisational and operational working processes and set-ups.

The sport of handball in particular has experienced an ongoing evolution and it has become ever increasingly important to ensure and secure an appropriate infrastructure to hold matches or events of this dimension. Strict guidelines are set by all governing bodies as they have the duty to guarantee that a top level product is delivered to the satisfaction of the sporting world.

Architects and engineers are faced with a mammoth task when taking on the project of designing and constructing an event arena. Very few indoor sports have the exclusive luxury of having a state-of-the-art arena all to themselves. The Arena Construction Manual is divided up into key areas with expert descriptions, requirements and advice on building an arena to fulfil the brief optimally.

The operational side of preparing a venue and making it “fit-for-the-event” is also highly complex. While the athlete’s welfare and the sporting infrastructure take the highest priority, there are many other important factors that need to be carefully planned and controlled in advance, from the very outset right up to the medal ceremony of the sport event and beyond. This is where the Set-up Manual comes in.

The manuals cover all areas of the event, from arena construction to set-up, and include useful illustrations to give you a more extensive impression on how the perfect venue should look. It takes the user through each area step-by-step, listing the requirements precisely. Both include important tips and ideas which are designed to accompany the organiser throughout the entire process.

The prime objective of the EHF was to offer tools to work from the construction and planning stage and beyond. The manuals will continue to grow with the ever changing time. The EHF sees it as its duty to serve as a partner in such highly technical matters.



European Beach Handball

2007 European Beach Tour Master Finals

The 2007 European Beach Tour Masters Finals is the season closer of the European Beach Handball season of 2006/2007 where the overall winners of the tournament are decided. This competition also is the unofficial season opener of the 2007/2008 season. The EBT Masters Finals were played out in Valencia/ESP on the weekend of the 7th – 8th June 2008. The top eight teams from both the men's and women's category participated. It was the men and women of Hungary who mastered the finals at the end of the weekend, walking away with both championship trophies - Euronics Nagyatád lifted the plate for the women and AXA Beach Stars Budapest BHC lifted the trophy for the men. The 2008 European Beach Tour Master Finals for the 2007/2008 BH season will be held in Greece on the 30th – 31st May 2009.



2008 European Beach Tour

The European Beach Tour threw off in venues across Europe on the 1st October 2007 and ended on September 30th 2008. In all, 117 teams from 13 Member Federations took part in the year long Beach Handball tournament and played a total of 56 matches. The number of teams in comparison to event in the previous year has risen slightly and the EHF Beach Handball team are keen to report that interest in the EBT grows yearly. In the men's competition, the Spanish team Balanmano Playa Barbate retained their EBT Championship title for the third year in a row. In the women's competition, the Flying Kangaroos of Germany won their first EBT title.

EHF Beach Handball Courses

The business unit Methods and Development take great responsibility for the Education and improvement of the EHF affiliated persons such as beach handball referees, coaches and delegates. With the constant drive for knowledge and self-improvement of the specific groups being the motivation, the department in cooperation with the Federazione Italiana Giuoco Handball organised 3 courses that took place from the 3rd – 6th July 2008 in Misano Adriatico (ITA) on the occasion of the Italian Beach Handball Masters tournament.

Eight couples from across Europe attended the 5th EHF Course for Beach Handball Referee Candidates. On the two-day programme the candidates were subjected to physical testing of their abilities in addition to testing conducted on their knowledge of the Rules and Regulations. The referee candidates were put through their paces over the weekend and their abilities tested as the candidates used this opportunity to officiate the match of the Italian Beach Handball Masters. The candidates were evaluated and all were successful in their endeavour to become an EHF Beach handball Referee at the end of the course.

The aim of the 4th EHF Beach Handball Delegates Course was to reiterate essential points such as security and competition management. The prerequisites of being an EHF delegate were not only reaffirmed during the course but also evaluated alongside the abilities of the referee candidates. For those participants in attendance at the 2nd EHF Beach Handball Coaches Course, their focus was on the areas of player preparation, defence, offence and tactical systems. The department of Methods and Development were pleased with the outcome of all courses and continue to work on the betterment of the EHF Officiators.



New initiatives & established competitions



2008 EHF Wheelchair Handball Event

The first official EHF Wheelchair Handball event took place in Vienna from the 10th - 11th October 2008. For the European Handball Federation, this was a moment of great triumph as an idea that was born years previously finally came to fruition. It was in 2006 within the framework of the EHF Youth Convention that the European federation first introduced Handball with *"No Borders"* to its members and since this time, the members of the Methods Commission and the Methods and Development department within the EHF office in Vienna, have worked tirelessly to bring about a wheelchair handball spectacle with the aim of future integration within the European handball programme.

The weekend event was presented as part of a seminar and a small tournament, which gave opportunity to all who were interested in this area of handball the chance to discover and understand the philosophy of Wheelchair Handball. The seminar covered technical aspect of the sport and with the expertise of other sporting fields, Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby; a great insight to the practicalities and technicalities of the sport was given. The highlight of the event was, of course, the small tournament – proving that handball truly can become a sport with no borders. Although more steps have to be taken, the officers in the Methods and Development department will continue to build on the knowledge already gained and develop wheelchair handball further in 2009.

2008 European Masters Games

The 2008 European Masters Games took place from the 29th August – 7th September and were hosted by the city of Malmoe in Sweden, which is no stranger to hosting handball event of all sizes. The handball competition comprised of 2 men's and 2 women's teams with age categories of +35 & +45 for the men and +33 & +43 in the women's competition. A total of 47 teams entered the competition this year and between them they played 135 matches which resulted in 3313 goals! The EMG 2008 finished in style with a thrilling match in the men's +35 category between KIF Team OB (DEN) and Slovan Veterani (SLO) at the end of the 60 minutes ended in a draw 17:17 and had to go to a penalty shoot out. After 11 successful penalties, the Slovenians defeated their Danish opponent by one goal and won 29:28.

The European Masters Games consists of 25 sport disciplines amongst which is handball deeply embedded. In 2007, it became apparent the European Masters movement was ready for reinvigoration. In order to improve the competition in this more senior age category, the European Handball Federation in cooperation with the European Masters Games Association and the IOC affiliated International Master Games Association; introduced the European Masters Games on a four-yearly cycle. Subsequently this meant that the 5th European Masters Handball Championship would be delayed by one year. The European Handball Federation will continue to organise, in cooperation with the hosting Member Federation, a European Masters Championship in non-EMG years. The next edition of the European Masters Handball Championship will take place in Kolding / Denmark in June 2009.





European Handball Federation
2008 Annual Report

The Service Partnership



European Handball Federation Information & Communication



A proactive and strategically planned communication policy is for any organisation, whatever the size or nature, of key importance. The European Handball Federation places vast importance on this and strives to fulfil the mission to deliver EHF information as concisely, as accurately, as quickly and as cost effectively as humanly possible to all members of the European Handball Family.

