



# EUROPEAN HANDBALL 2024



**EHF**  
EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION

# KEY EVENTS 2024

**JAN**



**10-28**

Men's EHF EURO

**MAR**



**21**

Men's EHF EURO 2026  
Qualifiers Draw

**APR**



**18**

Women's EHF EURO 2024  
Final Tournament Draw

**MAY**



**11-12**

EHF Finals Women

**18**

EHF EC Finals  
(men and women): first leg

**25**

EHF EC Finals  
(men and women): second leg

**25-26**

EHF Finals Men

**JUN**



**1-2**

EHF FINAL4 Women

**8-9**

TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4

**13-16**

ebt Finals

**27**

EHF Champions League  
group phase draw

**JUL**



**1-5**

W16 European Open

**4-7**

YAC16 Beach Handball  
EURO

**10-21**

Men's 20 EHF EURO

**11-14**

Beach Handball  
Championships

**19**

EHF European League Men  
group matches draw

**26 JULY-11 AUGUST**

Olympic Games

**AUG**



**7-18**

Men's 18 EHF EURO

**OCT**



**10-13**

EHF Beach Handball  
Champions Cup

**NOV/DEC**



**21 NOVEMBER**

EHF European League  
Women group phase draw

**28 NOV-15 DEC**

Women's EHF EURO

**14 DECEMBER**

EHF Excellence Awards

# KEY EVENTS 2025

## MAY

**3-4** EHF Finals Women

**10** EHF European Cup Women Finals: first leg

**17-18** EHF European Cup Men Finals: first leg

**18** EHF European Cup Women Finals:  
second leg

**24-25** EHF Finals Men; EHF European Cup Men  
Finals: second leg

**31 MAY-1 JUNE** EHF FINAL4 Women

## JUNE

**14-15** TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4

**30 JUNE-4 JULY** M19 EHF European Open

## JULY

**3-6** YAC17 EHF Beach Handball EURO

**8-13** EHF Beach Handball EURO

**9-20** W19 EHF EURO

**12-20** W19 EHF Championships

**21-26** European Youth Olympic Festival

**30 JULY-10 AUGUST** W17 EHF EURO

## AUGUST

**4-10** W17 EHF Championships

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS, WHICH WE TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN SHARING WITH THE EUROPEAN HANDBALL COMMUNITY, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ATTAINED IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE DEDICATION, TENACITY, AND COMPETENCE OF OUR PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS, EXPERTS, AND THE ELECTED AND NOMINATED PERSONS WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE SPORT OF HANDBALL WITH AN UNRIVALLED PASSION.

## DEAR PARTNERS IN SPORT, DEAR READERS,

**Guess what the last sentences of the 2023 Business Report preface were?**

**“...a feature year starting with the biggest EHF EURO event so far and ending in mid-December with the highlight weekend in Vienna!”**

And we did it!

From an incredible Men’s EHF EURO in January to, altogether, four final club events, Younger Age Category EHF EUROS and EHF Championships on a high level be it indoor or beach handball. Additionally, plenty of conferences, seminars, conventions, summits, and webinars were constantly driving the handball sport forward on an organisational and technical level. Here, the work of the many EHF bodies is also not to be overlooked, as it was the close cooperation with the professionals that paved the way to progress.

Consequently, this successful year had to end with another memorable event, and so the mission was completed: a Women’s EHF EURO with new generations moving

into the 2024 – 2028 Olympic cycle was enriched by the 16th Conference of Presidents and the 17th Extraordinary EHF Congress. And even more, the inauguration of the European Handball House continued with the EHF Excellence Awards Gala; all these events could not be better celebrated than at the EHF EURO final weekend.

Our achievements, which we take great pleasure in sharing with the European handball community, could not have been attained if it were not for the dedication, tenacity, and competence of our partners, stakeholders, experts, and the elected and nominated persons who continue to serve the sport of handball with an unrivalled passion.

In anticipation of the many activities in 2025, our member federations will have numerous opportunities to engage, whether on the court with clubs and national teams or off the court through our development programmes. We are prepared to facilitate these interactions and will continue to dedicate ourselves to advancing European handball. In this sense, I am looking forward to the year 2025, when the European Handball Federation will welcome its members at the 17th Ordinary EHF Congress in Andau, Austria.

Now, we present this documentation providing the opportunity to reflect upon a collection of our best moments in anticipation of the year to come; and, as always, we look forward to continuing the handball journey with you in January!

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Wiederer**  
President

# EUROPEAN HANDBALL HOUSE

## EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION OPENS NEW HEADQUARTERS IN VIENNA

**The organisation of European handball entered a new era on 15 December 2024, with the European Handball Federation, the sport's continental governing body, opening its new headquarters in Vienna.**

The Austrian capital has been the federation's residence since 1992. The new 'European Handball House' in Neu Marx in Vienna's third district opened officially on 15 December, with more than 400 guests attending as part of the final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2024.

With an area of more than 5,700 square metres, the 'European Handball House' will serve as a hub for the international cooperation between the EHF, its 50 member federations and their more

than 350 clubs participating in European Cup competitions. With office space for up to 120 employees, as well as a 250-square-metre auditorium, several meeting rooms and its own TV studio, the building meets the highest standards of a modern working environment.

The building utilises cutting-edge technologies to minimise its carbon footprint. Heating and cooling are achieved using thermal groundwater and thermal component activation, providing efficient heat storage. Additionally, energy is generated via almost 250 square metres of photovoltaic pergolas, not only producing clean energy, but also offering shading.

Building systems equipped with heat recovery further optimise energy use. For its energy efficiency and ecological quality, the building will receive the gold standard 'klimaaktiv' certificate issued by the Austrian government on the day of the opening.

The 'European Handball House' was jointly realised by the EHF together with real estate developer Raiffeisen Property Holding International (RPHI) and Austrian construction company Strabag as general contractor. The Vienna-based architects of Burtscher-Durig ZT GmbH were entrusted with the general planning.







**FROM THE  
PLAYING COURT**



DÜSSELDORF, MUNICH, MANNHEIM, BERLIN, HAMBURG, COLOGNE; GERMANY

# MEN'S EHF EURO 2024

FRANCE RETURN TO TOP OF EUROPE AFTER 10-YEAR WAIT



**53,586**   
spectators at the opening match  
(world record attendance)

OVER  
**100**  
TERRITORIES WITH  
TV BROADCAST

**1.2BN**   
CUMULATIVE TV AUDIENCE

**20**  
MATCHES WITH LIVE  
AUDIO DESCRIPTION

**764m**   
DIGITAL REACH

**210m**   
video views on  
EHF channels

**A new world record, unprecedented audience numbers and a thrilling competition culminating in France's return to the top of the podium – the Men's EHF EURO 2024 held in Germany from 10 to 28 January was a success from every angle.**

And it started with a new world record in handball as 53,586 spectators witnessed the opening matches in Merkur Spiel-Arena in Düsseldorf, where the ultimate champions France and hosts Germany took the first wins of the event.

Both France and Germany would go on to make it all the way to the semi-finals, held in Cologne's LANXESS arena, along with Sweden and Denmark. The final saw a classic match-up, as France met Denmark to decide the trophy, with France coming out on top, 33:31, after overtime. It was France's fourth title in the event, following their wins in 2006, 2010 and 2014 – when they beat none other than Denmark to clinch the trophy.

Sweden secured the bronze medal after defeating Germany 34:31.

The semi-finals saw two close matches played out. France took an overtime victory against Sweden, 34:30, while Denmark beat Germany 29:26. Although they were the finalists in the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and have won the last five World Championship titles between them, neither Denmark nor France had reached the EURO final since their last battle for the trophy in 2014.

With France's victory, Nikola Karabatic secured his 11th national team title – a record in men's handball.

Karabatic's teammate Nedim Remili was named MVP of the tournament. The All-star Team included Germany's Andreas Wolff as goalkeeper and Juri Knorr as centre back, Austria's Robert Weber as right wing, Denmark's Mathias Gisdal as right back and Magnus Saugstrup as best defender, Portugal's Martim Costa as left back,

Sweden's Hampus Wanne as left wing and France's Ludovic Fabregas as line player. Costa and Gisdal shared the top scorer crown, with 54 goals apiece.

The final weekend opened with the 5/6 placement match, where Hungary beat Slovenia 23:22.

There were surprises, last-minute wins and sold-out arenas along the way to the final weekend. One of the biggest shocks was Spain's early exit, in the preliminary round, after the side played the final weekend at six consecutive EUROs prior to that and raised the trophy in 2018 and 2020.

Iceland, Portugal and Austria narrowly missed places on the final weekend, with the latter two climbing from 19th and 20th at the previous EURO to seventh and eighth, respectively.

Three nations made their EHF EURO debut at the event: Faroe Islands, Georgia and Greece.



VIENNA, DEBRECEN, BASEL, INNSBRUCK; AUSTRIA, HUNGARY AND SWITZERLAND

# WOMEN'S EHF EURO 2024

NORWAY CLAIM THIRD STRAIGHT TITLE AND EXTEND RECORD TO 10



Norway celebrated their 10th European title and third in a row when they defeated Denmark 31:23 in the Women's EHF EURO 2024 Final on 15 December in Wiener Stadthalle, Vienna. Hungary clinched the bronze medal after beating France 25:24 in the 3/4 placement match, making it to the podium for the first time since the EHF EURO 2012. It was the first Women's EHF EURO with 24 teams, following the expansion of the men's event in 2020.

Norway reached what was their 13th EHF EURO final with a perfect record of wins, including a main round victory over their final opponents, Denmark, and a 30:22 win against Hungary in the semi-final. The other main round victories were taken against the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland, after preliminary round wins over Slovakia, Austria and Slovenia.

Bronze medallists Hungary lost only to France when the teams met in the main round in Debrecen, while France's first loss

in the competition was in the semi-final against Denmark.

Goalkeeper Anna Kristensen was named MVP of the EHF EURO 2024, after recording 100 saves at an average rate of 38.02 per cent across the nine games.

Kristensen was also named All-star Team goalkeeper, and one of her teammates made the cut in the line-up as well: Left wing Emma Friis. After earning the MVP crown at the EHF EURO 2022, Norway's Henny Reistad was named All-star Team centre back at the 2024 edition. The other semi-finalists were represented by four players in the All-star Team – Hungary by right back Katrin Klujber, right wing Viktória Gyori-Lukács and young player Petra Simon, and France by best defender Pauletta Foppa.

Klujber also took her first top scorer title, tallying 60 goals. She was the first Hungarian top scorer of the Women's EHF EURO since Bojana Radulovic in 2004, and

the third overall, as Agnes Farkas also claimed the crown twice in early editions.

Two players who did not reach the final weekend but bowed out in the main round were named in the All-star Team: Slovenia left back Tjaša Stanko and Montenegro line player Tatjana Brnovic.

Faroe Islands and Türkiye both made their major championship debut at the event, with both earning one point from a draw each. Co-hosts Switzerland made history of their own by reaching the main round for the first time, thanks to wins against Faroe Islands and Croatia in the preliminary round in Basel. Their fellow co-hosts Austria as well as Portugal both made their return to the event after last participating in 2008. For Portugal, it was the second appearance at a major tournament.



WOMEN'S EHF EURO 2024  
HANDBALL  
AUSTRIA - HUNGARY - SWITZERLAND  
28 NOVEMBER - 15 DECEMBER



OVER  
**110**  
TERRITORIES WITH  
TV BROADCAST



**74%**  
TV market share in Denmark for the final match



**24**  
First Women's EHF EURO with 24 teams



**364m**  
DIGITAL REACH



**35m**  
video views on  
CAMILLA HERREM'S  
GOAL  
(most successful IG reel)



COLOGNE, GERMANY

# TRUCKSCOUT24 EHF FINAL4 2024

## 11TH TROPHY FOR BARÇA; AALBORG CEMENT POWERHOUSE STATUS



**It came down to one shot that could have seen the story go either way, providing a thrilling end to the EHF Champions League Men 2023/24, as Barça celebrated their 11th trophy with a 31:30 victory in the final against Aalborg Håndbold.**

A winner of all national team titles, Mikkel Hansen ended his club career having never won the Champions League, after hitting the crossbar on the attempt that could have sent the match into overtime.

Aalborg had been Barça's opponents in the final once before, in 2020/21, with a clear result, 36:23, for the Spanish side. The performance of the Danish club over the final weekend in 2024 reflected their enormous growth, helped by the arrival of Denmark stalwarts like Hansen and Niklas Landin, and the revelations of young players like Thomas Arnoldsen and Mads Hoxer.

But, despite being a tough opponent for Barça, Aalborg could not upset the Spanish team's dominance in the competition, which has now seen them win three of the last four titles.

Barça's Melvyn Richardson was named MVP of the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2024, after netting 13 goals in the two matches.

Barça romped into the final with a 30:18 win against THW Kiel, while Aalborg ended SC Magdeburg's crusade to defend the title with a 28:26 victory in their semi-final. Kiel clinched third place thanks mainly to a powerful first half after which they led 23:14, ultimately taking a 32:28 win over Magdeburg.

All four semi-finalists had made it to the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2024 after topping their group phase tables, thereby securing direct passage to the quarter-finals. Magdeburg had the best group

record of the four, with only two losses in that part of the season.

In the quarter-final stage, Barça enjoyed the clearest result with an aggregate 62:53 win against PSG. They were the only side to win both legs of their quarter-final tie – the other three teams lost in the first leg before securing their tickets to Cologne with great wins in the second. For Magdeburg and Aalborg, both results were relatively narrow, with Aalborg overthrowing Veszprém 64:60 on aggregate and Magdeburg defeating Kielce 53:52. Kiel took a 61:60 aggregate victory against Montpellier after losing the first leg by nine goals.

Two firsts were recorded by the winner of the season's top scorer crown, PSG's Kamil Syprzak: The first Polish player to top score an EHF Champions League Men season and the first line player. Syprzak netted 112 goals at an impressive efficiency of 80 per cent – a rate unmatched among the top 30 scorers in the competition.



