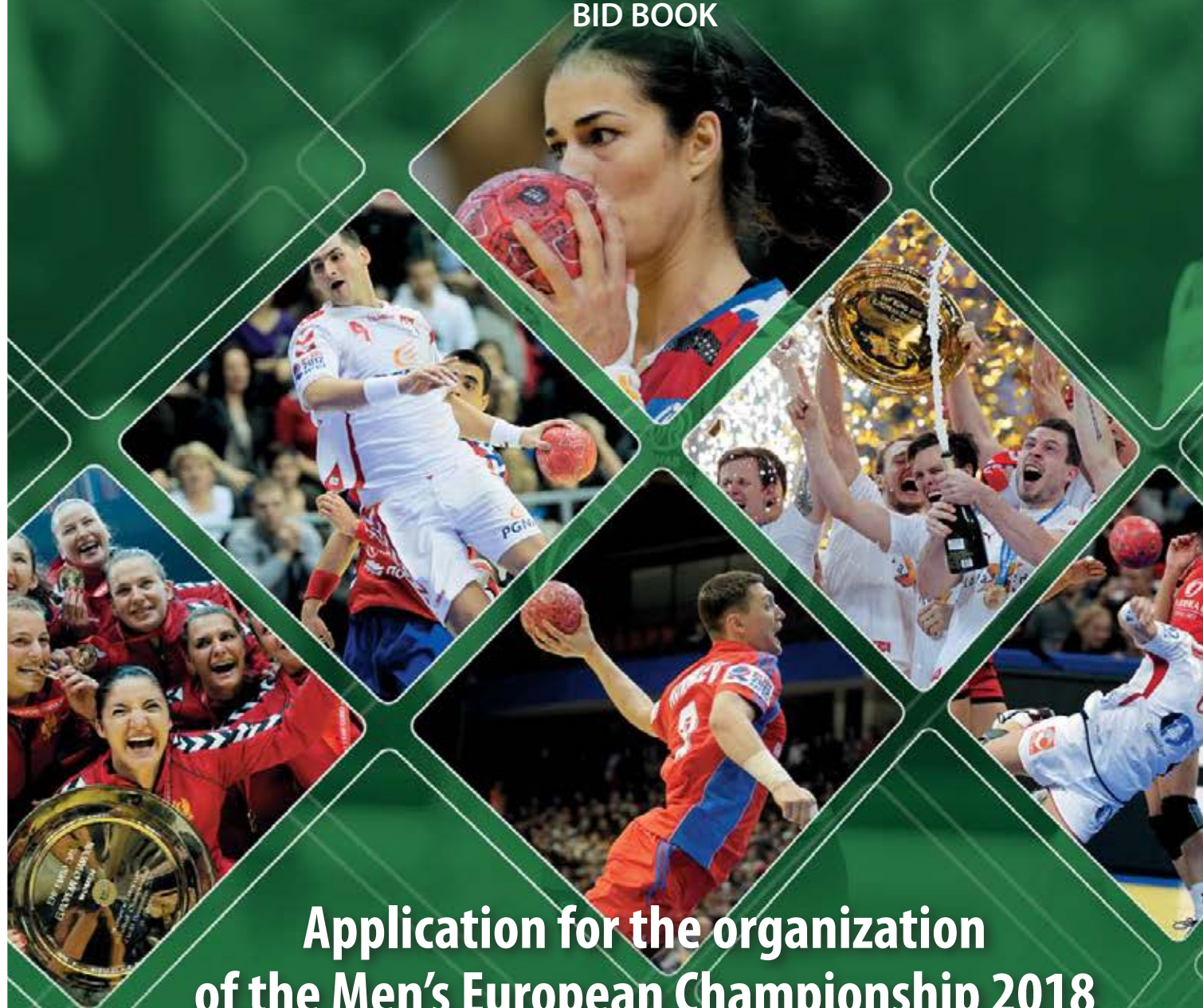


HANDBALL'S GREATEST EVENTS

EHF EURO 2018

...shape the tournament!