The sport of handball, especially within the European continental borders, has grown extensively over the past years in line with the demands of the market. The planning and implementation of the EHF communication strategy never loses sight of these demands and the client base, which the EHF is serving. To deliver this service to the satisfaction of all stakeholders, a variety of channels are utilised. They are being continually revised, to make sure that they are fulfilling their purpose.

The web, for example, has been identified as being a key communication channel for European handball, a platform to present the sport at its best, serving all stakeholders of our sport, irrelevant of the branch. The EHF invests a great amount of resources in its web platform and the original prognosis that the web marked the future could not have been more accurate. The handball business no longer just revolves around results and figures. The news, the stories, the personalities and the stars play a huge role in today's world, which is why the EHF has continued to follow its dream of the ultimate web platform and now places great emphasis on the stories in and around *"the handball world"*. You can read more about the eurohandball.com family on the following pages.

The "good old" EHF NEWS SERVICE is still very much alive and active. The EHF continues to send e-news out to the handball community roughly three times a week. There have of course been slight adaptations in the way the data is transported and in what form. The coming year will see continued streamlining, with the emphasis on fast, clear and concise information. Feedback shows that the members of the handball family rely on the news service as an essential source of information and despite the fact that the "news" has been somewhat overtaken by the EHF web solutions; it is and will continue to be an essential component of the EHF communication strategy.

Life without e-mail is for almost all of us absolutely unthinkable, the EHF is completely reliant on this medium and using its benefits and applications to the full. 2008 has seen a boost to the regular e-news in the form of press statements, subject specific newsletters and circulars. The target groups are clearly defined and serviced from the outset. This has been welcomed by members of the EHF community and fans alike.

The following pages give you a small insight into the projects and work which the EHF does in this area, you can gain an impression of just how diversified the target groups and interests are.



European Handball Federation Websites

Eurohandball.com and its related domains are household names in handball circles. Much has changed since the establishment of the EHF and the first eurohandball.com portal. One of the key objectives of eurohandball.com and all related domains is to serve the world with up to date information on all European handball activities. The vast bulk of these activities are obviously centred around handball competitions and matches. The EHF is forever seeking new ways to present its vast library of data and exploring new possibilities to continue on this development curve. This said however, the services and features offered by eurohandball.com have spiralled far beyond simply offering match data, these days the focus is very much on the news, the stories, the personalities and the stars.



eurohandball.com

2008 saw a new, refreshed look to eurohandball.com. The site had had the same look for over 10 years, so time had come to give it a new lease of life. The site is essentially the gateway to the family of eurohandball.com domains.

The new look gives the user access to all the news channels of the EHF, whether it be the top Champions League stories, EHF EURO event news or simply information from inside the EHF. The prime objective is to deliver the complete compendium of EHF activities to the visitor, satisfying all information demands, in a user friendly format.

The site is an extensive mixture of technical data and the latest news and happenings in and around European handball. Some of the special features which have been widely welcomed by the eurohandball.com community include the user friendly splash board front page, the Selektor section, with easy access to all the EHF competition data and newly developed media centre with essential links and information for the sporting media.

ehf-euro.com

The ehf-euro.com domain has also seen new developments in 2008. The brand domain ehf-euro.com now accommodates all EHF EURO event websites. A specially designed splash site gives the user access to wherever he or she wishes. Presently you can chose between the event in FYR Macedonia (2008), Austria (2010), a look at what's on beyond 2010 and multimedia features. There is also a general section, giving the user an insight into the latest EURO news and developments. The site encompasses key visuals from the EHF EUROs and its common identity, makes it easy for the user to navigate around the world of the EUROs.



European Handball Federation Websites



ehfCL.com

The EHF Champions League website provides the user with a complete service which reflects the brand qualities of the product. It is still enjoying great popularity, this years visit and figures increased dramatically compared to 2007.

Together with a network of EHF Champions League correspondents from across Europe, EHF Marketing is proud to present a wide range of features. Besides reports, articles, photographs, interview series, downloads, player information, line ups and a Champions League quiz, handball fans all over the world had the chance to make use of a new offer: live streaming of 30 top matches, highlight clips and all Champions League matches on demand.

Based on the positive feedback from both the participating clubs and the fans, EHF Marketing decided to launch the new streaming platform ehfTV.com to bring European top handball to more people than ever before.

www.ehfTV.com

With the launch of ehfTV.com EHF Marketing has taken another step in the international media promotion of handball. Handball fans all over the world are able to take in their favourite sport and follow the best European teams live and free of charge.

In addition to the women's and men's top matches, which are streamed live each week, it is also possible to download all Champions League matches on a delayed basis. The website includes 3-minute round highlights as well as the EHF Champions League Show, a 30-minute summary of each round. Another feature on ehfTV.com is the live streaming of EHF events such official draws.

Other EHF domains

activities.eurohandball.com

with a vast library of technical information which cannot be match anywhere else in the world.

europeancup.eurohandball.com

with all the match data and news from the European Cup

ebt.eurohandball.com

with information from the Beach Tour and the Masters.



European Handball Federation Publications

The European Handball Federation continues to use all accessible mediums to keep the information flow open to all interested parties in the world of handball. In addition to EHF standard publications, such as the address books, European Cup regulations, etc; the company produced over 30 additional informative productions and publications which are listed below.



Publications 2008 – CD Rom

2008 Web Periodical

Publications 2008 – Other mediums

9th EHF Congress

2008 Beach Handball Education Courses

2008 Mini, Basic and Beach Handball - mpegs

2008 European Championship Analyses – 8th Men's ECh, Men's 18 ECh, Men's 20 ECh,
Youth Beach Handball EChs

2008 EHF Delegates Course

2008 EHF Coaches Course

2008 EHF Referee Course

2008 EHF Masters Handball

Shortcut to the Rules – Handball, the Game

Revision: Handball 4 All

Corporate / Event Identity Products

Various event banners, flags, pennants, etc.