**19,750**   
spectators in the arena (sold out)

**18%**  RISE IN CUMULATIVE TV AUDIENCE

**38** BROADCASTERS

**12m FANS** reached via respective digital channels 

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

# EHF FINAL4 WOMEN 2024

GYÖR BACK ON TOP; BIETIGHEIM MAKE HISTORY FOR GERMANY



Györi Audi ETO KC are undeniably the standout powerhouse in women's club handball, but it had been some years since they last raised the EHF Champions League trophy, with the previous most recent title victory coming in 2018/19 on the back of two consecutive wins. In 2023/24, Györ reclaimed the trophy after a powerful display in the final, which saw a 30:24 victory against SG BBM Bietigheim.

For Györ, it was the end of a relatively long wait for what was overall the sixth EHF Champions League trophy considering the club's position and goals. Their final opponents Bietigheim had a completely different but equally remarkable story – the German club were the first from their country to reach the EHF FINAL4 Women and also the first to reach the final across the entire history of the EHF Champions League, stretching back to 1993/94. 2023/24 was the side's first time in even the quarter-final stage.

Györ made it to the final following a narrow win over Team Esbjerg, 24:23, extending a one-sided history against Esbjerg, which has seen the Hungarian side come out from every mutual clash on top, including twice at previous EHF FINAL4s. On the flipside, Bietigheim took their first win ever against Metz Handball in their semi-final, 36:29.

Esbjerg went on to win the 3/4 placement match against Metz, 37:33. That victory was Esbjerg's first ever at the EHF FINAL4, on what was their third participation in the event in Budapest. Two Norwegian stars had enormous games in the 3/4 match – Nora Mørk and Henny Reistad scored 13 goals apiece. Both are on the all-time top scorer list at EHF FINAL4s, with Reistad already the clear leader despite being only 25. After the EHF FINAL4 2024, Reistad counts a total of 78 goals scored in Budapest, while Mørk climbed from seventh place to second with her 19 goals over the weekend.

Another Norwegian, Stine Bredal Oftedal, scooped the MVP award for the weekend, thanks to her leadership as playmaker for Györ. Oftedal became the fourth Norwegian to take the individual award – no other nationality is represented more than once among the past MVP winners.

The season's top scorer was Anna Vyakhireva, herself a past EHF FINAL4 MVP. Vyakhireva scored 113 goals for Vipers Kristiansand during the season; like in the men's competition, the top scorer held their crown despite not playing the final weekend. Mørk's effort in Budapest brought her close to the top, as she placed second with 110 goals in 2023/24.

Bietigheim were the only EHF FINAL4 participants who made their way through the entire knockout phase, while the other three sides qualified directly for the quarter-finals after placing in the top two in their respective groups.



**18,500**   
spectators in the arena

**10th**  BUDAPEST  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

**65,000**   
YouTube  
views  
on first-ever vertical live shows

**28**   
BROADCASTERS

**42m FANS**   
reached via  
respective digital  
channels





HAMBURG, GERMANY

# EHF FINALS MEN 2024

FLENSBURG END DECADE-LONG WAIT FOR NEXT EUROPEAN TITLE

**SG Flensburg-Handewitt had been waiting 10 years since their EHF Champions League title in 2013/14 to not only top a podium but play for a European cup trophy again. They ended that wait at the EHF Finals Men 2024 held in Hamburg, defeating domestic rivals Füchse Berlin 36:31 in the trophy game and Dinamo Bucuresti 38:32 in the semi-final.**

With the win in the final, Flensburg prevented Berlin from defending the title they had celebrated in 2022/23.

Flensburg won the trophy game after pulling away in the late stages, following a fairly level encounter. Goalkeeper Kevin Møller played a key role in turning the game around for Flensburg after they fell behind in the first half, making eight saves in the opening 30 minutes. Both teams' attacking performances were mainly spearheaded by Danish players, with Emil Jakobsen adding seven goals to the 11 he had contributed

in the semi-final, leading the wing to be named MVP of the event.

Flensburg reached the trophy game thanks to a dominant performance in the semi-final, in which they led Dinamo 18:11 at half-time. Bucharest's Andrii Akimenko netted seven in the semi-final and added another five in the 3/4 placement match to secure the season's top scorer award, with a total of 95 goals from the start of the group phase. That was the only silver lining for Dinamo, as they were defeated in the placement match, 31:32, by Rhein-Neckar Löwen.

Füchse's semi-final victory was the clearest of all results recorded not only at the EHF Finals Men 2024 but in the history of the event, as they defeated Löwen 33:24. The previous biggest win was recorded by SL Benfica when they beat OrLEN Wisla Plock 26:19 at the EHF Finals Men 2022. Berlin goalkeeper Dejan Milosavljev recorded a save rate of 40 per cent and tallied 13

stops to be one key for Füchse's decisive semi-final win.

To reach the EHF Finals Men 2024, Flensburg beat IK Sävehof 69:59 on aggregate in the quarter-finals, Füchse defeated HBC Nantes 70:63, Dinamo overthrew Skjern 66:61 and Löwen recorded a 60:58 cumulative result against Sporting CP. While Flensburg earned a direct ticket to the quarter-finals as winners of their main round group, the remaining three semi-finalists all had to come through the play-offs. Reflecting just how tough the competition was from the outset, only Flensburg and Füchse topped their groups in the first stage.

The title was Flensburg's sixth international in total and fifth different trophy across all European cup competitions.



14m

fans reached via respective digital channels

1st  
TIME PLAYED AT A NEUTRAL VENUE

28  
BROADCASTERS





GRAZ, AUSTRIA

# EHF FINALS WOMEN 2024

UNPRECEDENTED SEASON LEADS STORHAMAR TO EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE SUCCESS

**Storhamar Handball Elite celebrated their first international title when they won the EHF European League Women 2023/24 at the EHF Finals Women in Graz. The trophy win for the Norwegian club was also the first for any team from the Scandinavian nation in the EHF's second-tier European cup competition.**

Storhamar had never reached the semi-finals in any competition before, with their biggest successes qualifying for the European League quarter-finals in 2021/22 followed by the EHF Champions League play-offs in 2022/23.

To clinch their maiden European title, Storhamar earned a 29:27 victory over CS Gloria 2018 BN in the final. While Storhamar's Anniken Obaidli and Kristin Venn stood out with high goal counts, at nine and eight, respectively, goalkeepers were the star of the final. CS Gloria's Renata Arruda made 13 saves against Storhamar's Eli Marie Raasok, with 12.

Having previously made 11 saves in the semi-final, Brazilian international Arruda was named MVP of the EHF Finals Women 2024. Obaidli secured the season's top scorer award, with 68 goals from the start of the group phase on.

Storhamar's epic semi-final win over Neptunes Nantes, 28:27, saw Abaidli and Guro Nestaker contribute nine goals apiece. Nantes took the lead and did not relinquish it until the final buzzer was in sight. The French team led 16:12 at half-time and had their last four-goal advantage with 15 minutes remaining, before Storhamar reduced the difference, levelled thanks to Nestaker with just over 60 seconds to go, then clinched the win off Venn with under 30 seconds remaining. The lead snatched in the last seconds was Storhamar's first since 1:0 at the start.

CS Gloria took a convincing victory in their semi-final, beating H.C. Dunarea Braila 37:26 and scoring 20 goals in the first half alone.

The placement match needed a penalty shootout to decide the winners, with Nantes ultimately taking a 39:38 victory. Nantes had led throughout the match before Braila came back to force the shootout. Floriane Andre made the crucial save that secured Nantes' victory.

Prior to the final, CS Gloria had not lost one game in the season. They were also the only team of the four semi-finalists directly seeded for the group phase, with Nantes, Storhamar and Braila starting in the qualification. Braila and Storhamar both went on to win their groups, as did CS Gloria in group C, where Nantes placed second.

The four semi-finalists won both legs of their quarter-final ties for clear aggregate wins, with Braila knocking out Podravka Vegeta, CS Gloria eliminating Motheson Mosonmagyarovari, Storhamar beating Thüringer and Nantes defeating Sola HK.



5.8m

fans reached via respective digital channels

28

BROADCASTERS





ICELAND AND GREECE

# EHF EUROPEAN CUP MEN

NAIL-BITING FINAL AS VALUR CLAIM ICELAND'S FIRST EUROPEAN TROPHY



**Valur made history for Iceland as they clinched the country's first international club trophy across both men's and women's competitions, defeating Greek side Olympiacos SFP 62:61 on aggregate in a thrilling two-leg final. Following a 30:26 win for Valur in the first leg, the return fixture in Piraeus saw a dramatic comeback from the Icelandic team to end with a draw on aggregate, meaning a penalty shootout was required. After the shootout, Valur clinched the aggregate win by just one goal.**

"This means a lot for us at Valur, for Icelandic handball and sport in general in Iceland. This was the first gold that an Icelandic club won in handball, football or basketball," said Valur head coach Óskar Bjarni Óskarsson. "Only two times a team from Iceland has been in the finals – the last time was in 1980 and that was also Valur."

The nail-biting spectacle was witnessed by 7,500 people, who set a new attendance record for an EHF club competition in Greece.

Olympiacos left back Savvas Savvas finished as the season's top scorer, with 81 goals.

Valur eliminated two Romanian teams on the path to the final. In the semi-final, they enjoyed a convincing win over CS Minaur Baia Mare, 66:52, following victories in both legs. Olympiacos drew against Hungarian team FTC-Green Collect in the first leg, before a clear win that took them to the final on an aggregative victory of 67:60.

Valur also won both legs of their quarter-final tie for an overall win of 72:65 against CSA Steaua Bucuresti. Olympiacos earned a 56:45 victory over Slovenian team MRK Krka. The other semi-finalists, Baia Mare and FTC-Green Collect, knocked out Austrian side Bregenz Handball and Slovakian team TATRAM Presov in their respective quarter-finals.

12 countries were represented by the clubs in the Last 16, including Türkiye, Czechia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Italy along with those nations whose clubs progressed to the quarter-finals. In that stage, Valur eliminated RK Metaloplastika Elixir Sabac with a 57:54 win and Olympiacos knocked out Italian team SSV Brixen 66:48.

THE NAIL-BITING SPECTACLE WAS WITNESSED BY 7,500 PEOPLE, WHO SET A NEW ATTENDANCE RECORD FOR AN EHF CLUB COMPETITION IN GREECE.

The Last 16 represented Valur's closest results of the European Cup season, aside from the aggregate score in the final, as they won the first leg by just one goal then the second by two.

In the previous rounds, Valur knocked out former EHF Champions League side HC Motor from Ukraine, Estonian team Põlva Serviti and Lithuanian club Granitas Karys. While Valur started in round 1, Olympiacos entered the competition in round 2. There, they defeated Italian team Raimond Sassari, before beating Croatian side MRK Trogir in round 3.





SPAIN AND SLOVAKIA

# EHF EUROPEAN CUP WOMEN

ELCHE EXTEND DOMINANCE OF SPANISH CLUBS



**ATTICGO Bm Elche celebrated the EHF European Cup Women title after winning both legs of the final against MSK IUVENTA Michalovce, taking an aggregate victory of 50:42. The first leg saw a narrow win for Elche, 22:20. In the second leg, Elche recorded a more convincing result of 28:22.**

It was the first international title in Elche's history, and Spain's third in the four editions of the EHF European Cup since its launch in 2020/21. Adding the two titles won by Rocasa Gran Canaria before that, when the third-tier competition was named the Challenge Cup, Spanish clubs have now won five trophies since 2015/16.

Aside from some trouble in the first half of the opening leg, Elche led throughout the two final matches, including a half-time advantage of 15:10 in the second leg. Their left back Danila So Delgado finished as the season's top scorer with 64 goals, adding eight to her tally in the final games.

While Elche earned a clear win in their semi-final tie against Gran Canaria, the two legs unfolded like the final — a two-goal win in the opening fixture, 26:24, then a decisive second-leg victory of

**DANILA SO DELGADO FINISHED AS THE SEASON'S TOP SCORER WITH 64 GOALS, ADDING EIGHT TO HER TALLY IN THE FINAL GAMES.**

24:18 for an aggregate result of 50:42. Michalovce had a narrower semi-final win against their opponents Sport Lisboa e Benfica, at 60:58 on aggregate, following a 30:28 victory in the first leg and a 30:30 draw in the second.

In the quarter-finals, Elche, Michalovce and Sport Lisboa eliminated Macedonian team HC Gyorche Petrov-WHC Skopje, Dutch side Cabooter Handbal Venlo and Turkish club Armada Praxis Yalikavspor, respectively, with all three taking aggregate wins of at least 10 goals. Gran Canaria faced a challenge

from another Spanish club, KH-7 BM. Granollers. The aggregate result was 52:50, but the two legs were very different, with Granollers winning the first 30:20 then Gran Canaria recording a second-leg victory of 32:20.

It was in the Last 16 that ultimate champions Elche suffered their only defeat of the season — a one-goal loss in the first leg against Portuguese side Madeira Andebol SAD. They recovered to take a 33:22 win in the second for an aggregate result of 59:49. In their Last 16 tie, Michalovce defeated Slovenian team ZRK Mlinotest Ajdovscina. Overall, the clubs in the Last 16 represented 11 countries, with teams from Slovenia, Czechia and Croatia alongside the nations that saw further progression.

In rounds 2 and 3, Elche knocked out Bulgarian team HC Byala and Greek side O.F.N. Ionias, respectively. Michalovce beat ZRK Borac from Bosnia and Herzegovina in round 2 then Kosovan team KHF Istogu in round 3.



CELJE, SLOVENIA

# MEN'S 20 EHF EURO 2024

## SPAIN MAKE IT BACK-TO-BACK TITLES; PORTUGAL RUNNERS-UP AGAIN

**Spain won their second Men's 20 EHF EURO title in a row at the 2024 edition, beating Portugal 35:31 in the final. It was also Portugal's second consecutive silver medal in the event after the previous generation made the final of the 2022 edition.**

With younger age category events such as the Men's 20 EHF EURO showcasing the best of Europe's rising talents and two straight tournaments in a row with such a presence from Spain and Portugal, the future looks bright for their men's national teams.

For Spain the situation is especially promising, as it was not only their second consecutive title but fourth in the last six editions of the Men's 20 EHF EURO. They were also the champions in the 2016 and 2012 events. Plus, Spain's 2024-winning generation took the Youth world title in 2023 and the Men's 18 EHF EURO 2022 trophy.