CROATIA 2018
MEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
BID BOOK



**Application for the organization
of the Men's European Championship 2018**



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION





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MOTIVATION AND REASONS FOR ORGANIZING ECh 2018





- a. Promotion of handball
- b. Positioning of the Croatian Handball Federation as relevant partner to the European Handball Federation and reliable organizer
- c. International promotion of Republic of Croatia and hosting cities

Over the decades handball has been one of the most popular sports in Croatia. The people have practiced it with love, spectators supporting their favorite teams or playing it for leisure. Our athletes and our team of handball experts have had one of the leading roles at the international competitions and they have contributed a great deal in developing the game itself, as they continue to do so. It was because of them that handball has become increasingly popular among both the domestic sport public and the international one.

In order to maintain this tradition, our strongest motive to organize the 2018 Men's European Championship is precisely the further promotion and popularization of handball both among boys and among girls. It is a unique opportunity for each generation of spectators, but especially for the young ones to see the best of what handball has to offer and to host to the best handball men players.

It is our desire to encourage children to practice handball more, either in the physical education classes in their schools or in handball clubs. Working with children and forming the players are the leading tasks of the persons in charge of handball. By bringing a top event as the Men's European Championship, we give the opportunity to the young generations to identify themselves with their idols by watching them live.

Alongside with our primary objective - encouraging young people to play handball - there is another motivating point for our candidature.

Winning the right of organization would also help the international promotion of the hosting cities and the country itself. Our country, being tourist destination, has major interest in developing all branches of tourism. For years, tourist organizations have dedicated more and more attention to sport tourism, whether it have been recreational and leisure activities or tourists that have been coming to the country as sport fans to cheer their teams at international competitions. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the state and the local institutions to support all entities that are willing to organize international sport events, as they do in the case of bid for Men's European Championship 2018. We definitely count on the major support from the side of the government.

In case the Croatian bid earns the trust of the EHF and wins the right to organize the Men's European Championship 2018, we will again demonstrate that we are a reliable and trustworthy partner to the head organization of European handball, which is yet another reason for bidding.



OUR VISION





OUR VISION

Create an atmosphere for people from different European countries to meet each other through handball, so that everyone takes part in celebrating handball, sport and fair play by cheering their team

Having as the primary vision, which lead us during our bid for organizing previous handball championships – promotion of the country and its sport, as well as presenting the handball federation as a reliable and excellent organizer and host -, the decision to bid for 2018 ECh leads us one step further. Considering present international circumstances, we wish to use handball as a tool that would help bringing together European peoples. Our desire is that all our guests meet each other through handball and celebrate sport and fair play. Therefore, our slogan – Come, Meet, Cheer and Celebrate! - is the thread we will follow throughout the bidding process and the eventual organization of the Championship.

We also want to contribute to this kind of unity by having our federatio team up with in this bid. We firmly believe that our candidature is the strongest and that it is the winning option.

Of course, we do not want to forget about the most significant actors of the event, the players. They should be always in the focus! Therefore, it is very important that they do not have to travel too much and can reserve their energy for the matches, thus keeping a good level of performance throughout the tournament.



LEGACY





LEGACY

- a. Continuous use of infrastructure built for Men's European Championship 2000, Women's World Championship 2003 and Men's World Championship 2009
- b. Meeting new standards in organizing major sporting events as a legacy in electing new hosts
- c. Economic impact

Our bid project is based on the legacy of the competitions organized by our federation.

Croatian Handball Federation can proudly state its capacity and experience in organizing major sporting events. The European Championship for men held in Croatia in the year 2000 had been one of the biggest sport events ever organized in Croatia, and carrying out of it got the highest marks from the European handball federation, as well as from all of the participants. The above mentioned facts were the main reasons which led to win the organization of the World Championship for women, which took place in December 2003. After yet another task well accomplished with the WCh for women, Croatian Handball Federation won the right to organize the World Championship for men in 2009, which was carried out impeccably.