European Cup Roll-Ups

EURO 08 Pocket sized match schedule card

EHF Men's and Women's Champions League Regulations 2008/09 season

EHF Champions League Broadcaster Manual 2008/09 season

EHF Champions League Final Highlight Clips 2008/09 season

EHF Champions League EHF Men's Corporate Identity Manual 2008/09

Corporate Design DVD 2008/09

EHF Champions League Floor manual 2008/09 season

EHF Champions League Promo trailer 2008/09 season

EHF Champions League TV Master 2008/09 season

EHF Champions League On – Screen Graphics and Slow Motion Wipes 2008/09 season

EHF Champions League Intro and Outro trailer 2008/09 season

EHF Euro 2010 Draw Event Materials

Event Publications

8th Women's European Handball Championship Guide - MKD

Men's 18 European Handball Championship Guide - CZE

Men's 20 European Handball Championship Guide - ROU

Women's 18 European Open Championship Guide - SWE

2008 European Youth Beach Handball Championships Guide - HUN



Referees



New EHF Referees

For the 2008/09 season there were 151 international referee couples from 41 EHF Member Federations registered with the European Handball Federation boasting 15 female / mixed pairs. To increase this number, two referee courses were organised and took place in Portugal and Italy in the spring of 2008. The following candidates were successful in their endeavours and are listed below:

Course in POR

NOR	Kjersti ARNTSEN (new partner of Ida Cecilie GULLAKSEN)
POL	Bartosz LESZCZYNSKI / Marcin PIECHOTA
POR	Ricardo FONSECA / Duarte SANTOS
SRB	Ivan MOSORINSKI / Aleksandar PANDZIC
SWE	Jasmin KLIKO / Michael JOHANSSON

Course in ITA

BIH	Amar KONJICANIN / Dino KONJICANIN
CRO	Helena CRNOJEVIC / Emina KOSTECKI
ITA	Mauro MONDIN / Giovanni CROPANISE
MKD	Silvana KARBESKA / Marija ILIEVA
SRB	Jelena JAKOVLJEVIC / Vanja ANTIC

Referees Who Have Finished Their Career

The European Handball Federation bids farewell to the following referees who have retired after reaching the maximum age; others have decided to end their careers for personal reasons. The EHF thanks these men and women for their contribution and dedication to the sport of handball and wishes them all the best for the future.

AUT	Csaba LAJKO / Bernhard SEIDLER
BEL	Bernd ROSSKAMP / Freddy ROTHKRANZ
BIH	Vladimir JOVIC / Alija HASIC
CZE	Petr POLACEK / Petr PESTA
ESP	Vicente BRETO / Jose Antonio HUELIN
FRA	Gilles BORD
FRA	Richard THOBIE
POL	Edyta BOCHNIARZ / Agnieszka OLESKOW
POR	Antonio GOULAO / Jose MACAU
ROU	Toma PLESA / Octavian PRIPAS
RUS	Eduard BORISOV / Oleg TARASIKOV
SUI	Pascal GUYOT
SUI	Felix RÄTZ
SWE	Monika HAGEN / Maria Charlotte HALLBERG



Referees

New IHF Referees from Europe

In connection with the IHF Global Referee Training Programme, three courses were held in St. Gallen/SUI, Veszprem/HUN and Granollers/ESP in 2008. The following referees from Europe were awarded the IHF Referee status:

DEN	Dennis STENRAND / Anders Kaerlund BIRCH
ESP	Oscar RALUY / Angel SABROSO
FRA	Charlotte BONAVENTURA / Julie BONAVENTURA
HUN	Peter HORVATH / Balazs MARTON
ISL	Jonas ELIASSON / Ingvar GUDJONSSON
ROU	Bogdan STARK / Romeo STEFAN
RUS	Valerija GUSEVA / Stella VARTANIJAN
SVK	Michal BADURA / Jaroslav ONDOGRECULA



Young Referees

A total of five events were used by the European Handball Federation as a training platform for the Young Referees. The education and evaluation of the young referees were undertaken by EHF experts during the Prague Cup held in the Czech Republic from 20 – 24 March, ISF Games (Denmark from 29 March – 6 April), Torrellano Cup (Spain, 12 – 16 July), Cell Cup in Hungary (9 – 15 August) and the EHF Women's 18 European Open (Sweden from 1 – 5 July).

The Young Referee Programme provided 48 referee couples from 28 National Federations to officiate in the five events that took place across Europe during the summer of 2008. The European Handball Federation thanks you all for efforts and congratulates you also on your personal progression in the EHF YR Programme. All the names of the referees can be found on the 2008 Annual Report CD-ROM.



Transfers

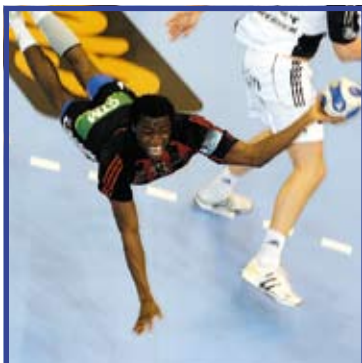
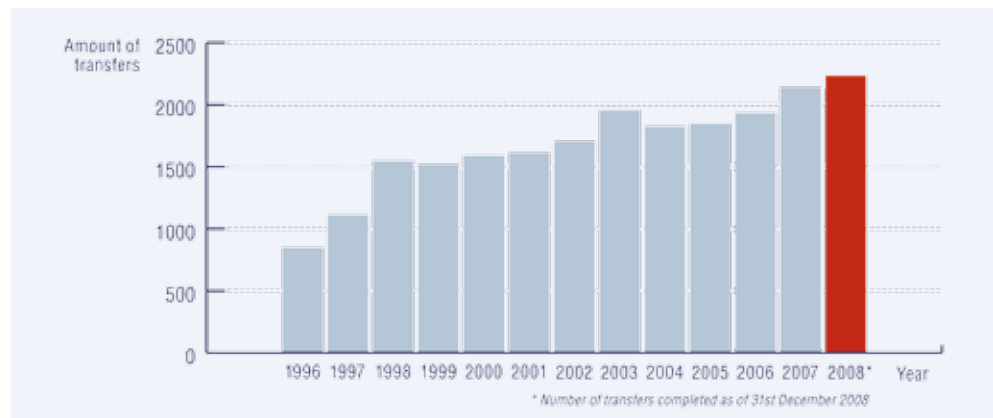


Since 1996, the amount of international transfers has more than doubled in number. The transfers department of the European Handball Federation has seen many changes over the past twelve years.

With an increase in transfers, naturally there was cause to adjust, amend, withdraw and change a few of the guidelines and regulations governing this particular area of business over the past decade. In 2007, the EHF Executive decreed that on the continent of Europe in all forms and types of competitions / matches, the players are permitted to play only when in the possession of an official and valid National Licence and the National Licence may be issued only after obtaining the official International Transfer Certificate registered and confirmed by the EHF.

All work in the area of transfers is conducted in accordance with the International Transfers System whose foundations are based on the regulations stipulated by the International Handball Federation.

The cases that have been dealt with over the past years have proved to be a very complex area of the EHF daily business. In 2008, once again, the number of transfers rose, creating a constant influx of work for the departmental staff and although there were a few cases that required a great deal of sensitivity, there was little need for the EHF Arbitration Tribunal (former Court of Appeal), who were only involved in one transfer case.