The 2024 trophy brought Spain equal with Denmark as the record title winners in the Men's 20 EHF EURO. The sides also have the same medal count, at seven apiece.

Denmark also added to their medal tally in 2024, beating Germany 26:23 in the 3/4 placement match.

Two wings who were in the Men's 18 EHF EURO 2022 All-star Team made the cut again at the Men's 20 EHF EURO 2024: Spain's Xavier Gonzalez and Germany's Dávid Móré. Gonzalez was also named All-star right wing at the 2023 Youth World Championship. The MVP of the 2023 Youth World Championship, Denmark's Frederik Pedersen, was awarded All-star Team left back.

The remaining positions in the All-star Team went to Denmark's Hjalte Lykke as centre back, Portugal's Ricardo Brandão as line player, Norway's Patrick Helland

Anderson as right back, and Sweden's Theodor Uliana Starck as best defender.

The MVP and top scorer of the event were familiar names for many handball fans. Faroe Islands' Óli Mittún, who also played the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in January, netted 76 goals to claim his second top scorer crown in a year, after he also topped the list at the 2023 Youth World Championship. Representing the title winners, Spain's Petar Cikusa i Jelcic, who won the EHF Champions League title with Barça in June, was the MVP.

Although Spain claimed the title, it was Portugal who arrived at the final unbeaten. They had one draw, 33:33 against Iceland in the main round. Spain were victorious in all games except the clash against none other than Portugal in the main round, which the latter won 38:37.

In the semi-final stage, Spain beat Denmark 36:34 and Portugal defeated Germany 29:24.





PODGORICA, MONTENEGRO

# MEN'S 18 EHF EURO 2024

## SWEDEN WIN ALL-SCANDINAVIAN FINAL TO TAKE THIRD TROPHY

**The M18 EHF EURO 2024 came to a thrilling end as both medal matches needed overtime to decide the winners, with Sweden coming out on top in the final, beating Denmark 37:36. The bronze medal went to Hungary, who defeated Iceland 36:34 in the placement match.**

It was Sweden's third title in the M18 EHF EURO, following victories in 2018 and in the third edition in 1997. The previous generation also made it to the final in 2022, losing to Spain.

Runners-up Denmark are the record medal winners in the competition, with 11, but have never taken the trophy. They have played the semi-finals no less than 12 times and missed a medal only once.

Hungary's bronze medal at the event contributed to their nation's number one position on the younger age category ranking for 2024, which combines the results of the men's and women's

national team competitions played over the summer.

Nine nations were represented in the tournament's All-star Team, with Sweden's Nikola Roganovic named MVP. Denmark had two players among the eight positions, with Frederik Møller Wolff as goalkeeper and Oskar Møller Jakobsen as right back.

France's Yoni Peyrabout was named All-star left wing, Serbia's Djordje Drasko was left back, Iceland's Dagur Árni Heimirsson was centre back, Germany's Bennet Strobel was line player, Spain's Hugo Vila López was right wing and Hungary's Maté Fazekas was best defender. The top scorer was Israel's Asaf Sharon, with 79 goals.

Three of the four semi-finalists recorded perfect records in the preliminary round — Sweden, Denmark and Iceland — as did Serbia, Germany and Spain. Hungary had one loss in the preliminary round, against Sweden.



Into the main round, Denmark had a 29:29 draw versus Serbia to start then clinched their semi-final ticket with narrow wins against Germany and Hungary. Having beaten both Germany and Serbia, Hungary were sure of progressing before the loss to Denmark.

The second main round group was very competitive, with Sweden, Spain and Iceland finishing on a three-way points tie. Sweden were defeated by Iceland 29:34 in the first game, then Iceland lost their second match to Spain, 27:32. That meant the pressure was on for the final main round day, with Iceland needing to win against Norway to book their place, while Sweden had to defeat Spain by six goals. Sweden beat Spain by the exact margin required, 33:27, and Iceland won against Norway, knocking Spain out of the running for the trophy.

The semi-finals both saw one-sided results, with Denmark beating Iceland 34:26 and Sweden defeating Hungary 39:27.





# YAC COMPETITIONS



M20 EHF EURO 2024  
Slovenia: 10–21 July

- 1ST SPAIN
- 2ND PORTUGAL
- 3RD DENMARK

M20 EHF CHAMPIONSHIP 2024  
Kosovo: 13–21 July

- 1ST SLOVAKIA
- 2ND LATVIA
- 3RD FINLAND

M18 EHF EURO 2024  
Montenegro: 7–18 August

- 1ST SWEDEN
- 2ND DENMARK
- 3RD HUNGARY

M18 EHF CHAMPIONSHIP 2024  
Slovakia: 12–18 August

- 1ST BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- 2ND LATVIA
- 3RD TÜRKIYE

M18 EHF CHAMPIONSHIP 2024  
Kosovo: 12–18 August

- 1ST KOSOVO
- 2ND GEORGIA
- 3RD BELGIUM



# YAC 16 EHF BEACH HANDBALL EURO

## NETHERLANDS AND HUNGARY CELEBRATE TITLES

**Six nations celebrated the medals at the Men's and Women's 16 EHF Beach Handball EURO 2024, where the Netherlands were champions in the women's competition and Hungary took the men's trophy. The Netherlands beat France in the final, while Croatia defeated Hungary to clinch the last piece of silverware in the women's tournament. On the men's side, Hungary won the title-deciding game against Spain, and Germany beat Croatia for bronze.**

The top scorers in each competition were clear: From Czechia, Matouš Khek scored 218 points to lead the men's tournament ahead of Spain's Jesus Garcia on 166. In the women's competition, Spain's Carlota Bravo Garcia contributed 199 points, with Croatia's Helena Furcic scoring 124 to rank second.

The medal matches in the women's competition saw straight set wins for the victors. The Netherlands beat France 28:20 in the first set then 19:14 in the second.

Croatia had a tougher time taking the bronze medal from Hungary, winning the first set 19:16 and the second 20:16. Hungary also gave the Netherlands a big challenge in the semi-final, winning the first set 22:18 before the Dutch won the second 20:19 then the required shootout 13:12. In their semi-final, France won 2:0 against Croatia.

The two finalists won their quarter-finals 2:0, with the Netherlands knocking out hosts Bulgaria and France eliminating Norway. Croatia and Hungary won their quarter-finals 2:1, with Croatia defeating Germany and Hungary beating Spain.

While the Netherlands had a perfect record of wins in the preliminary round, the other medallists did not — France ranked second in their group and Croatia placed third in the same group as the Netherlands.

The men's competition had a dramatic final where Hungary lost the first set to Spain

18:20, then won the second 21:18 and the shootout 15:14. Germany beat Croatia 2:0 in the 3/4 placement match.

The two semi-finals saw straight-sets wins for Spain against Germany and Hungary versus Croatia. In the quarter-finals, three of the four semi-finalists took 2:0 victories, with Germany knocking out Portugal, Hungary defeating Czechia and Spain beating Ukraine. Croatia had a tough time overthrowing Sweden, winning the first set 21:20, losing the second 27:22, and then taking the shootout 7:6.

With 16 teams in the men's competition to 18 in the women's, the tournament formats were different. While the women played only a preliminary round to determine the quarter-finalists, the men played a preliminary then a main round. Not one of the men's quarter-finalists made it through both phases unscathed, with all recording at least one loss on the path to the knockout round.





PORTUGAL, FRANCE AND BULGARIA

# COMPETITIVE SEASON ON THE SAND

CHAMPIONS CUP 2024, EBT FINALS 2024 AND BEACH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

**The calendar of annual beach handball events came to an end on 13 October in Porto Santo, Portugal, where the Champions Cup was held for the third consecutive year. The Danish Beachhandball Dream were the women's champions and GRD Leça - Spar from Portugal won the men's title.**

Highlighting how competitive the European beach handball scene has become, The Danish Beachhandball Dream placed 12th at the ebt Finals, which were held in Lacanau, France and opened the season in June. Conversely, the winners of the ebt Finals title in the men's competition were Portuguese team Escola de Formação de Espinho - Os Tigres / LEVEL, who finished seventh at the Champions Cup. Spanish side CBMP Ciudad de Málaga won the women's trophy at the ebt Finals.

The women's All-star Team at the ebt Finals featured Mariam Gonzalez Llambrich as MVP, Sabrina Oliveira as goalkeeper, Gabriella Landi as defender and Pauline Borrmann as top scorer. The ebt Finals All-star Team on the men's side featured Miguel Martins as MVP, Balázs Nagy as goalkeeper, Tomislav Laus as defender and Javier Delgado Sanchez as top scorer.

At the Champions Cup, Meike Kruijer was named MVP in the women's competition, Paula Vera was All-star Team goalkeeper, Johanne Uhrhammer was best defender and Sara Pinho was top scorer. The men's MVP was Ivan Juric, goalkeeper was Ricardo Castro, best defender was Francisco Santos and top scorer was Jakob Merrild.

Alongside the two club competitions, the calendar of events also included the Beach Handball Championships 2024, held in Varna, Bulgaria in July. The national team tournament features teams not already qualified for the Beach Handball EURO the following year.

France and Sweden both celebrated two sets of medals at the Beach Handball Championships 2024 — but neither of the trophies. Poland were the winners in the men's category, ahead of Sweden as runners-up and France as bronze medallists. In the women's tournament, Hungary took the title, with France placing second and Sweden in third.





# OTHER COMPETITIONS



## EUROPEAN MASTERS HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women 33+

- 1ST MARISTAS ALGEMESI (ESP)
- 2ND ANGYALOK (HUN)
- 3RD FIF/HOJ (DEN)

Men 45+

- 1ST MASTERS HANDBALL SVK (SVK)
- 2ND MASTERS PORTO (POR)
- 3RD BUDAPEST OLD BOYS (HUN)

Women 43+

- 1ST FIF FREDRIKSBERG (DEN)
- 2ND LYNBE UGGELOESE (DEN)
- 3RD ESFERA ANDEBOL MASTERS (POR)

Men 50+

- 1ST BM GRANADA VETERANOS (ESP)
- 2ND HANDBOL SANT FOST (ESP)
- 3RD KOLDING IF (DEN)

Men 35+

- 1ST FC PORTO VINTAGE (POR)
- 2ND ABC/MANABOLA (POR)
- 3RD ACDM MASTERS (POR)

Men 55+

- 1ST ODESA (UKR)
- 2ND CAT +45 (ESP)
- 3RD M50 PORTUGAL (POR)

## IOC / IHF EVENTS: 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

Men's competition:

- 1ST DENMARK
- 2ND GERMANY
- 3RD SPAIN

Women's competition:

- 1ST NORWAY
- 2ND FRANCE
- 3RD DENMARK

## W/16 EUROPEAN OPEN

- 1ST SWITZERLAND
- 2ND GERMANY
- 3RD HUNGARY



# KEY COMPETITION MILESTONES AND RECORDS



53,586 spectators were at the opening match of the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in Merkur Spiel-Arena, Düsseldorf on 10 January, setting a new world record for attendance at a handball match.



Danish legend Mikkel Hansen became the new all-time top scorer of the Men's EHF EURO, counting 296 overall after netting 35 goals in 2024. Nikola Karabatic scored 16 goals to sit second, with 295.



In round 4 of the EHF Champions League Women on 6 October, Cristina Neagu became the all-time top scorer of the competition, passing Jovanka Radicevic. Neagu is also all-time top scorer of the EHF EURO.



By reaching the Women's EHF EURO 2024, Türkiye qualified for their first major championship ever, in both genders. For Faroe Islands, the EHF EURO events in 2024 saw both their national teams' major tournament debuts.



Following the expansion of the Men's EHF EURO in 2020, the Women's EHF EURO 2024 was the first edition with 24 teams. This year marked 30 years since the EHF EURO began in 1994.

Katrine Lunde broke her own record once again and became the only player in history of handball to win seven European titles.

# EHF EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024

## STINE OFTEDAL AND EMIL NIELSEN TAKE MVP TITLES AT SECOND EHF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The second EHF Excellence Awards were held in Vienna on 14 December, honouring performances throughout the 2023/24 season. With a team of the season, young players and beach handball players of the season announced earlier in 2024, it was left to see which players would take the MVP award for the past season. Three nominees were shortlisted for both genders, with Stine Oftedal from Norway and Emil Nielsen from Denmark taking the respective trophies.

Along with the awards given for 2023/24, the event introduced the European Olympic Excellence Award, honouring the performance of two European players, one in each gender, at the Olympic Games. The winners for 2024 were gold medallists and MVPs of their respective tournaments, Mathias Gidsel and Katrine Lundede.

## TEAM AND THE MVP OF THE SEASON – WOMEN

### MVP STINE OFTEDAL

#### Left wing: Chloé Valentini

France's top scorer and All-star Team left wing at the title-winning World Championship. Scored 97 goals for Metz en route to the EHF FINAL4 Women.

#### Left back: Henny Reistad

IHF Player of the Year for 2023 and MVP of the World Championship. Scored over 100 goals in the EHF Champions League for a third straight season.

#### Centre back: Stine Oftedal

MVP of the EHF FINAL4 Women 2024 and World Championship All-star centre back. Took silver at the World Championship and won her third Champions League trophy.

#### Right back: Anna Vyakhireva

Top scorer of the EHF Champions League 2023/24, with 113 goals.

#### Right wing: Viktoria Györi-Lukacs

Scored 49 goals on the path to the EHF Champions League 2023/24 trophy and 20 goals in the EHF EURO Cup 2024.

#### Line player: Sarah Bouktit

Joint-third top scorer of the EHF Champions League 2023/24 (alongside Reistad). Contributed 22 goals to France's World Championship win.

#### Goalkeeper: Sandra Toft

Her title-winning EHF Champions League season with Györ included a standout semi-final, when she made 13 saves. Made 49 saves at the World Championship, where Denmark celebrated bronze.

#### Defender: Line Haugsted

Won the EHF Champions League for the first time, and was notable for her defence throughout 2023/24. Also plays a key role in Denmark's defence.