It was held in 7 different venues. In the period of 2 years, 6 new sport halls were built which means that none of the infrastructure will need further investment either from the part of the state's administration, or from Croatian Handball Federation which is very important fact. We would like to mention that TV coverage of the World Championship held in Croatia had 27% higher rate than the one held 2 years before in Germany. The ticketing system, which Croatian Handball Federation organized in cooperation with the Dekod Company, was at the highest level. There were 300 000 tickets sold for 102 matches that were played. All in all, Croatian Handball Federation received words of praise from the participating teams and from the International Handball Federation for well organized Championship.

All these events, reaching all corners of the country, contributed to the growing popularity of our sport, both among the spectators, the sponsor and the media.

The experience we possess in organizing major sporting events and the superb way of carrying them out, leaves us with a very good reason to believe that Croatian Handball Federation can leave in legacy the new organizing standards to be taken into consideration while determining future hosts of major handball competitions.

In view of the economic impact of staging the European Championship, it is important to mention the economic effect which is one of the most important heritages in terms of the income which is planned to be invested in sport strategic plans.



COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTIONAL STRATEGIES





WHY?

- To make public in our country and other participating countries sensitive and perceptive of the event

HOW?

- By creating visual / sound identity
- By organizing various accompanying events during the bidding procedure and after the possible win of organization of ECh 2018.
- Website with continues info and stories

DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES:

- o Promotional campaigns about the European Championship in the newspapers
- o Promotional campaigns on TV Stations
- o Exhibitions
- o Promotional sport activities
- o Inclusion of the famous athletes in promoting the Championship
- o Use of new technologies, Internet
- o Press clipping
- o Press conferences

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- o Pay a visits to a major sporting events in order to promote the Championship
- o Organization of promotional events in the various European countries in cooperation with Croatian Tourist Board and Ministry of Tourism
- o Creation of the website
- o Promotional campaigns in foreign sport-handball press
- o Educational programs (international coaches' courses, Training camps for children, conferences)



EVENT CONCEPT





EVENT CONCEPT

The European Championship is expected to take place from January 14h to 28th 2018. The exact dates will be fixed after the appointment of the host association.

There will be 16 teams participating, 47 Matches to be played in 13 days according to the following playing schedule:



Group A

A 1
A 2
A 3
A 4

Group B

B 1
B 2
B 3
B 4

Group C

C 1
C 2
C 3
C 4

Group D

D 1
D 2
D 3
D 4

Arrival Day, Sat, 13.01.2018

Preliminary Round

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
	match no.	match no.	match no.	match no.
1. Sun, 14.01.2018	1 A 1 : A 3	7 B 1 : B 3		
	2 A 2 : A 4	8 B 2 : B 4		
2. Mon, 15.01.2018			13 C 1 : C 3	19 D 1 : D 3
			14 C 2 : C 4	20 D 2 : D 4
3. Tue, 16.01.2018	3 A 4 : A 1	9 B 4 : B 1		
	4 A 3 : A 2	10 B 3 : B 2		
4. Wed, 17.01.2018			15 C 4 : C 1	21 D 4 : D 1
			16 C 3 : C 2	22 D 3 : D 2
5. Thu, 18.01.2018	5 A 1 : A 2	11 B 1 : B 2		
	6 A 3 : A 4	12 B 3 : B 4		
6. Fri, 19.01.2018			17 C 1 : C 2	23 D 1 : D 2
			18 C 3 : C 4	24 D 3 : D 4

Departure teams ranked 13 to 16 - groups C and D

Main Round

	Group A	Group B
	match no.	match no.
7. Sat, 20.01.2018	25 3. A : 2. B	
	26 2. A : 3. B	
	27 1. A : 1. B	
8. Sun, 21.01.2018		34 3. C : 2. D
		35 2. C : 3. D
		36 1. C : 1. D
9. Mon, 22.01.2018	28 3. A : 1. B	
	29 1. A : 3. B	
	30 2. A : 2. B	
10. Tue, 23.01.2018		37 3. C : 1. D
		38 1. C : 3. D
		39 2. C : 2. D
11. Wed, 24.01.2018	31 1. A : 2. B	40 1. C : 2. D
	32 2. A : 1. B	41 2. C : 1. D
	33 3. A : 3. B	42 3. C : 3. D