Methods & Developments

SMART Programme

Since 2001, the EHF has continued to support the developing handball nations of Europe through various programmes and competitions. However, none of the results from the EHF development programmes are more pronounced than the endeavours of the SMART Programme. All SMART programmes are aimed to develop handball in the nation concerned by direct support either through delivery of material or methodological help by providing experts for national courses. One of the development highlights of 2008 was seeing an increase in the number of SMART programmes. Within the framework of the 9th EHF Congress in Vienna, Albania, Finland and Georgia signed their respective contracts of cooperation. The three new signatory member federations have now joined ARM, BUL, ENG, MLT, MNE and SCO. These nine nations will continue to receive support from the EHF for the foreseeable future.



Foster Project

When the Foster Project was created, the EHF was secure in the knowledge that this was a key step to forging more in-depth relationships between the national federations. The Foster Project was and continues to be the perfect platform to raise awareness of the differences between the more experienced and lesser experienced handball nations. Aiming to bridge the experience gap, the Foster Project paired more experienced nations with those nations that require assistance in raising their handball profile both on and off the court. In 2008, Sweden and England were paired and a cooperation agreement was signed. Furthermore, the Foster Project pairings established in 2007, AUT-LTU, HUN-LAT, NED-IRL, NOR-GEO, POR-SCO, SUI-LIE and ROU-MDA continue to flourish.

National support

When the need arises, the EHF Methods Commission of the European Handball Federation endeavours to support nations in their short term requests for assistance. In 2008, approximately 3.500 handballs, 8 goals and 15 Beach Handball line systems were distributed in support of member federations Europe wide. To receive short term support the member federations only need to direct a letter to the EHF Methods Commission explaining their need and target.

The RINCK Convention

The annual RINCK Convention for the signatory nations was held in Vienna, AUT on the 13th/14th June 2008. In attendance were the 15 participating nations of AUT, BUL, CRO, CZE, DEN, FRA, GER, HUN, NOR, POL, POR, SLO, SVK, SWE, SUI. The objective of the RINCK Convention is the coordination and mutual recognition of both standard guidelines and certificates in the field of coaches' education in handball in Europe by preserving and safeguarding the regional and national characteristics of coaches' education.

RINCK Convention is now in its eighth year welcomed another signatory at the 9th EHF Congress. Switzerland became the official 15th member of the RINCK Convention due to the fact that in July the Handball Union of Russia ended their association with the RINCK Convention.

In 2009 the European Handball Federation will hold a RINCK Seminar for non-signatory nations on the 9th & 10th January 2009. In principle the 2009 RINCK Convention Seminar for non-signatories will address to matters related to the 'RINCK Convention structure and advice about new findings emerging from ENSSEE Forum (European Network of Sport Science, Education and Employment, which works on the EU-wide recognition of coaches' qualification), as well as about their potential consequences.

The EHF MC would like to use the given opportunity to debate new tendencies and directions existing in Europe. Furthermore, a possible adaptation of the traditional RINCK Convention philosophy is foreseen trying to find a more proactive approach which would allow a more effective accommodation of all Member Nations' needs in the future.



Nijha developed the new goal for the European Championships. Goalkeepers and players were very enthusiastic about the quality. The specially designed netsystem gives the goalkeeper more safety.



Specially designed for more safety, the fastening of the net is inside the post.



Fun for kids

Besides the development of competition equipment, Nijha is also involved in developing special products for youngsters. New ideas with the right equipment will make handball even more fun for kids.



STERK IN BEWEGING



European Handball Federation
2008 Annual Report

Behind the scenes



European Handball Federation Corporate Network



The European Handball Federation (EHF) is the umbrella organisation for 49 member federations and one associated federation (Kosovo) – stretching to all corners of the European continent – with its headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

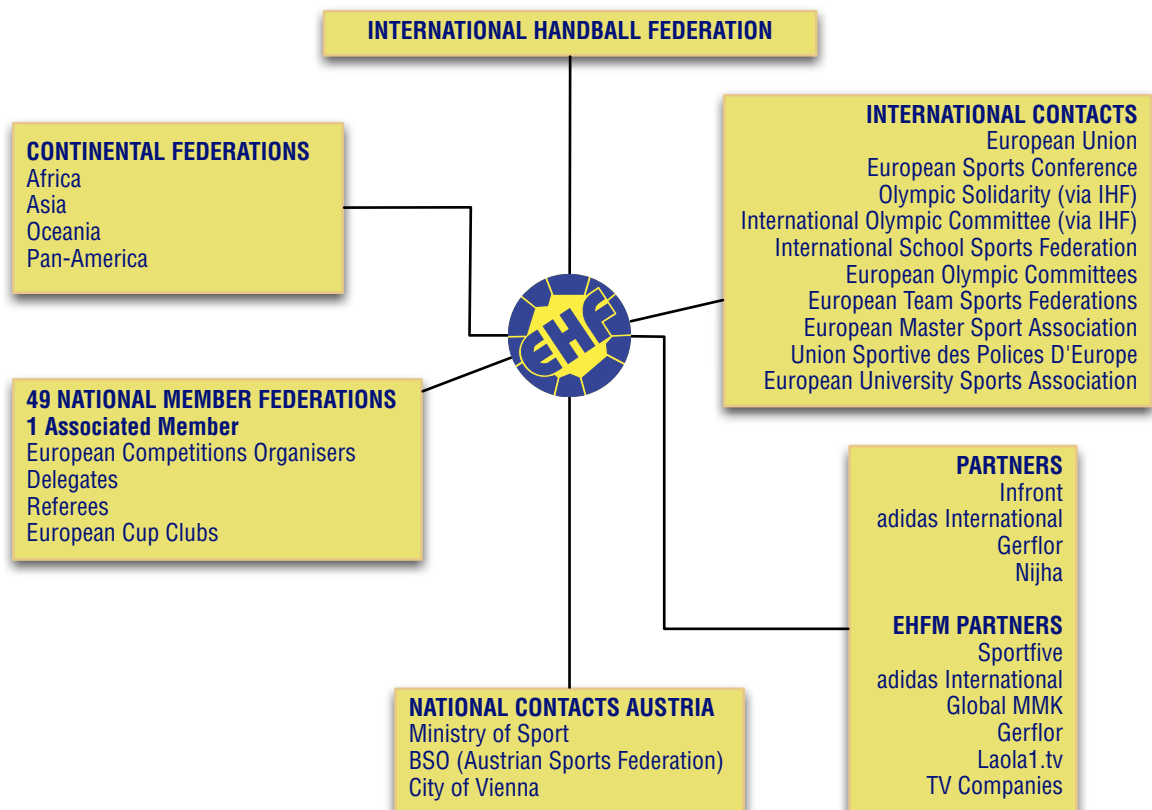
Since its foundation in November 1991, the EHF has taken on the role of ambassador to European handball, acting as a common voice for the European member federations and representing the entire European Handball Family on the international sporting stage.