## TEAM AND THE MVP OF THE SEASON – MEN

### MVP EMIL NIELSEN

#### Left wing: Emil Jakobsen

MVP of the EHF Finals Men 2024 after scoring 18 goals across the weekend. Important for Denmark as they took Men's EHF EURO 2024 silver.

#### Left back: Elohim Prandi

Took France to the EHF EURO 2024 final with an astonishing direct free throw after the buzzer of regular time in the semi-final. Scored 87 goals in the Champions League.

#### Centre back: Felix Claar

Netted 38 times for bronze medallists Sweden at the Men's EHF EURO 2024, and 85 in the EHF Champions League, ending the season at the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4.

#### Right back: Dika Mem

Won both the EHF EURO 2024 and the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4. Second top scorer of the Champions League, with 106 goals, and fourth top at the EHF EURO, with 49.

#### Right wing: Hans Lindberg

A key penalty taker, Lindberg was part of Denmark's EHF EURO silver medal. Reached the EHF European League Men final, scoring 49 goals in the season.

#### Line player: Ludovic Fabregas

EHF EURO 2024 All-star line player and France's second top scorer at the event, with 44 strikes. Netted 68 for Veszprém in the Champions League.

#### Goalkeeper: Emil Nielsen

Recorded an average save rate of 39.49 per cent at the EHF EURO 2024. Saved nearly 47 per cent in the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 semi-final.

#### Defender: Magnus Saugstrup

EHF EURO 2024 All-star Team defender Saugstrup had a superb season standing firm for Denmark and Magdeburg.

## YOUNG PLAYERS OF THE SEASON

### MEN

#### Martim Costa – Portugal

All-star Team left back and joint-top scorer of the Men's EHF EURO 2024, Costa is still just 22 years old. Scored 62 goals in what was his fourth European cup season.

### WOMEN

#### Petra Simon – Hungary

MVP and All-star Team centre back at the W19 EHF EURO 2023, 20-year-old Simon made her major tournament debut at the 2023 World Championship. Played her first Champions League season, scoring 39 goals.

## BEACH HANDBALL MVPs

### MEN

#### Ricardo Castro – Portugal

All-star Team goalkeeper at the IHF Beach Handball World Championship and at the Champions Cup. Won the Champions Cup and took World Championship bronze.

### WOMEN

#### Meike Kruijjer – Netherlands

MVP of the Champions Cup and All-star Team member at the IHF Beach Handball World Championship. Placed third at both events.





## THE BEST OF THE BEST

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From left to right:

Meike Kruijer (NED)

Martim Costa (POR)

Rikardo Castro (POR)

Stine Oftedal (NOR)

Dika Mem (FRA)

Petra Simon (HUN)

Emil Nielsen (DEN)

## EUROPEAN OLYMPIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

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Katrine Lunde (NOR)

Mathias Gidsel (DEN)

# HALL OF FAME

## 21 LEGENDS INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Following the induction of 61 players into the Hall of Fame at the first EHF Excellence Awards in 2023, 21 more legends of the game were honoured for their outstanding achievements on the court and their overall contribution to European handball at this year's edition.

The 2024 list of inductees included three players who dominated the sport in recent years and retired after the Olympic Games: Stine Oftedal Dahmke, Mikkel Hansen and Nikola Karabatic. The trio combine for 32 major titles across the Olympics, World Championship, EHF EURO and EHF Champions League.



"WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HONOUR THE LEGENDS OF OUR GAME AT THE EHF EXCELLENCE AWARDS. THIS IS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT AN INCREDIBLE MARK ON THE SPORT OF HANDBALL."

MICHAEL WIEDERER, EHF PRESIDENT

## 2024 LEGENDS OF THE GAME

### Goalkeepers

Andreas Thiel — Germany

Mats Olsson — Sweden

Dejan Perić — Serbia

Luminița Hutupan-Dinu — Romania

### Left wing

Gergő Iváncsik — Hungary

### Left backs

Nikola Karabatic — France

Mikkel Hansen — Denmark

Carmen Amariei — Romania

Anja Andersen — Denmark

### Centre backs

Ljubomir Vranjes — Sweden

Andy Schmid — Switzerland

Mia Hermansson-Högdahl — Sweden

Stine Oftedal Dahmke — Norway

### Right backs

Volker Zerbe — Germany

Staffan Olsson — Sweden

Indira Kastratović — North Macedonia

Marta Mangué — Spain

### Right wings

Luc Abalo — France

Ivan Čupić — Croatia

### Line player

Igor Vori — Croatia

### Defender

Viran Morros — Spain





# FROM THE CONFERENCE ROOMS



# EHF CONGRESS & CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

## EHF EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS AND CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS CONVENE IN VIENNA

The EHF Extraordinary Congress and Conference of Presidents took place on 14 December in Vienna. At the Conference of Presidents, the delegates received an overview concerning key events and developments for European handball in 2025 and beyond, including a look ahead to the EHF EUROs in 2026 and 2028 and a preview of the EHF activities for next year.

Following the opening words from EHF President Michael Wiederer, EHF Secretary General Martin Hausleitner provided an overview of the Master Plan activities. Wiederer emphasised two important events in 2025: The EHF Competitions Conference for men's competitions on 9–10 April 2025 and for women's competitions on 12–13 May 2025.

The Conference of Presidents closed with Jörgen Holmqvist, Per Otto Furuseth, Andrzej Krasnicki and Miguel Roca Mas being named EHF Honorary Members. A fifth award was posthumously given to Danish Handball Federation President Morten Stig Christensen.

One of the main items on the agenda at the Extraordinary Congress was the awarding of future EHF EURO competitions, with votes for the Men's EHF EURO 2030, Men's EHF EURO 2032 and Women's EHF EURO 2032 taking place. Five nations – Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, and Poland – will host the flagship events.

The Men's EHF EURO 2030, on 10–27 January 2030, will be co-hosted by Czechia, Poland and Denmark. Germany



and France will co-host the Men's EHF EURO 2032, on 15 January–1 February 2032. Germany, Denmark and Poland will co-host the Women's EHF EURO 2032, to be played on 1–19 December 2032. As co-hosts of both the Men's and Women's events in 2032, Germany will be only the second nation after Serbia in 2012 to organise two EHF EUROs in one year.

No applications for the Women's EHF EURO 2030 were admitted, therefore, the right to award the event will revert to the EHF Executive Committee.

In addition, ten motions related to the EHF Statutes were tabled at the

Extraordinary Congress; an additional four related to changes to the EHF Legal Regulations. Topics touched included among others the division of responsibilities within the EHF Statutes, the suspension of membership rights, the competence for the catalogue of administrative sanctions, amending the conditions for damage compensation claims and the possible omission of the hearing obligation in legal proceedings. All motions tabled received the required majority by the Congress.

The Extraordinary Congress closed with the signing of new Master Plan agreements for Czechia, Serbia, Faroe Islands and Israel.



# EHF CONFERENCE FOR SECRETARIES GENERAL

## FROM THE MASTER PLAN TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The 14th edition of the EHF Conference for Secretaries General took place in Copenhagen in March. Organised every two years in spring, the conference offers the opportunity for member federations to receive insights on the latest projects in European handball, discuss new developments, and bring issues from the national level forward.

This year's conference topics included competitions, grassroots handball, an outlook to future EHF EURO events, coach licensing, the EHF's sustainability strategy and the latest projects being supported through the EHF's Master Plan.

Looking back to the Men's EHF EURO 2024, the EHF shared key numbers related to the event, emphasising digital growth – more than one million spectators across

the 65 games, a reach of 764 million on EHF and select third-party channels, and 13.9 million engagements. Discussion also focused on the younger age category events to be held in the summer, namely the Men's 20 EHF EURO and Men's 18 EHF EURO, both of which would be the first of their kind played with 24 teams.

The EHF's Methods Department presented a new approach to the RINCK convention and coach licensing, as well as the possible implementation of a grassroots charter for European handball to foster the sport's development across all age groups.

EHF Secretary General Martin Hausleitner presented an update to the federation's sustainability strategy, which was initiated at the 2023 EHF Congress. With a focus on the EHF EURO events in the future, the EHF,

together with the respective organisers, will aim to implement sustainable initiatives, mainly related to transportation.

Participants also received first-hand insights from federations participating in the Master Plan. The EHF's development scheme has been supporting more than a dozen projects since launching in 2021. In Copenhagen, the federations of Germany, Georgia, Croatia and Türkiye presented their projects, ranging from fostering mini and kindergarten handball to the implementation of a grassroots handball coaching licence.

The conference concluded with the draw for Men's EHF EURO 2026 qualifiers and a corresponding workshop.





# WOMEN'S HANDBALL CONFERENCE

## GRASSROOTS, LEADERSHIP AND OPERATIONS IN FOCUS AT WOMEN'S HANDBALL CONFERENCE

The Women's Handball Conference 2024, "From grassroots to professional sport and beyond," was held on 10 and 11 December, concurrently with the Women's EHF EURO. The Conference saw 150 participants from 32 countries taking part in a one-and-a-half-day programme comprised of 24 presentations, two keynote speeches and four panel discussions.

All sessions focused on one of three core topics, each of which had its own slogan, giving further insights to the big-picture theme of the subjects covered: "She plays handball" — approaching the new generation; "inspiring HERstory" — social sustainability in women's handball; and "encourage, empower and inspire" — tools and techniques. In addition, the general themes of the future of women's handball and women's empowerment were evidenced throughout the conference with the claim "empowering HERstory."



Speakers included past IHF World Players of the Year Andrea Lekic and Allison Pineau; Head of Women in Basketball and Special Projects at FIBA Elisabeth Cebrian; EHF Expert and Associate Professor in the University of Zagreb psychology faculty Dr Zrinka Greblo-Juracic; Secretary General of the Belgian Handball Federation Dries Boulet; and EHF Expert, former player, and representative of the Swedish Handball Federation Jennie Linnell.

The keynote speeches were delivered by Executive Board Member of the Norwegian Handball Federation Nora Kaalstad and

Dr Jacqueline Müller, a lecturer in Sports Business and Leadership at the Institute for Sport Business at Loughborough University London, and a module leader in Leadership, Diversity and Change in the Sports Industry. Kaalstad spoke on young female leadership while Müller's presentation was "Spotlight on social sustainability in women's handball in Europe."

"The world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030 and at the current rate it will take us 140 years to achieve equal representation in leadership," said Müller when previewing her presentation. "Shedding more light on gender inequality issues, especially in traditionally male-dominated contexts such as sport, is crucial to pave the way for a more socially sustainable future."

The conference was introduced at the Women's EHF EURO 2022 as part of the effort to further develop the women's arm of the game, making the 2024 edition the second iteration.

# EHF GRASSROOTS CONVENTION

## GRASSROOTS IS FOR EVERYONE — THE KEY BASE FOR GROWTH

Providing something in handball for everyone — that was the most important message of the first EHF Grassroots Convention, which was held in conjunction with the Men's EHF EURO 2024. The programme involved 27 lectures presented by different experts who spoke on a wide range of topics, from children's handball initiatives and physical activity and health in adolescents to activities in other sports and keeping young players engaged, among many more.

Overall, the key concept of grassroots that emerged throughout the day was that it equals any amateur-focused initiatives — the base or structure on which a sport can grow. The key elements defined by the EHF were local participation, inclusivity, skill development and community engagement.

The design of the day's programme, with three lecture rooms plus the main auditorium, allowed for the over

100 participants to gain information that fit their own purposes. Among the speakers, aside from experts in handball representing a multitude of different handball organisations and clubs, were FIBA Europe's Head of National Federations: Youth and Anti-doping Radmila Turner and UEFA Head of Technical Development Frank Ludolph. Both shared valuable insights into their own organisations' programmes and how they encourage development of their respective sports on a grassroots level through different initiatives.

Along with the lectures, there was a panel discussion on "The pan-European grassroots movement" with comparative insights on basketball, football and handball. The panellists were Ludolph, FIBA Executive Director Kamil Novak, EHF Secretary General Martin Hausleitner



and EHF Methods Commission Chairman Pedro Sequeira.

Aside from the notable non-handball guests, there were big names in handball on the agenda, with former IHF World Player of the Year Andrea Lekic presenting on the EHF's Respect Your Talent programme, for which she is an ambassador, alongside project coordinator Alenka Cuderman.



MEAN S E 0 2024



**FROM THE  
DIGITAL WORLD**

# EHF AND INFRONT LAUNCH REVAMPED EHFTV

At the start of the 2024/25 season, the European Handball Federation (EHF) and Infront announced the migration of the revamped streaming platform, EHFTV, to Stream Engine. Infront Lab's platform for custom built Over-the-Top (OTT) streaming channels.

EHFTV is the streaming home for all EHF competitions including premium events such as the EHF Champions League, the EHF European League and the Men's and Women's EHF EUROs, as well as for youth and beach handball.

The move allows the EHF to expand its audience and reach with the availability of live and on-demand streaming in new territories while significantly enhancing the users' experience on the platform at the same time.

The channel features live commentary on all matches of the Machineseker EHF

Champions League and the Men's and Women's EHF EUROs. Furthermore, one match per round of the EHF Champions League Women and selected EHF EURO qualifiers will have commentary.

EHFTV's new archive channel is more robust than ever before, with matches from the last three decades of EHF competitions, including the EHF Champions League, the EHF European League (and its predecessors) and the EHF EUROs.

On top of that, fans are able to enjoy a constantly growing number of 'EHF Originals' granting unprecedented insights behind the scenes of Europe's top handball competitions and showcasing the sport's biggest stars.

EHFTV subscribers have access to full games, extended highlights, condensed game highlights and top action from the various competitions.



Live viewing is based on geo-locations and fans have the flexibility of choosing from several subscription types based on their preferences: yearly, monthly or pay per view. Tournament passes for events such as the EHF EURO are also available. Game highlights and the 'EHF Originals' are available worldwide, free of charge.

Martin Hausleitner, EHF Secretary General, said: "Moving to the new platform with technology provided by the EHF's long-standing partner, Infront, will grant a growing audience worldwide not only live access to our premium competitions but also to youth and beach handball as well as outstanding documentaries and more."