The structure of the EHF has changed in line with its dynamic business philosophy and the changing face of the sport, with its new and vibrant trends within its spheres. This change has brought with it new initiatives and indeed new challenges, which can be observed in the complexities of the corporate network and the diverse nature of the partnerships which form part of the every day business environment and communication flow of the EHF.

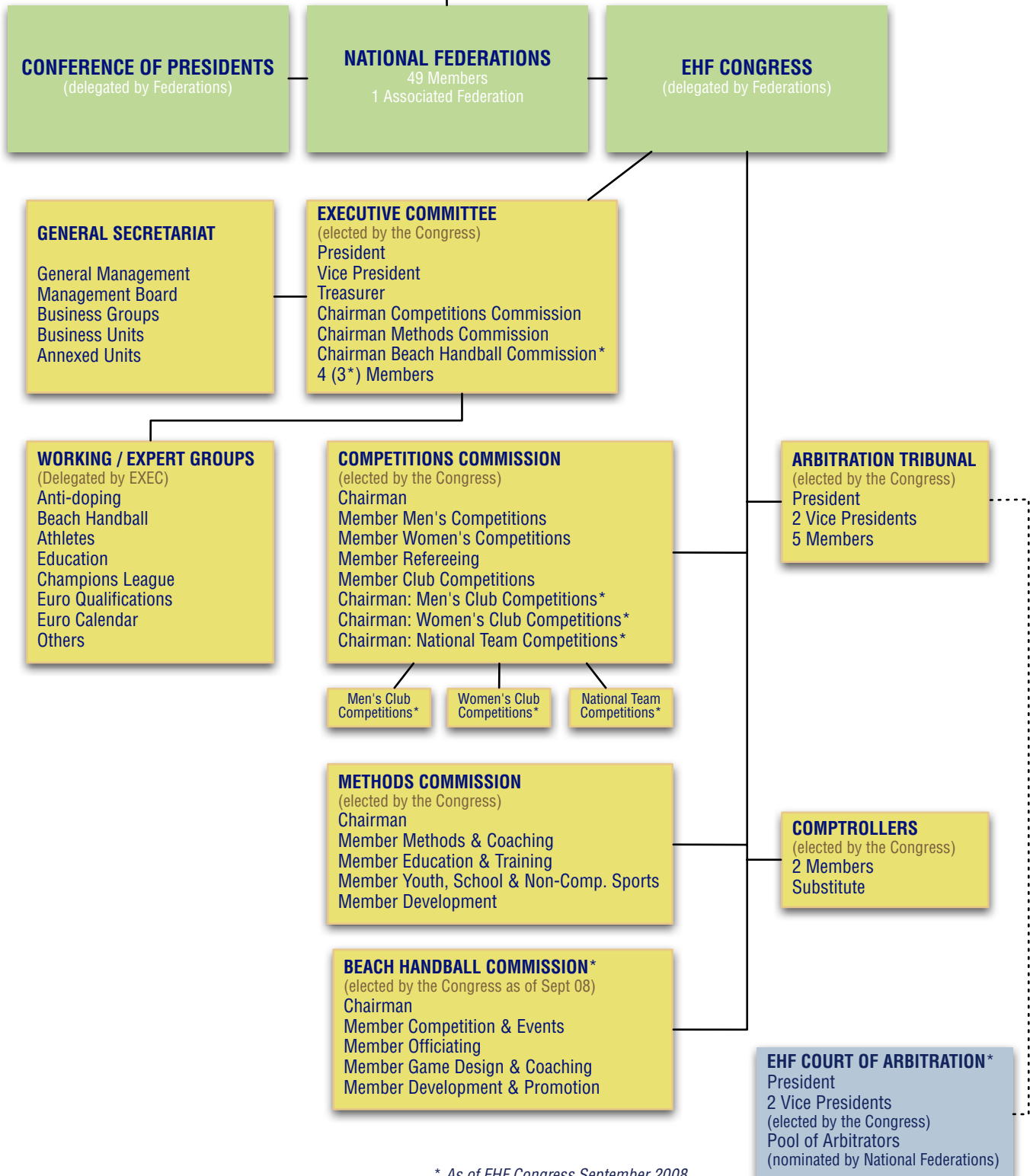
The EHF focuses its strengths and invests its resources on the development of the sport of handball in general with the overall objective to optimise product placement on the competitive sporting market, delivering the delights of handball in the form of high-profile branded events. To do this, the organisation strives to integrate all its stakeholders into the working processes.

As can be seen on the following pages, there have been a wide-spectrum of realignments in the structure of the EHF and its corporate network over the course of the past year. The Organisation works with an ever-growing number of sporting bodies and more stakeholders have been formally and officially integrated into the structure. The legal mechanisms of the EHF have also been remodelled to include an external Court of Arbitration and Arbitration Tribunal.

The EHF, in 2008, has a workforce of 29 full and part time staff members based at the EHF Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, with 7 working full-time for EHF Marketing GmbH, the marketing arm of the EHF. As handball continues to grow within and beyond the European borders, the EHF, together with the handball stakeholders, and in addition to the political leadership, continues to fulfil the demanding task of planning, organising, coordinating, managing, leading and reading the future for the sport.



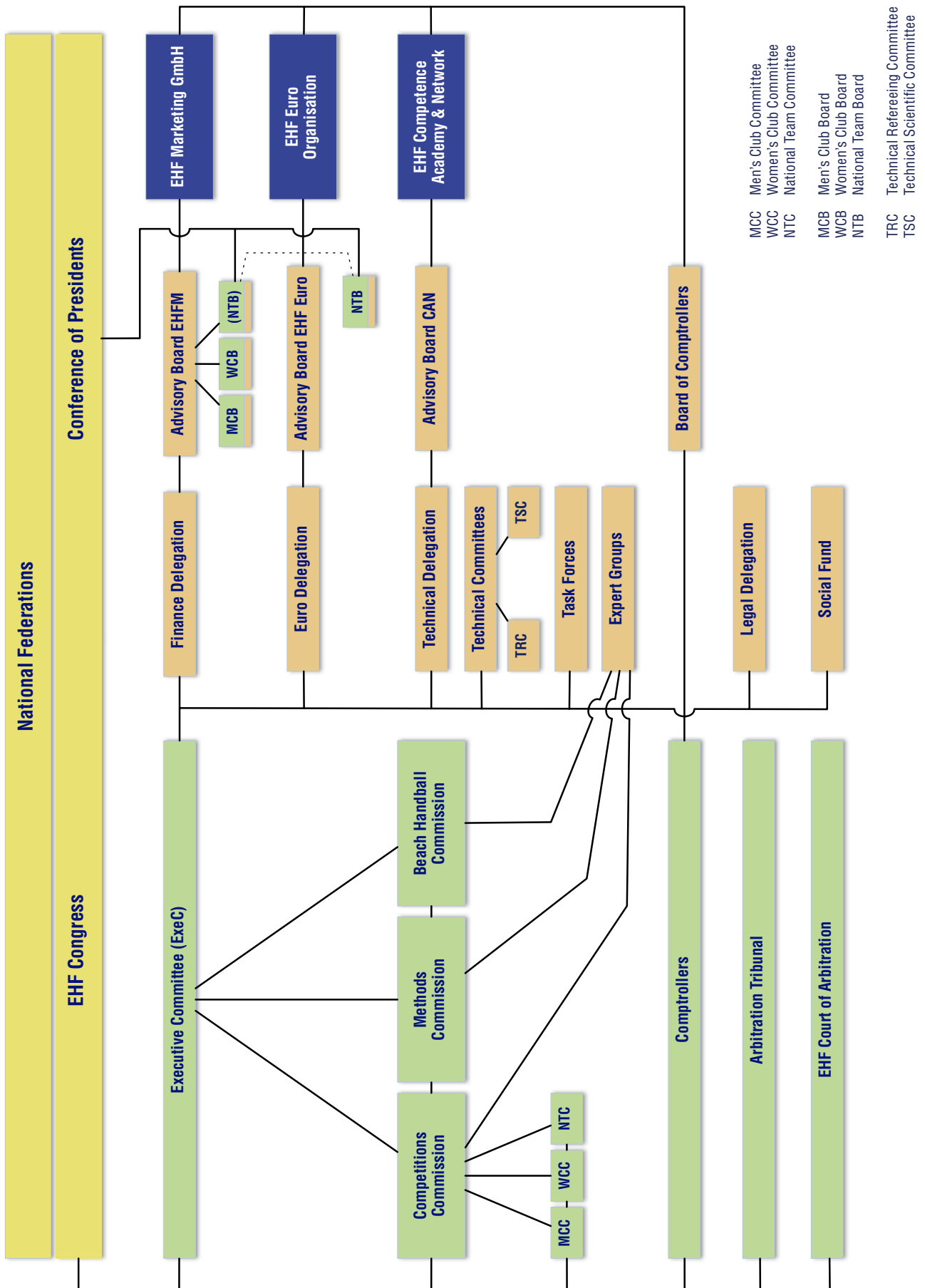
European Handball Federation Corporate Network



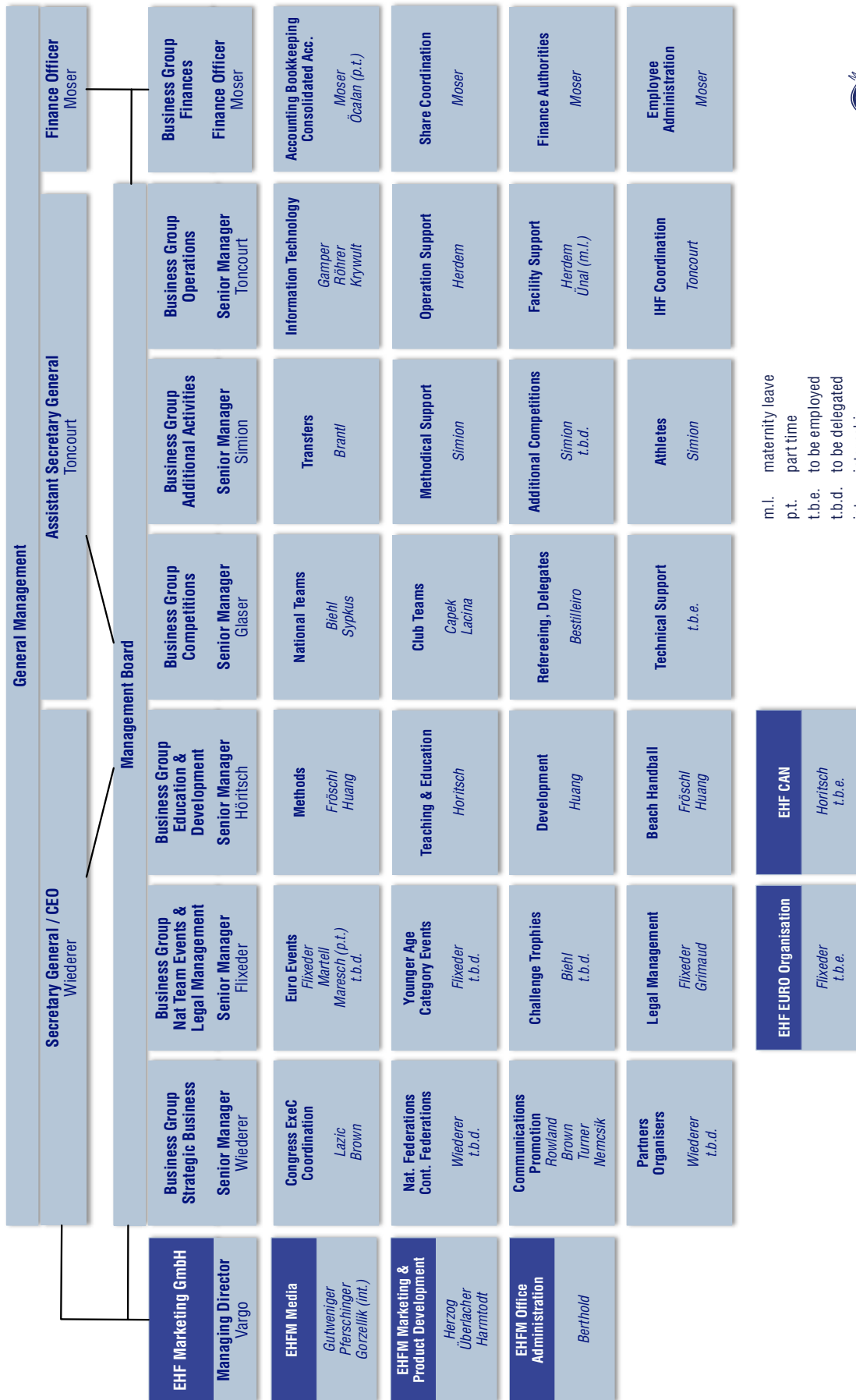
* As of EHF Congress September 2008



EHF Structure 2008



Office Structure 2008



m.l. maternity leave
p.t. part time
t.b.e. to be employed
t.b.d. to be delegated
int. internship

European Handball Federation Executive & Commissions



Executive Committee

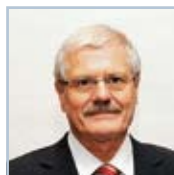
As the EHF's executive body, the Executive Committee is responsible for all tasks not directly assigned to the Congress by law or statutes. Temporary working groups for special matters are also appointed by the Exec.