# THE POWER TO CREATE

## NEW PROJECT OFFERED EXCLUSIVE INSIGHTS AT WOMEN'S EHF EURO 2024

The European Handball Federation explored new territory at the Women's EHF EURO 2024 in Austria, Hungary and Switzerland, offering for the first time an athlete-led content creation project at the championship.

For the project, EHF partnered with the digital unit of HBS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Infront Sports & Media, the EHF's long-standing media and marketing partner. HBS had previously delivered similar projects for the FIFA Women's World Cup and the World Badminton Federation.

"Female athletes don't always get the recognition they deserve, despite their incredible achievements. This project is about changing that, by giving athletes the chance to share their personal stories and build stronger connections with their audience, all while growing their own personal brand," said Ioana Patachi,

Digital Content Manager at the European Handball Federation.

More than a dozen players were onboarded to the project, producing content in the lead-up to the championship to build excitement and hype up the fans as well as during the tournament to offer insights into the players' life and preparations.

The goal of HBS and EHF was to capture the players' stories and personalities without disrupting their focus. It was ensured that the content creation process fitted seamlessly into the players' schedule.

The onboarding process guaranteed that the players did not have to worry about technical details. All what was eventually needed were the recording of short, personal clips according to ideas discussed or driven by the players' own creativity. Here, the players could be as casual or crazy as they liked – it was all about



showing personality and giving fans a look behind the scenes.

The raw footage was professionally edited by HBS so that a polished product was delivered. The content was published on the EHF's channels, the players' channels, the national federations' channels as and shared with several major broadcast rights holders, ensuring the exposure to the broadest possible audience of handball fans across the world.

"This project has been a fantastic opportunity for the players to showcase their story, grow their brand and inspire a new generation of fans—all with minimal time commitment and with full support from the EHF and HBS," said Patachi.



# VERTICAL LIVE SHOWS

## STAR PLAYERS ANDREA LEKIC AND ANA GROS SHINE AS CO-HOSTS

The all-time EHF EURO top scorer of the Serbian national team Andrea Lekic, and former Slovenian national team player Ana Gros have co-hosted the Women's EHF EURO 2024 vertical live shows alongside 'The Spin: We talk handball' podcast crew, Víctor Tomás and Bengt Kunkel.

First introduced at the EHF FINAL4 Women 2023 in Budapest, the vertical live shows were a big hit with many fans tuning in to see and hear about what is happening on and off the court. The action has moved behind the curtain of the biggest Women's EHF EURO ever.

Previews of the semi-final and medal matches, interviews with players, coaches and legends of the game, top players and teams and competition milestones have been discussed during the shows that took place during the final weekend (13-15 December) of the EHF EURO.



Some of the biggest names of the game, such as Katrine Lunde, Solberg sisters, tournament's MVP Anna Kristiansen, Cleopatre Darleux and EHF EURO star player for Hungary, Zsófi Szemerey were all guests in the live shows during the final weekend.

Gros has appeared in the shows in past, but never as a host so she had her debut in Vienna. Lekic on the other side is a familiar face and has already co-hosted the Twitch shows before, making her debut at the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4.

# DIGITAL MILESTONES

## NEW NUMBERS HIT IN 2024

JUNE 2024



AUGUST 2024



APRIL 2024



# KRETZSCHE: THE HANDBALL PUNK

“Kretzsche: The Handball Punk” tells the story of one of the most naturally gifted players handball has ever seen — and one of the biggest characters. Friends, family and Stefan Kretzschmar himself talk about the past, present and future. From his first steps in handball at Gummersbach, to winning the EHF Champions League Men title and the Bundesliga with SC Magdeburg, Kretzschmar was always the main focus of the teams for which he played, creating magic out of thin air. But the tumultuous life Kretzschmar lived took his toll and this 56-minute documentary explores his childhood and what shaped him up both as a player and as a man.

Through a series of reality scenes with celebrities and exclusive interviews with his loved ones, Kretzschmar discusses what it means to be a rebel with responsibility. With guest appearances from star football player Toni Kroos; basketball superstar Dirk Nowitzki; Kretzschmar’s friend Christoph Schneider, drummer for

heavy metal band Rammstein; and also former coaches such as Heiner Brand and Alfred Gislason, “Kretzsche: The Handball Punk” is a whirlwind of drama and excitement, providing plenty of insights into Kretzschmar’s life on and off the court, including the relationship with his children, Lucie-Marie and Elvis, who both play handball.



“He was a cult back then. Everybody knew him and how he shaped the wing position. He was a cult figure definitely,” says Nowitzki in the documentary.

The release of the documentary coincided with the Men’s EHF EURO 2024, hosted by Germany.

# HERE TO WIN

In the wake of the Men’s EHF EURO 2024 in Germany, “Here to Win” captures the spirit and the drama of the biggest European handball championships in history.

The thrilling story of the tournament is told through the experiences of two main protagonists of the teams that contested the pulsating final on 28 January in Cologne: French all-time

great Nikola Karabatic, who played his last EHF EURO before retiring, and Danish star Mathias Gidsel.

“I don’t know if it’s real, I am standing here like on a cloud,” Karabatic says after France have won the final against Denmark 33:31 in overtime. “Everything went like a dream.”

The team behind the documentary had exclusive access to the Karabatic family, including France captain and Nikola’s brother Luka, mother Radmila, and partner Geraldine Pillet. They share what Karabatic and his career has meant to them over the years.

Karabatic’s dream ended Denmark’s ambitions to win the title for the first time in more than a decade.

“We sacrifice everything to be here. Being out there and losing the EHF EURO final was tough,” Gidsel says.

The documentary includes interviews with a range of other players and experts, including Germany goalkeeper Andreas Wolff and Spanish legend Victor Tomás.

Among the many highlights featured is the opening day in Düsseldorf, where a crowd of 53,586 spectators made for a world-record attendance at a handball match, and the heart-warming buzz created by Faroe Islands and their many fans during the team’s first-ever EHF EURO appearance.





# DARE TO RISE

After a series of short documentaries released during the Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2023/24 season, the series culminated with a full-length documentary, “Dare to Rise: Last Shot” telling the story of the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4.

The four Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2023/24 semi-finalists – eventual title winners Barça, runners-up Aalborg, third-placed THW Kiel and fourth-ranked Magdeburg – each see their story told through the eyes of select individuals.

From Barça, Portuguese line player, Luis Frade, shares his experiences. From Aalborg, we follow then coach Stefan Madsen and none other than Mikkel Hansen, for whom the EHF FINAL4 brought the last club matches in an illustrious career. From Magdeburg, TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023 MVP Gisli Kristjánsson is the focus, while Kiel coach Filip Jicha leads the story for THW.

Hansen is the heart of the story. The TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2024 was Hansen’s last chance to win the one trophy that had eluded him throughout his legendary career.

And the final came down to a post-buzzer free throw by Hansen from the nine-metre line, which would have sent the match into overtime – but instead hit the crossbar, handing Barça the title.

“I have enjoyed playing handball. I have followed my heart, which is what I recommend anyone else to do. I have shown up to training with a lot of joy – the joy of playing with the ball – and I hope this has been reflected in my game,” says Hansen, speaking right after the match.

The documentary is a fitting conclusion to a memorable EHF Champions League season with all its thrills, emotions and unexpected twists and turns.



# CIKUŠA BROTHERS

18-year-old twins Petar and Djordje Cikuša i Jelacic have burst onto the handball scene in recent seasons, playing in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League and starring in Younger Age Category competitions.

But is it any wonder, given that they have been playing handball since they were old enough to hold a ball?

“The Cikuša Brothers – Golden Future” turns the lens on the brothers for the first time, talking exclusively to the twins and their teammates about their breakthrough to the big stage of handball.

For Petar, the 2023/24 season was hugely impressive for one so young: he won the EHF Champions League with Barça, scoring 24 goals across the campaign; was called up to Spain’s bronze medal winning team at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games; and was named MVP of M20 EHF EURO 2024 in Slovenia in July, which Spain won.

Djordje suffered an injury two matches into the M20 EHF EURO, but two years ago, it was his moment in the spotlight, as he was named in the All-star Team at M18 EHF EURO 2022, where Spain won gold. The brothers were also in the Spanish squad that took gold in the Men’s IHF Youth World Championship 2023.

Introduced to the sport by their father who was passionate about handball, the two played together as youngsters and in the Barça youth system with an understanding that only twins can share.

But their confidence, drive, dedication and style makes them both standout players in their own right. The documentary shines a light on their individual personalities and assesses how far they might go in the sport.



Scan the QR code and watch all EHF originals!

A close-up photograph of a person's hand reaching towards a soccer ball. The hand is positioned over a cluster of several soccer balls on a dark blue surface. The balls are colorful, featuring blue, white, red, and yellow patterns. One ball in the foreground has the word 'SELECT' visible. The background is a solid dark blue color. A white horizontal bar is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'FROM SPONSORSHIPS' in blue, bold, uppercase letters.

**FROM SPONSORSHIPS**



# INFRONT AND THE EHF

## 30 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INFRONT SPORTS & MEDIA

With exclusive responsibility for the marketing and media rights for EHF EURO events since 1993, Infront has made a valuable and significant contribution to European handball, helping ensure the successful development of the flagship EHF national team competition. In 2020, nearing 30 years after the partnership began, a prolongation of the contract was signed up to 2030.

Improvement of digital presence was a main pillar of the prolongation, and a 360-degree strategy has since been implemented. Through the digital efforts, a multitude of new milestones were hit at the Men's EHF EURO 2024, including 1.2 billion in cumulative TV audiences, 764 million digital reach and 210 million video views on EHF channels.

Highlighting the passing of 30 years of cooperation, James Chubb, Head of Handball at Infront, shares insights into the key achievements and what is to come.

### What are the biggest milestones in the long-term partnership between Infront and the EHF?

“Over three decades of partnership, the expansion of the Men's and Women's EHF EURO to 24 teams has been a standout, opening up new markets and strengthening handball's footprint across Europe. The Men's EHF EURO 2024 set new benchmarks, particularly with the record-breaking opening match in Düsseldorf, which attracted over 53,000 spectators. Another significant milestone has been the growth of women's handball, marked by increased investments from brands like Lidl and Gorenje, which showcased the growing commercial appeal of the sport.”

### How does handball in general benefit from the partnership between Infront and the EHF?

“The partnership has brought consistent commercial growth, broader media exposure, and an elevated fan experience.

Through leveraging of free-to-air broadcasting across some territories, handball has reached a broader audience compared to the predominantly pay-based club ecosystem. Coupled with the extensive digital transformation over the last four years, this targeted yet expansive reach allows brands to activate sponsorships effectively, driving fan engagement. The collaboration also ensures that learnings from each event feed into improving subsequent tournaments, thereby building a stronger foundation for the sport's development.”

The Men's EHF EURO 2024 set a benchmark for handball events. What knowledge was gained from it and how much has that helped shape the sponsorship agreements for the future?

“One key takeaway was that taking calculated risks, such as hosting matches in large arenas, pays off when supported by strong promotion and collaborative local organising committees. The fully sold-out



opening matches in Düsseldorf exemplified how ambitious planning can lead to commercial and fan success.

This demonstrated the viability of significant investment to sponsors, creating a virtuous cycle of support. Future sponsorship agreements have been influenced by this, placing greater emphasis on innovative activations and stronger collaborations with host cities.”

### From the sponsorship and media landscape side, what were the major turning points when the interest in the Women's EHF EURO grew?

“One major point was when organisers began investing more heavily in the

tournaments, treating them with ambition. Ramping up ticket promotion campaigns drew bigger audiences. Support from key partners like Lidl and Gorenje further cemented the credibility and commercial potential of women's handball, making it an attractive proposition for sponsors. The result is a more competitive sponsorship market and broader media interest.”

### What was the decisive factor for different brands to support the Women's EHF EURO 2024, and what roles have the new markets played in the overall sponsorship strategy?

“The enlargement of the competition to 24 teams has been pivotal, as it brought

handball to new markets, creating fresh opportunities for sponsors to connect with local audiences. Brands are drawn to the EHF EURO's ability to provide wide-reaching exposure and an emotional connection with fans, particularly through creative activations. The tournament's scale and inclusivity have helped it attract diverse partners eager to tap into both established and emerging handball markets.”

### Looking at the digital side of the partnerships, how much are brands interested in digital advertising, how do they activate their sponsorships on social media, and what are the most successful practices we have seen in the past and will enjoy in the future?

“The digital advertising inventory continues to do well — it was all sold out for the Women's EHF EURO 2024, reflecting its value to sponsors. Social media activations have been among the most successful practices, as they offer a unique blend of physical presence and digital engagement. Brands have recognised the unparalleled reach and engagement opportunities offered by the EHF's digital ecosystem, and that has increased their interest in making use of those activations.

“The reach across all digital platforms soared to 764 million during the Men’s EHF EURO 2024, marking a 114 per cent increase compared to the previous tournament. Key features like the match predictor tool have also driven significant data capture, with a 400 per cent increase in user data collected. Initiatives such as the All-Star Team vote, which saw participation rise by 113 per cent, and Infront’s Activation Engine, which gathered zero and first-party data from 5,000 users, have illustrated the power of personalised fan engagement. This data allows sponsors to create tailored content, thereby offering fans unique experiences while maximising brand exposure.

“There were three standout gamification activations illustrating this approach, providing engaging content and collecting valuable fan data, in the context of the Women’s EURO: Gorenje’s Match Predictor, Grundfos’ Player of the Match voting and Lidl’s All-Star Team vote. Gorenje went further and used data collection to establish a direct connection with fans, enabling tailored follow-ups and deeper engagement. While Lidl and Grundfos opted not to collect data, their activations enhanced the fan experience by offering

prizes and fostering emotional connections through interactive participation.

“These digital strategies underscore a shift in sponsorship, where collecting and utilising fan data becomes as important as traditional visibility. By integrating gamification and personalisation, brands can create meaningful interactions that resonate with fans, while sponsors benefit from insights that allow them to refine their engagement strategies. This approach will remain a key focus, ensuring that digital innovations continue to elevate fan engagement and sponsorship outcomes.”