Tor Lian



Jean Brihault



Ralf Dejaco



Jan Tuik



Frantisek Taborsky



Laszlo Sinka



Arne Elovsson



Tarik Cengiz



Andrey Lavrov

Technical Commissions - Competitions Commission

The EHF technical bodies comprise of the Competitions Commission, Methods Commission and Beach Handball Commission. The bodies are subordinate to the Executive Committee, which assigns areas of responsibility and authority to the Commissions, in addition to those stated in the EHF Regulations.



Jan Tuik



Jesus Guerrero



Helga Magnúsdóttir



Sandor Andorka



Leopold Kalin



Joan Marin



Gunnar Prokop



*Morten Stig
Christensen*

European Handball Federation Executive & Commissions



Technical Commissions - Methods Commission

The EHF technical bodies comprise of the Competitions Commission, Methods Commission and Beach Handball Commission. The bodies are subordinate to the Executive Committee, which assigns areas of responsibility and authority to the Commissions, in addition to those stated in the EHF Regulations.



Frantisek Taborsky



Bogdan Macovei



Wolfgang Pollany



Jerzy Elias



Allan Lund

Technical Commissions - Beach Handball Commission

The EHF technical bodies comprise of the Competitions Commission, Methods Commission and Beach Handball Commission. The bodies are subordinate to the Executive Committee, which assigns areas of responsibility and authority to the Commissions, in addition to those stated in the EHF Regulations.



Laszlo Sinka



Marco Trespidi



Ole R. Jørstad



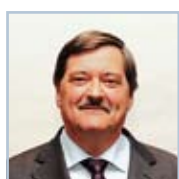
Koray Akgüloğlu



Georgios Bebetsos

Arbitration Tribunal

The EHF Arbitration Tribunal is responsible for the deliberation and decision of all matters in the first instance, which are not dealt with on an administrative level. Appeals against decisions of the ARB have to be lodged with the external EHF Court of Arbitration.



Rui Coelho



Tapio Arponen



Moshe Herman



Jolanta Jankeviciene



Alenka Cuderman



Ioannis Karanassos



Viktor Konoplyasty



Willy Tobler

European Handball Federation Executive & Commissions



EHF Court Of Arbitration

The EHF Court of Arbitration is an external entity and is responsible for the deliberation and final decision.



Jörgen Holmqvist



Jana Stasova



Jacques Bettenfeld

Comptrollers

The Comptrollers are the body responsible for the examination of the EHF accounts. Their findings are submitted in a written report to the EHF Congress



Helmut Schebeczek



Wolfgang Gremmel



Božidar Djurkovic

EHF Representation in IHF Bodies in 2008

Council Vice President Europe – Tor Lian
Member Europe – Jean Brihault

Commissions COC – Jan Tuik
PRC – Sandor Andorka
CCM – Frantisek Taborsky
MC – Inge-Lis Kanstrup Hansen
CCP – Helmut Hörtsch

European Handball Federation Office Staff 2008



Michael Wiederer



Markus Glaser



Helmut Höritsch



Alexander Toncourt



Vesna Lazic



Doru Simion



Peter Fröschl



Monika Flixeder



Sevgi Herdem



Sian Rowland



Christoph Gamper



Ines Capek



Nicole Huang



Nadine Biehl



Andrea Moser



Marcos Bestilleiro



Claudia Brantl



Nadja Lacina



Marsha Brown



Richard Turner



Marlies Röhrer



Rima Sypkus



Balazs Nemcsik



Andreas Krywult



Serap Öcalan



Sasha Martell



Yannick Maresch



Maëlle Grimaud



*Nurten Ünal**

** Maternity leave*



Reach your impossible with the lighter, lower and faster BLITZ CC5.
Play hard. Stay cool.

Impossible is nothing.



EHF Marketing GmbH

EHF Marketing is the marketing arm of the European Handball Federation and focuses exclusively and primarily on the development of the EHF Champions League and the EHF European Cup competitions. The company works with passion to fulfill its mission statement of professionally marketing European club competitions to their full extent, prioritising the Champions League, representing the interest of the sport of handball, its continual growth and the stakeholders from all corners of the European continent, while securing the product identity and keeping the passion of the game intact.

The agency works closely with a wide-spectrum of high-profile and reputable marketing and media partners, and most importantly with the top European clubs, with the aim to realise the potential of this sport discipline and its placement on the market. The EHF Marketing specialists strive to achieve this by finding tailor-made marketing solutions which reflect the value of the product and satisfy the demands of the European sporting market.

The company is sensitive to the fast-changing trends that the sporting market brings with it and it is a prime objective, and indeed the challenge, of EHF Marketing GmbH to move with and indeed in front of these trends. This involves taking on the challenge in the pursuit of new objectives. Each season sees new initiatives and vibrancy, which makes the product even more attractive.

Since the establishment of EHF Marketing GmbH in July 2005, the EHF Champions League has developed in leaps and bounds, yet it has been clearly identified that the high potential value of this product has not yet been reached. The key is to keep the ball rolling and bring the delights of the EHF Champions League and handball of the highest level to an ever growing audience.



The EHF Marketing Team



Peter Vargo



Ulrich Gutweniger



Alexander Herzog



Georg Pferschinger



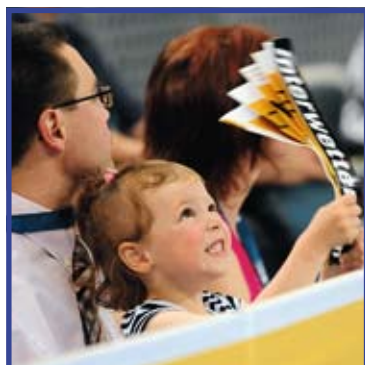
Marianne Überlacher



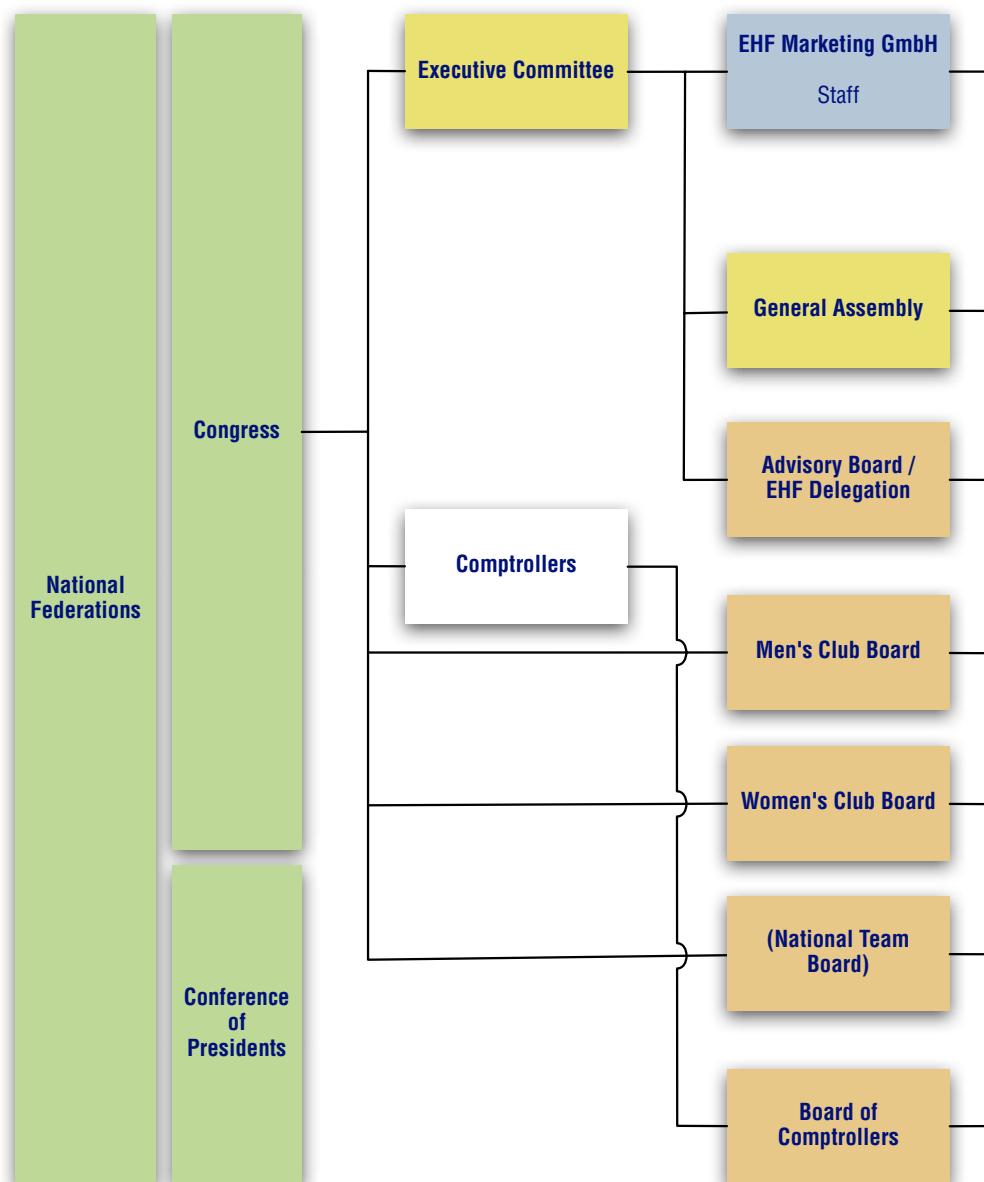
Georgia Harmtodt



Nicole Berthold



EHF Marketing GmbH



EHF Marketing GmbH Partners

Sportfive – EHF Men’s Champions League

In the third year of partnership with SPORTFIVE, new benchmarks were set for handball. The EHF Men’s Champions League entered new dimensions in terms of fans visiting the matches at the venues and watching TV across Europe. The continued increase in the interest in handball is mirrored in the number of companies, which take in interest in having their commercial name connected to the EHF Champions League.



Interwetten

After the first year of cooperation INTERWETTEN has extended its partnership with the EHF Men’s Champions League, making it a general partnership of the European Handball Federation and its club competitions, showing its full support and commitment for the sport of handball in Europe.



UNIQA

As was the case in the past years UNIQA is once again a strong partner of the EHF Champions League and the EHF European Cup competitions on the Hungarian market. By providing UNIQA with the desired brand presence in the playing hall and therefore also on TV, this partnership has developed to a cooperation of mutual benefits.



Intersport

Intersport is a strong partner of the EHF Men’s Champions League since its redesign in the 2006/07 season and has been part of the competition’s rapid development throughout the past 3 years. The EHF Men’s Champions League as a powerful communication platform has successfully intensified Intersport’s brand presence throughout Europe.



Gerflor

Together with its partner, Gerflor, the market leader in flooring systems, EHF Marketing has succeeded in giving the EHF Men’s and Women’s Champions League a consistent look throughout Europe. The identical look of each venue has set new precedents for this competition.



EHF Champions League on TV

In the current 2008/09 season, more than 30 TV stations throughout Europe broadcast EHF Champions League matches. Through Dubai Sports, EHF Marketing could increase its TV coverage dramatically – top games of European club handball can be watched in an additional 100 million households throughout the Middle East. In line with the strategy of continually expanding TV coverage, EHF has launched a new streaming platform at ehfTV.com.



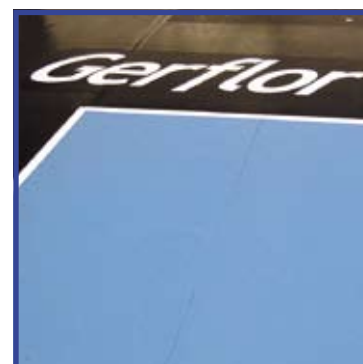
adidas

adidas is the official ball supplier of the EHF Men’s and Women’s Champions League and has accompanied the European Handball Federation for the past 17 years. This season adidas has extended its partnership with the EHF Men’s Champions League by profiting from powerful brand communication tools in the playing halls.



Media Analysis – Global MMK

Together with its partner Global MMK, EHF Marketing has created a platform which identifies an exact overview of sponsor presence, audience ratings and the whole TV landscape throughout Europe. Media reports make it possible to track every single broadcast in detail and represent a convenient tool to monitor Champions League TV coverage.



EHF Secretary General's Message



*Michael Wiederer
EHF Secretary General*

2009 has already begun

Long before 2008 came to an end, for Europe as well as for World handball the year 2009 and even 2010 had already begun.

The qualifications for the national team competitions are progressing well just as the club competitions have over the whole of the 2008/2009 season. Currently the basics are being prepared for club handball in 2010.

European Championships are being designed from the organising federations together with the EHF years before the final tournament, so we are dealing now already intensively with 2009 and 2010...

The long term investments have precipitated an increased media presence. Parallel to the events that are portrayed on the media stage the focus is laid on accompanying measures in the technical areas, through to education and advanced training via development.....

What holds us together – the elected political bodies of the EHF just as the National Federations with their full-time employees and the daily tasks – is the common interest in the sport of handball, not only the concept of the sport discipline but seeing it in a prominent position. Also we would like to achieve success by means of our further developed structure together with all prospective parties in an increasingly difficult environment of the sport.

In this sense, we see 2008 as a basis for an attractive 2009 handball year, which we will coordinate and experience together with you.

All the best!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wiederer".