**What are the main goals Infront would like to achieve in the coming years through the partnership with the EHF?**

“We want to jointly continue increasing commercial revenue while attracting more global and high-profile brands to handball. There is also a focus on expanding the sport’s digital footprint, providing innovative sponsorship opportunities, and enhancing fan engagement. By supporting the EHF in delivering world-class events and fostering greater collaboration with host cities, the partnership seeks to grow handball’s appeal to wider audiences while maintaining its core values of integrity, fairness and competitiveness.”

INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE ALL-STAR TEAM VOTE, WHICH SAW PARTICIPATION RISE BY 113 PER CENT, AND INFRONT’S ACTIVATION ENGINE, WHICH GATHERED ZERO AND FIRST-PARTY DATA FROM 5,000 USERS, HAVE ILLUSTRATED THE POWER OF PERSONALISED FAN ENGAGEMENT.

# EHF AND JOSERA

## GERMAN PET FOOD BRAND, JOSERA, SIGNS SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

The EHF and German pet food brand, Josera, signed a sponsorship agreement ahead of the Men’s EHF EURO 2024, brokered by the federation’s exclusive media and marketing partner for EHF EURO events, Infront Sports & Media.

The cooperation provided worldwide exposure through Josera’s logo appearing on the sleeve advertising of every player and on the venues’ LED boards at every Men’s EHF EURO 2024 match.

Josera reached handball fans through digital activations on the EHF’s owned and operated channels, and their products were promoted to match-going fans through promotion stands, half-time activities and giving away food samples to pet owners.

The company offered a competition to win tickets for selected Men’s EHF EURO 2024 matches, and at matches involving Germany, Josera’s mascot “Seppl” was present to cheer alongside the fans.





# GOAL AND FLOOR DONATIONS TO EIGHT FEDERATIONS

## IN COOPERATION WITH TWO OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS, BENZ AND GERFLOR

In cooperation with two official suppliers for EHF and EHF Marketing competitions, BENZ and Gerflor, the EHF made a number of donations to national federations in 2024.

In cooperation with handball goal supplier BENZ, the EHF sent goals to Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, England, Ireland, Montenegro, Slovenia and Switzerland. In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina, England and Bulgaria also received floors — playing courts — provided by GERFLOR.

Such donations are made available for national federations whose teams are participating in the EHF EURO Qualifiers. Federations can apply for goals and/or floors under the obligation that they will be used in the qualifier matches, thereby ensuring a uniform look across Europe when the games are played, along with — and most importantly — top-quality courts in order for the best possible performance level to be reached.





# MACHINESEEKER

Machineseeker continues to be the title sponsor of the EHF Champions League Men, building on the partnership with EHF Marketing following two previous successful seasons in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The partnership was officially prolonged for another year in June 2024.

The Machineseeker Group are Europe's leading operator of online marketplaces for used machines and commercial vehicles. As part of the sponsorship, Machineseeker receives extensive exposure at all 132 matches in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League, including floor stickers and LED presence, as well as integration on all relevant digital channels and websites of the premium European competition.

David Szlezak, Managing Director of EHF Marketing, said: "The prolongation of our partnership with Machineseeker and TruckScout24 confirms the great cooperation we enjoyed in the past seasons and justifies the trust put in us. Together with the Machineseeker and TruckScout24 we embark on a sponsorship lifetime journey."

Sven Schmidt, Chief Marketing Officer of Machineseeker, said: "We are very pleased to extend the partnership with the EHF Marketing. We consider the EHF Champions League and ourselves as number one. As the title sponsor of the competition and the EHF FINAL4 tournament, we have maximum exposure for our brands. This is our standard as the clear market leader in Europe."



# TRUCKSCOUT24

TruckScout24, which is part of the Machineseeker Group, is the title sponsor of the EHF FINAL4 Men, held each June in Cologne, Germany. The 2025 event will be the third year that TruckScout24 has been the key sponsor for the weekend.

The TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 is one of club sport's biggest weekends, attracting thousands of fans to the LANXESS arena in a huge celebration of handball.



As title sponsor, TruckScout24's name is closely linked to the event and promoted through floor stickers and LED presence on court, as well as integration on all relevant digital channels and websites of the premium European competition.

In 2024, fans attending the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 had the chance to go on a "balloon ride" to enjoy an incredible view over Cologne and the fan village, thanks to the partner.

TruckScout24 is a leading online marketplace for commercial vehicles, based in Germany.



# MODULAR SYSTEM

EHF Marketing and Polish company Modular System, a manufacturer of mobile modular spaces, agreed the prolongation of their partnership for the Machineseecker EHF Champions League season 2024/25.

The company was first introduced as an official partner of the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023 and supported the premium European competition in 2023/24.

The one-year extension was signed on Sunday 9 June 2024, at the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2024. The signing took place in front of a custom-made Modular System container, which featured a special laser game, symbolising the innovative and engaging spirit of the collaboration. Fans had to go through the container in a certain amount of time and were not allowed to touch any lasers. Successful completion earned fans a specially made magnet.

In the current season, Modular System are carrying out a promotion inviting fans to catch a ball to win tickets for the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2025.

Mariusz Brudnicki, Vice President of Modular System, said: “We continue our sponsorship of the elite Champions League competition, seeing how it brings tangible benefits to our company and handball in Poland. I am glad that the cooperation with the European Handball Federation allows us to achieve our goals on many levels: business, marketing and social. I am convinced that the visible increase in the number of spectators in Poland and Europe will contribute to further development and growth of the Modular System brand.”



# GORENJE

Gorenje, a leading European manufacturer of household appliances, has been a valued EHF Champions League partner since 2017, and a premium partner of the Machineseecker EHF Champions League since 2022.

As part of the partnership, Gorenje receives exposure throughout the competition including floor stickers and LED boards.

In 2024, Gorenje's activations at the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 included a chance for fans to win a brand new Gorenje washing machine or tumble dryer by catching a flying 'golden ticket' inside a giant tumble dryer.

# MOL

MOL Group has agreed to support the Machineseecker EHF Champions League as an official partner from 2023/24 until 2025/26. The company is extremely involved in activating fans, starting with a focus on target countries Hungary and Poland in the 2023/24 season and extending this to activation through t-shirt guns and a selfie cam in Hungary, Poland, Croatia and Romania in the 2024/25 season.

The unique selfie cam app, introduced at the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2024, engages fans directly by inviting them to take a selfie and frame it with the frame of their favourite team. The selfies were later featured on the cube and LEDs in the arena, or on the big screen next to the stage in the fan village.

MOL Group is an international integrated oil, gas, petrochemicals and consumer retail company with a presence in over 30 countries. The company is committed to transforming its traditional fossil fuel-led operation into a low-carbon, sustainable business model, and is aiming to become net carbon neutral by 2050.

# SELECT AND GERFLOR

SELECT and Gerflor continue to be key equipment and materials suppliers for the EHF Champions League. SELECT have been the official match ball suppliers for European club competitions since 2016 and, in June 2024, agreed to prolong the partnership. The deal to supply balls for the EHF Champions League and EHF European League, both men's and women's competitions, was extended for another four seasons, from 2024/25 until 2027/28. The new agreement was signed at the EHF FINAL4 Women 2024 in Budapest on 2 June 2024.

Peter Knap, SELECT Sport CEO, stated: "We are very pleased to announce that we have extended our strong cooperation with EHF Marketing for another four years. SELECT has been delivering the official match balls to the EHF Marketing for

eight seasons. Together, we have ensured that the handball games in the best club competitions are always played with top-quality handballs."

At the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4, SELECT had two activations. In the fan village, the "Speedgoal" found out how fast fans could shoot and proved to be one of the most popular activities during the weekend. Meanwhile at half-time in the matches, two fans competed in a slalom on court with a giant SELECT ball, delighting the crowds.

Gerflor's relationship with the EHF and EHF Marketing dates back to 2006. Gerflor is responsible for supplying the distinctive blue courts that mark the EHF's top club competitions.



# CROATIAN & ISTRIA TOURIST BOARD

The Croatian National Tourist Board and the Istria Tourist Board became the official destination partners of Europe's premium club handball competition in February 2024.

The deal, brokered by the European Handball Federation's marketing arm, EHF Marketing GmbH, also includes the seasons 2024/25 and 2025/26.

The boards will benefit from a range of visible rights in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League, ensuring significant exposure at all matches as well as a digital

presence on eurohandball.com and EHFTV, the European Handball Federation's OTT platform.

Activations in the 2023/24 season included a competition during the quarter-final game between THW Kiel and Montpellier HB, where fans could win three different experiences in Istria: a weekend in Porec or Umac; a truffle hunt; or a tour through the Brijuni National Park.

At the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2024 the two tourist boards implemented a photo van, offering an opportunity for a

unique souvenir with a memorable photo experience. The van included sun chairs and a shade, creating a relaxing holiday atmosphere to help fans enjoy the weekend and get into the Croatian holiday spirit.

David Szlezak, EHF Marketing Managing Director, said: "We are thrilled to welcome the Croatian National and Istrian Tourist Board to our flagship men's club handball competition. The new partnership goes hand in hand with our go-to-market strategy as we drive sustainable business impact in marketing, among others, the EHF Champions League competitions."

# RAIFFEISEN BANK INTERNATIONAL

On the eve of the European club handball season 2024/25, EHF Marketing inked a new partner deal with Raiffeisen Bank International (RBI), which is dealing as universal bank in 12 markets in central and east Europe.

The agreement sees RBI becoming an official partner of the Machineseeker EHF Champions League as well as a premium partner of the EHF Champions League Women, turning the bank into the first partner to be engaged in the men's and the women's edition of the EHF's premium club handball competition.

As part of the deal, Raiffeisen Bank International will receive significant exposure through floor sticker advertising, LED board minutes and brand activations across all 264 matches throughout the entire season including the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 in Cologne and the EHF FINAL4 Women in Budapest.



ERPLAN ROAD TO 2000

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OF HANDBALL**

FINCH CONVENTION

EURO QUALIFIERS

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WORKSHOP

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# EHF MASTER PLAN

## ACTIVITIES THRIVE ACROSS EUROPE IN 2024

**The European Handball Master Plan, first presented at the Conference of Presidents in January 2020 in Stockholm, aims to take the EHF and the sport through to 2027. The strategic plan is divided into several core targets, namely making handball more attractive to fans; increasing the number of active players, coaches and officials; and creating additional value for the sport.**

Seven key pillars — aligning with the number of players on court per team — were identified as part of the Master Plan, including all aspects of the sport, from the game itself through to events, fans, grassroots, governance and commercial elements. As in any handball team, each of the players is important in their specific position, but it is only the combined effort of the whole team that will ultimately bring success.

And that whole team has been taking significant steps forward under the umbrella of the EHF Master Plan in recent years, culminating in a busy 2024 full of activities contributing to the continued growth of handball across Europe.

The Covid-19 pandemic naturally hindered the immediate start to full-on work towards the ambitious goals defined in the Master Plan, and it was in 2022 that the first agreements between the EHF and national federations were signed.

Latvia, Malta, Georgia, Scotland and Croatia were the first nations to develop Master Plan projects. In some cases, those projects were specific, such as for Croatia, where the focus is on children's handball. Croatia's Master Plan activities are headlined by the Handball in Kindergartens project, where interest has exceeded the expectations of the federation.

Elsewhere, the targets are broader. In Georgia and Malta, for example, the Master Plan projects encompass the provision of more competitions for youth age players and kids, handball in schools, coach education and media activities, among other topics.

In 2023, the EHF entered Master Plan agreements with 10 more national federations: England, Türkiye, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Germany. In 2024, Portugal were welcomed into the fold as their Master Plan agreement with the EHF was approved.





# CHRISTENSEN GRASSROOTS CHARTER

## GUIDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-ELITE HANDBALL

**Marking an important step forward in the continued development of handball across Europe, the newly created EHF Grassroots Charter was presented at the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress on 14 December. The Charter outlines the rights, duties and responsibilities of the EHF and signatory member federations regarding the development of grassroots handball, which was identified as a core pillar in the EHF Master Plan.**

The mission of the Grassroots Charter is to grow the handball community by attracting more players and expanding the fan base and potential workforce. Grassroots handball is defined as all handball played on a non-professional or non-elite level, across all age groups. The focus is on those who are there

for enjoyment of the game more than competitiveness.

The purpose of the Grassroots Charter is to develop related activities by supporting, monitoring, measuring and rewarding EHF member federations who commit to the development of grassroots handball. The aim is to give the opportunity to everyone, including players with impairment or special needs, to play and enjoy handball in a safe, fun and fair environment.

Additionally, the Charter targets the establishing of a long-lasting and sustainable strategy for developing grassroots handball and creating an enduring impact on the sport in different countries.

From the federation perspective, grassroots handball holds value as a way to attract more players, coaches, referees, members of the related workforce and fans. It also increases both direct and indirect spending.

For players involved on a grassroots level, participation in the sport for the sake of enjoyment is positive for both physical and mental health, bringing a multitude of benefits including increasing social and community connections and creating a healthier lifestyle.

Following his passing in November, the Charter was named the “Christensen Grassroots Charter” in honour of then Danish Handball Federation President and long-term European partner Morten Stig Christensen.

“THE CHARTER TARGETS THE ESTABLISHING OF A LONG-LASTING AND SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING GRASSROOTS HANDBALL AND CREATING AN ENDURING IMPACT ON THE SPORT IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.”



# RESPECT YOUR TALENT

## GOES DIGITAL AND CONTINUES EXPANDING

**The EHF's Respect Your Talent (RYT) programme has been flourishing since its launch in 2019, providing a now established set of annual activities including camps for players identified through the younger age category events held every summer. The RYT programme continued to thrive in 2024, with an important new step: Digitalisation.**

The digitalisation of RYT took the form of a RYT app and "Ambassador Sessions." The app helps players deal with the demands of competitive youth handball and start preparing for the future demands of professional handball through the provision of compact, tailored training sessions in the areas of dual career, mental fitness, media, anti-doping, sports law and nutrition.

The sessions were created by a team of some of the world's best handball players and internationally recognised experts, and include tips and tricks from professional players, expert guidelines and techniques,

videos, articles and self-applicable templates, practice drills and quizzes. The sessions are designed to be completed in 10 to 15 minutes, making them easily embeddable in a young athlete's lifestyle. The players featured in the nutrition sessions, which were the latest added to the app, are Andrea Lekic, Carmin Martin, Kentin Mahé and Kay Smits.

Ambassador Sessions are virtual, live Q&As between world handball stars, topical experts and RYT players. Sessions in 2024 featured ambassadors Lekic, Vid Kavticnik, Kari Aalvik Grimsbø, Luka Stepancic, Carlos Prieto and Nerea Pena.

The RYT app is intended to be a steadily growing source of talent resources, with new training sessions and training areas to be added regularly. The app is freely accessible on the App Store (iOS) and Play Store (Android), and was first released during the RYT camp for girls in Vienna in December 2023.



Alongside the launch of the app, the established on-site programme continued at the men's Youth Age Category events held in July and August, with Vlado Sola and Domen Makuc joining as ambassadors for the first time. Kavticnik, Stepancic, Carlos Prieto, Olafur Stefansson and Luka Zvizej all continued their participation as ambassadors at the summer events.





# MAKING HANDBALL SUSTAINABLE

## WORK UNDER SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY BEGINS

**A bold strategy aiming to make handball the most sustainable sport in Europe by 2027 was presented by the EHF and approved at the EHF Congress in September 2023. The Sustainability Strategy named environmental and social sustainability as well as governance as three focus areas, and outlined core goals. To achieve those goals, the EHF, EHF competitions and events, and the handball ecosystem and partners were determined the three action fields.**

To oversee work related to the Sustainability Strategy, the Sustainability Board was established. The first meeting of four occurring in 2024 was held in January.

So far, in terms of EHF and EHF Marketing competitions and events, specific sustainability concepts have been elaborated and a checklist for green events created. The EHF EURO bidding documents require that organisers develop

a sustainability strategy encompassing environmental sustainability as well as economic and social responsibility.

Concerning social sustainability outside of events, gender equality is a key area. The second Women's Handball Conference, held in tandem with the Women's EHF EURO 2024, was one related step. Another important task within the framework of the social sustainability efforts is working with youth across Europe. EHF initiatives such as the Respect Your Talent programme fall into this category, but do not mark the endpoint.

In line with the vision statement for the EHF to become one of the most sustainable indoor team sport federations, the new EHF building, which achieved an Austrian "Klimaaktiv" Certificate — the second-best category of sustainable buildings — opened in December. The building, with integrated photovoltaics, is itself a heating and cooling accumulator which is heated and cooled using water from the soil beneath, and has charging stations for e-bikes and electric cars.

In addition, the EHF cooperates with willdienstrad to foster green mobility of staff members via a leasing model for (e-)bikes.



# MASTER COACH COURSE

## SEVENTH EDITION COMPLETED IN 2024

**2024 saw the seventh edition of the EHF Master Coach Course, which has been offered every two years since 2012, following the introduction of the EHF RINCK Convention in 2000. The programme included the introduction of new practical coaching and communication methodologies.**

The Master Coach Course is divided into three on-site modules, with the first and third occurring in conjunction with the EHF EURO events. The 2024 Course opened in Hamburg on the fringe of the Men's EHF EURO 2024. The second module took place at the M20 EHF EURO 2024 in Slovenia, and the Course culminated with the third module in Vienna during the Women's EHF EURO 2024.

Individuals from 13 countries took part in 2024. "I am proud of having 13 different nationalities, bringing the cultural diversity to the course, making the exchange and sharing of the ideas more enjoyable. I am

also happy that the number of female coaches is one of the highest in recent years," said João Pedro Monteiro, one of the EHF Master Coach Course leaders, at the opening module.

Among the participants were EHF EURO 2010 bronze medallists with Romania Paula Ungureanu and Valentina Ardean Elisei and Veszprém legend Péter Gulyás.

"Fantastic organisation — how they built the modules and what is necessary for the coaches," said Gulyás. "We got a lot of information, we shared a lot of different opinions and finally, the group work was amazing."

The content of the Master Coach Course encompasses diverse topics, including technique, tactics and methodology; analysis; theory of coaching; elements of sport psychology; and trends in goalkeeper training, among many more. Participants must also complete a written thesis.



Successful candidates receive an EHF Master Coach diploma and EHF PRO licence.

# DRIVING REFEREE DEVELOPMENT

## RAISING STANDARDS THROUGH COURSES AND ONLINE EDUCATION

**The EHF officiating unit continued their commitment to raising the standards of officiating across European handball by delivering a wide range of educational initiatives and referee courses in 2024.**

These activities are integral to ensuring that referees at all levels maintain a high level of competency and are well-equipped to officiate in both domestic and international competitions. Additionally, the courses foster a sense of community among participants, enhancing networking and peer learning, which is critical for the growth and development of handball officiating.

Throughout the year, the EHF organised a total of seven referee courses, attracting participants from 31 different nations. Two of the courses, which took place in Norway and Kosovo, were for candidate referees. The remaining five were part of the Young Referee Programme, and were held in Czechia, Germany, Hungary and Sweden.

The courses were meticulously designed to address the latest developments in the game, integrating officiating technologies and rule updates. Focus was placed on educating referees in the areas of game management, communication, and decision-making under pressure, as well as enhancing physical preparedness.

The EHF officiating unit also made significant strides in providing digital learning platforms and online seminars. These online tools allow for greater accessibility and flexibility, enabling officials from across Europe to engage with expert content, exchange experiences and sharpen their skills remotely.

In addition, three preparatory courses for EHF EURO officials were held, and there were a number of visits to other countries to deliver educational courses on site.



Aside from the educational deliveries, the management of referee and delegate human resources was a priority, to ensure a strong and capable officiating workforce across all EHF competitions. In 2024, there were 256 active referees – a total of 128 pairs, of which 107 were male and 21 female. Additionally, there were 24 pairs of candidate referees, with nine of those female couples. 43 pairs were part of the

Young Referee Programme, of which 18 were female. Of the 135 active delegates, 25 were women.

Looking ahead, the EHF officiating unit plans to expand the educational offerings.



# EHF WEBINARS

| DATE       | TITLE   | LECTURER   |
|------------|---|--|
| 19/01/2024 | Leadership & Management   | Jurgen Boss  |
| 21/02/2024 | From Analysis to Action - How can we use it for success?                | Manel Cirac  |
| 25/03/2024 | How to be successful with merchandising ?                               | Zoltan Barthos   |
| 27/03/2024 | Psychologically safe team's environment - new approach                  | Bettina Pasztor  |
| 12/04/2024 | Mistreatment of referees in sport                                       | Tom Webb   |
| 22/04/2024 | How can beach handball contribute to indoor handball ?                  | Gabriela Horvath   |
| 13/05/2024 | Basics of Strength & Conditioning in Handball                           | Tanja Seranec  |
| 16/05/2024 | How to get spectators into the arena ?                                  | John Pearce, Krystof Rossmann, Jurgen Krucker                            |
| 22/05/2024 | Competition Integrity   | Andrew Whittingham   |
| 31/05/2024 | Talent Identification & Development Trends                              | Jochen Beppler, Joao Varejao, Ricardo Clarjis, Olivier de Lafuente       |
| 05/06/2024 | Sold out ! Men`s EHF EURO 2024 promotion success                        | Thomas Zimmermann  |
| 13/06/2024 | Dual Career in Handball   | Carlos Prieto & Andrea Lekic   |
| 18/06/2024 | The Importance of Grassroots Events                                     | Paulo Sa & Carlos Prieto   |
| 10/07/2024 | The Importance of Communication and Media Skills for Coaches            | Paul Bray  |
| 11/07/2024 | How to create a safe environment for players of all ages ?              | Zrinka Jurakic   |
| 24/09/2024 | She plays handball – approaching the younger generation                 | Anne-Laure Michel, Günes Viter, Elisabeth Cebrian-Scheurer, Dries Boulet |
| 23/10/2024 | Empowering HERstory - women`s empowerment and leadership                | Nora Kaalstad, Jacqueline Mueller, Jamilla                               |
| 19/11/2024 | Encourage, empower and inspire - training techniques for female players | Tanja Sarenac and Jennie Linnel  |
| 03/12/2024 | Dual Career   | Ales Pajovic, Valentina Ardean- Elisei, Peter Gulyas                     |
| 17/12/2024 | Is the player load management key to consistency?                       | Roger Font   |

# AN ANALYSIS OF EVENTS IN 2024

## QUALITATIVE ANALYSES PROVIDE INSIGHTS TO GAME TRENDS AT ALL LEVELS

**The EHF Competence Academy & Network published five Qualitative Analyses of events in 2024, coordinated by EHF Methods Commission – Methods & Coaching member Monique Tijsterman. With the year bookended by the senior EHF EURO events – the men’s taking place in January and the women’s in November and December – the competition calendar saw a total of seven national team tournaments.**

The younger age category tournaments examined included the two top-tier events, the M20 EHF EURO 2024 in Slovenia and the M18 EHF EURO 2024 in Montenegro, as well as the second-tier EHF Championships – the M20 event held in Kosovo and the two M18 tournaments in Kosovo and Slovakia.

The younger age category events were analysed by Tijsterman (M18 EHF EURO) and EHF Experts Mark Hawkins (M20 EHF EURO), Fabian Lüdke (M20 EHF

Championship), and Felix Schmidt and Edwin Kippers (M18 EHF Championships). The analyses provide an in-depth look at game performance across the five events, combining statistical insights with evaluations of both team and individual technical-tactical performances accompanied by videos. The analyses serve as valuable resources for coaches, video analysts, and data specialists, offering a comprehensive overview of the top teams’ performances at each competitive level.

The senior EHF EURO analyses are yet more comprehensive, encompassing detailed examinations of attack, defence and goalkeeping, as well as individual player profiles, including of the young athletes who will shape the game going forward. Tijsterman was the lead analyst for the Men’s EHF EURO 2024 and was joined by three EHF Master Coaches – Dr Zoltán Marczinka, Dr Csaba Ökrös and János Hajdu, as well as CEO of Sport CAD Ltd Zoltán Kólya.

The first phase of producing the Women’s EHF EURO 2024 Qualitative Analysis was undertaken during the event co-hosted by Austria, Hungary and Switzerland. The Analysis will be completed and published in 2025.





**FROM THE  
BOARDROOMS**



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXEC)

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President

**MNE PREDRAG BOŠKOVIĆ**  
First Vice President

**DEN HENRIK LA COUR**  
Vice President Finances

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Chair CC

**POR PEDRO SEQUEIRA**  
Chair MC

**HUN GABRIELLA HORVATH**  
Chair BC

**SWE STEFAN LÖVGREN**  
Member

**ESP FRANCISCO V. BLAZQUEZ GARCIA**  
Member

**SLO FRANJO BOBINAC**  
Member

**NOR BENTE AKSNES**  
Member

**GER MARK SCHOBER**  
Chair NB

**ESP XAVIER O'CALLAGHAN**  
Chair PHB

**POR LEONOR MALLOZZI**  
Chair WHB

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Chair | EHF President

**MNE PREDRAG BOŠKOVIĆ**  
Member | EHF First Vice President

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Member | EHF Vice President Finances

**EHF MARTIN HAUSLEITNER**  
Member | EHF SI Managing Director

**EHF BERNHARD BINDER**  
Member | EHF SI Managing Director

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President and Chief Executive Officer

**MNE PREDRAG BOŠKOVIĆ**  
First Vice President

**AUT MARTIN HAUSLEITNER**  
Secretary General & Chief Operations Officer

**AUT BERNHARD BINDER**  
Chief Finance Officer

**AUT JOHANNES MÜLLER**  
Director EHF EURO Events

## TECHNICAL DELEGATION (TD)

Nominated by EXEC

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Chair CC

**POR PEDRO SEQUEIRA**  
Chair MC

**HUN GABRIELLA HORVATH**  
Chair BC

## EHF SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE GMBH (EHF SI)

Nominated by EXEC

**EHF MARTIN HAUSLEITNER**  
Managing Director

**EHF BERNHARD BINDER**  
Managing Director

## COMPETITIONS COMMISSION (CC)

**DEN JAN KAMPMAN**  
Member Men's Competitions

**FIN PÄIVI MITRUNEN**  
Member Women's Competitions

**FRA GAËL PELLETIER**  
Member Men's Club Competitions

**DEN THOMAS HYLLE**  
Member Women's Club Competitions

## TECHNICAL REFEREEING COMMITTEE (TRC)

Nominated by EXEC

### GER JUTTA EHRMANN-WOLF

Female Referees

### NOR ØYVIND TOGSTAD

Elite Refereeing

### LAT ZIGMARS SONDORS

Development

### FRA DENIS REIBEL

Grassroots

### GRE GEORGE BEBETSOS

EHF | Special Projects

## COURT OF HANDBALL (COH)

### GRE IOANNIS KARANASOS

President

### GER ANDREAS THIEL

Vice President

### ROU SORIN-LAURENTIN DINU

Vice President

### ISR SHLOMO COHEN

Member

### EST URMO SITSI

Member

### CRO MATEA HORVAT

Member

### NED ANDRÉ HOMMEN

Member

### SUI YVONNE LEUTHOLD

Member

### MLT ALAN GRIMA

Member

## METHODS COMMISSION (MC)

### NED MONIQUE TIJSTERMAN

Member Methods and Coaching

### GER PATRICK LUIG

Member Education and Training

### CRO LIDIJA BOJIĆ-ČAČIĆ

Member Youth, School and Non-Competitive Sport

### ESP CARMEN MANCHADO LOPEZ

Member Development

### RUS MARINA GILLARD

IHF Medical Comm / Member Europe

## INITIATOR OF PROCEEDINGS

### POR RUI COELHO

Initiator of Proceedings (IoP)

### CYP PANOS ANTONIOU

Substitute Initiator of Proceedings (SIoP)

## BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION (BC)

### POL MAREK GÓRALCZYK

Member Events and Competitions

### CZE JIRI OPAVA

Member Officiating

### ITA MARCO TRESPIDI

Member Game Design and Coaching

### POR MARIO BERNARDES

Member Development and Promotion

## COMPTROLLERS (COMPT)

### AUT ROBERT PRETTENTHALER

Member

### GER THOMAS LUDEWIG

Member

### SVK JANKA STASOVA

Substitute

## COURT OF APPEAL (COA)

### AUT MARKUS PLAZER

President

### MDA NICOLAE VIZITIU

Vice President

### GEO KETEVAN KOBERIDZE

Member

### SRB MILAN PETRONIJEVIĆ

Member

### HUN ILONA TORDAI

Member

### POL ROBERT CZAPLICKI

Member

### KOS IZET GJINOVCI

Member (†05.08.2024)

## EUROPEAN HANDBALL COURT OF ARBITRATION COUNCIL (ECC)

### ITA MICHELE COLUCCI

President

### FRA REMY LEVY

Vice President

### ESP MARTA UTOR

Vice President



## SOCIAL FUND

Nominated by EXEC

**FRA JEAN BRIHAULT**  
EHF Honorary President

**SWE ARNE ELOVSSON**  
EHF Honorary Member

**ITA RALF DEJACO**  
EHF Honorary Member

## NATIONS BOARD (NB)

**GER MARK SCHOBER**  
Chair

**EST PIRJE ORASSON**  
Vice Chair

**DEN MORTEN STIG CHRISTENSEN**  
Member (†01.11.2024)

**FRA NODJIALEM MYARO**  
Member

## EHF ANTI-DOPING UNIT (EAU)

Nominated by EXEC

**AUT HANS HOLDHAUS**  
Chair

## NATIONS COMMITTEE WOMEN (NCW)

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Chair

**POR LEONOR MALLOZZI**  
Vice Chair

**CZE ŠÁRKA DROZDOVÁ**  
Member

**EST PIRJE ORASSON**  
Member

**ITA PAOLA FIORILLO**  
Member

**ROU CRISTINA VARZARU**  
Member

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Chair | Member Clubs

**SWE NIKOLAS LARSSON**  
Vice Chair | Member Leagues

**DEN MORTEN STIG CHRISTENSEN**  
Member National Teams (†01.11.2024)

**GER MARK SCHOBER**  
Member National Teams

**SLO GREGOR PLANTEU**  
Member Clubs

**GER FRANK BOHMANN**  
Member Leagues

**DEN TORBEN VINTHER**  
Member Players

**GER MARCUS ROMINGER**  
Member Players

**MNE PREDRAG BOŠKOVIĆ**  
Member Executive Committee

**SWE STEFAN LÖVGREN**  
Member Executive Committee

## WOMEN'S HANDBALL BOARD (WHB)

**POR LEONOR MALLOZZI**  
Chair | Member National Teams

**SLO MARTA BON**  
Vice Chair

**FRA NODJIALEM MYARO**  
Member National Teams

**SLO DEJA IVANOVIC**  
Member Clubs

**MNE RADMILA PETROVIĆ**  
Member Clubs (Vacated: March 2024)

**DEN TRINE NIELSEN**  
Member Clubs (Nominated: April 2024)

**SRB JELENA ERIĆ**  
Member

**ESP ELENA BORRAS ALCARAZ**  
Member

**POL MONIKA LISTKIEWICZ**  
Member

**NOR BENTE AKSNES**  
Member Executive Committee

**ESP FRANCISCO V. BLAZQUEZ GARCIA**  
Member Executive Committee

**POL KAROLINA BRYL-PROKOP**  
(Member WEHLB)

**GER CHRISTOPH WENDT**  
(Member WEHLB)

## NATIONS COMMITTEE MEN (NCM)

**SUI INGO MECKES**  
Chair (Vacated: August 2024)

**FIN JARI HENTTONEN**  
Vice Chair (as of October 2024)t

**DEN MORTEN STIG CHRISTENSEN**  
Member (†01.11.2024)

**FRA BERTRAND GILLE**  
Member

**GER MARK SCHOBER**  
Member

**IRL FINTAN LYONS**  
Member

# EUROPEAN HANDBALL LEAGUE BOARD

Nominated by the Leagues

**SWE NIKOLAS LARSSON**

Chair

**GER FRANK BOHMANN**

Vice Chair

**SUI PATRICE HITZ**

Member

**LUX THIERRY WAGNER**

Member (Vacated: June 2023)

**FRA ETIENNE CAPON**

Member

**CRO SINIŠA OSTOIĆ**

Member

# WOMEN'S EUROPEAN HANDBALL LEAGUE BOARD

Nominated by the Leagues  
(Inaugurated June 2024)

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Chair

**POL KAROLINA BRYL-PROKOP**

Vice Chair

**EST MERILIN MUST**

Member

**NOR TONJE NOSTVOLD LUNDE**

Member

**DEN THOMAS CHRISTENSEN**

Member

**FRA GWENHAËL SAMPER**

Member

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Member | EHF First Vice President

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Member | EHF Vice President Finances

**EHF MARTIN HAUSLEITNER**

Member | EHF Secretary General

**ESP XAVIER O'CALLAGHAN**

Member | MFCH President

**HUN JÁNOS SZABÓ**

Member | MFCH Representative

**HUN ZSOLT ÁKOS JENEY**

Member | WFCH President

**GER GERD BUTZECK**

Member | FCH Managing Director

**EHF BERNHARD BINDER** (invited)

Member | EHF Chief Finance Officer

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Member | EHF First Vice President

**DEN HENRIK LA COUR**

Member | EHF Vice President Finances

**EHF MARTIN HAUSLEITNER**

Member | EHF Secretary General

**HUN JÁNOS SZABÓ**

Member | Board Member MFCH

**GER THORSTEN STORM**

Member | Board Member MFCH

**SUI PETER LEUTWYLER**

Member | Vice President MFCH

**GER GERD BUTZECK**

Member | Managing Director MFC

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Member | WFCH President

**NOR PER GEIR LØVSTAD**

Member | Board Member WFCH

**FRA NICOLAS ROUE**

Member | Board Member WFCH

**AUT GERHARD HAIDVOGEL**

Member | Board Member WFCH

**SWE STEFAN ALBRECHTSON**

Member | Board Member WFCH

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EHF Comptroller

**GER THOMAS LUDEWIG**

EHF Comptroller

**SVK JANKA STAŠOVÁ**

EHF Substitute Comptroller

**GER JENNIFER KETTEMANN**

Comptroller | MFCH Representative

**NOR PER GEIR LØVSTAD**

Comptroller | WFCH Representative



**EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION**

**FROM THE  
HEADQUARTERS**



# EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

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President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

### MARTIN HAUSLEITNER

Secretary General &  
Chief Operations Officer (COO)

### MARKUS GLASER

Chief Sports Officer (CSO)

### BERNHARD BINDER

Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

### DAVID SZLEZAK

Managing Director EHF Marketing GmbH

## LEGAL MANAGEMENT

### MONIKA FLIXEDER

Senior Director Legal Management

### NICO JULIAN HOFER

In-House Lawyer

## STRATEGIC BUSINESS

### MICHAEL WIEDERER

President

### MARTIN HAUSLEITNER

Secretary General

### VESNA LAZIC

PA to the President

### MARSHA BROWN

Corporate Liaison

### DANUTA KLUZ

Front Office

### ANNA LAMPRECHT

Senior Administrative Assistant

### ALENKA CUDERMAN

Respect Your Talent Coordinator

## EHF EURO EVENTS

### JOHANNES MÜLLER

Director EHF EURO Events

### PHILIPP MORITZ

Event Infrastructure

### BEATA KOZLOWSKA

Event Infrastructure

### MATE KOZMA

Event Organisation

### EDINA TURI

Event Organisation

### NATÁLIA RÁCZ

Junior Associate

### BENCE HOS-NAGY

Intern

## FINANCE & OPERATIONS

### BERNHARD BINDER

Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

### KATHARINA KOGLER

Finances EHF

### NATALYA BELLAN

Finances EHF Marketing

### DANUTA KLUZ

Front Office Manager

### MICHAEL HELL

Technical Facility Management

### HASIJA DIZDAREVIC

Facility Management

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### JJ ROWLAND

Director

### CHRISTOPH MAKOVEC

Marketing & Ticketing

### MIRIAM PEDERSEN-SMITH

Brand Management

### MIJA TERAZ

Marketing Associate

## SPORT & GAME SERVICES

### DORU SIMION

Senior Director Sport & Game Services

### CLAUDIA BRANTL

International Transfers Players Eligibility

### EVA REIHOFFER

International Transfers

### NOEMI SZECSENYI

Grassroots Coordinator

### JOAO MONTEIRO

Education

### MATEJ NEKORANEC

Technical Development

## COMPETITIONS

### MARKUS GLASER

Chief Sports Officer (CSO)

### INES TAEKKER

Club Team Competitions

### TOBIAS SCHEDER

Club Team Competitions

### MARCOS BESTILLEIRO

Referee Programme

### GEORGE BEBETSOS

Referee Programme

### NADEZHDA LACINA

Anti-Doping Unit

### ANNIKA SILLER

Competitions Department Coordinator

### ATTILA HEIM

Head of National Teams

### RIMA SYPKUS

National Team Competitions

### MAXIMILLIAN RIEDE

Younger Age Categories Coordinator

### TOBIA PISANI

Beach Handball Manager

### ALEXANDRA HORVÁTH

Beach Handball Coordinator



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### THOMAS SCHÖNEICH

Director Media & Communications

### RICHARD TURNER

Corporate Design

### JELENA BAGARIC

TV & Media Operations

### SIMONA MARGETIC

Editorial Content Lead

### ANA BRENCIC

Communications

### IOANA PATACHI

Digital Content Lead

### JOSEPH BANHOLZER

Social Media

### XAVI VEGAS

Social Media

### SERGI LALIGA

Social Media

### CLEMENS MARTINEK

Content Strategy

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### CHARLY MUSIC

Recurring Operations & Support

### PETER GROSSSCHMIDT

Implementation & Support

### LARS ERICHSEN

Documentation & eLearning

### JERRY NICOLAS

Online Experience & Fan Data

### GABOR BIHARY

Digital Project Manager

### ISAAC ATRIPATRI

Assistant Project Manager IT/System Application Developer

### EDIS KOVACEVIC

IT Back Office & Support

## BRAND MARKETING & CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

### MICHAEL DUCHEK

Brand Marketing & Corporate Communications

### SANA IMTIAZ

Brand Marketing & Design

### JANNE GREMMEL

Brand Marketing & Corporate Communications

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### BARBARA BRIEGL

### PATRICK STANZL

### NADINE BRANDFELLNER (ML)

## CRM & DIGITALISATION

### DARIO TRIGILIA

### ANTONIA BLANKE (PT)

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### GEORG RIECK

Senior Director Implementation

### TOMAS EITUTIS|

Implementation

### OLIVER LAABER

Implementation

### LISA WIEDERER (PT)

Senior Director Events

### JANA LEUKEL

Events

### THERESA ZEUNER

Events

### LUKAS KRAMER

Events

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Director Sponsorship Sales

### NIKLAS BRAUN

Sponsorship Sales

### NIKO RUDIC

Sales & Implementation

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### MIGUEL MATEO

Senior Director Media Operations

### KAMIL KOTVAN

Media Operations

# EHF MARKETING GMBH

### DAVID SZLEZAK

Managing Director

### MARIE VLASÁKOVÁ

PA to the Managing Director

### MELINA KROTTMAYER

Marketing Intern

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# FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

## Reflecting on a year of progress both on and off the court, a tremendous amount of work lies behind us.

The playing court's schedule started with an unprecedented Men's EHF EURO hosted in Germany with over one million fans at 65 matches and a record-breaking opening day with 53,586 fans in the stadium in Düsseldorf. Now, as the business year has drawn to an end the competition calendar was closed just as empowering with the Women's EHF EURO. Together with the second Women's Handball Conference, a year full of strong signs for the future development of both women's handball and women in handball in Europe is concluded. This development was complemented by the inauguration of the Women's European Handball League Board at the EHF FINAL4 Women in Budapest. With this step, the WEHLB has now been formally incorporated into the EHF structure during the 2025 electoral period.

To conclude the holistic development of handball along the "Circle of a handball life" I welcomed participants at the first EHF Grassroots Conference in January in Munich. In line with the motto: "There is something in handball for everyone and grassroots is for everyone", the EHF is shifting its focus from solely top-level handball to a comprehensive programme for the development of handball throughout an individual's lifetime. According to the EHF Master Plan, we are pleased to extend our support to 23 member federations and prolong existing cooperations. The intense collaborations with our member federations have seen significant growth in the areas of grassroots handball, school activities, and the development of future talents — a fact that we are extremely proud of. To further support young talents in professionalising their handball careers, we have taken additional steps to digitise the process with the launch of the Respect Your Talent App and the so-called "Ambassador Sessions".

Throughout the entire process off the court, input and feedback from European handball representatives were integral to every final decision made. Now, following the completion of administrative procedures — during the 14th Conference for Secretary Generals in Copenhagen and the 17th Conference of Presidents as well as the 16th Extraordinary Congress in Vienna, and various Executive Committee meetings — the implementation phase has officially begun across all relevant departments.

ACCORDING TO THE EHF MASTER PLAN, WE ARE PLEASED TO EXTEND OUR SUPPORT TO 23 MEMBER FEDERATIONS AND PROLONG EXISTING COOPERATIONS.



As of the second week of January 2025, the new home enables the European Handball Federation to consolidate its structure on an office level and reunite colleagues from the EHF and EHF Marketing. We are especially proud to have achieved the "Klimaaktiv" certification after following a sustainable approach with the installation of a photovoltaic system, a heating pump, charging stations for e-bikes and electric cars and the construction with thermal component activation.

Nevertheless, none of these achievements and activities would be possible without the unwavering dedication and countless hours of hard work from our diverse team of over 85 professionals from more than 20 nations.

As we enter 2025, I extend my sincere gratitude to each of them and sign off with my best wishes for an even more successful and historic year for European handball.

Yours in sport,

**Martin Hausleitner**

Secretary General



53,586 fans were present inside the MERKUR SPIEL-ARENA in Dusseldorf, Germany, when the Men's EHF EURO 2024 opened with the matches of France vs North Macedonia and hosts Germany vs Switzerland.



**EHF**

**EHF**  
**SERVICES &  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**EHF**  
**MARKETING**

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