Best Day, Thu, 25.01.2018 departure teams ranked 7 to 12

Playoff matches

	Place 5-6	Place 1-4
	match no.	match no.
12. Fri, 26.01.2018	43 3. A : 3. B	
		44 1. A : 2. B
		45 2. A : 1. B

Best Day, Sat, 27.01.2018 departure teams ranked 7 to 12

Final

	Place 1-4
	match no.
13. Sun, 28.01.2018	46 3. A : 3. B
	47 W 44 : W 45

Departure Day, Mon, 29.01.2018





ABOUT CROATIA





- **Geographical position:** Croatia extends from the furthest eastern edges of the Alps in the north-west to the Pannonian lowlands and the banks of the Danube in the east; its central region is covered by the Dinara mountain range, and its southern parts extend to the coast of the Adriatic Sea.
- **Population:** 4,437,460 inhabitants; composition of population: the majority of the population are Croats; national minorities are Serbs, Slovenes, Hungarians, Bosnians, Italians, Czechs and others.
- **System of government:** multi-party parliamentary republic.
- **Capital:** Zagreb (779,145 inhabitants), the economic, traffic, cultural and academic centre of the country.
- **Coastline:** 5,835 km of which 4,058 km comprise a coastline of islands, solitary rocks and reefs. Number of islands, solitary rocks and reefs: 1,185; the largest islands are Krk and Cres; there are 50 inhabited islands.
- **Highest peak:** Dinara: 1,831 m above sea level.
- **Climate:** There are two climate zones; a temperate continental climate, locally also a mountainous climate, prevails in the interior, whereas a pleasant Mediterranean climate prevails along the Adriatic coast, with an overwhelming number of sunny days, dry and hot summers, mild and humid winters; average temperature in the inland: January 0 to 2°C, August 19 to 23°C; average temperature at the seaside: January 6 to 11°C, August 21 to 27 °C; the temperature is about 12°C in winter, and 25°C in summer.
- **Currency:** kuna (1 kuna = 100 lipa). Foreign currency can be exchanged in banks, exchange offices, post offices, travel agencies, hotels, camps, marinas; cheques can be cashed in banks.



The Republic of Croatia is a European country situated along the Adriatic Sea and its hinterland. It stretches from the slopes of the Alps and deep into the Pannonian Valley to the banks of the Danube and Drava rivers. Thus according to its natural characteristics, as well as its cultural and historical development, Croatia can be divided into three geographically distinct zones:

- the Coastal region
- the Mountain region
- the Pannonian region

In Croatia, where the Mediterranean, the mountains and the Pannonian plains come together in a unique harmony of natural beauty, within just a little more than a hundred kilometres, you can come across excitingly different landscapes.

The Adriatic, with one of the most indented coastlines in Europe with its 1,185 islands and islets, of which only 66 are inhabited, is undoubtedly the most popular tourist destination. Continental Croatia, however, also abounds in beauty: it is a land of forests, rivers rich in fish, swift mountain streams and deep gorges of Gorski Kotar, and the magnificent Plitvice Lakes in Lika. It is a land of golden wheat fields, oak woods and wide rivers of Slavonia and Baranja, a land of quaint little villages, romantic castles and manors, and picturesque rolling hills and vineyards of the Croatian Zagorje.

The most popular possibilities for travel and tourism, of course, is summer tourism. You can also enjoy the benefits of rural tourism in many of the villages in the continental region of Croatia, as well as of health tourism in a number of spas and thermal and mineral springs, such as Varazdinske, Tuheljske, Stubicke and Krapinske spas, Lipik, Daruvar or Topusko in the continental region, and along the coast : Losinj, Umag, Opatija, Crikvenica, Hvar, Makarska, Vela Luka and Istarske Spa in Istria.

If you are a gourmet and a connoisseur of fine food, or simply like tasty and healthy food, you will certainly more than enjoy Croatia. Another attraction certainly worth exploring are Croatia's wine cellars. Red wines are best along the coast – Teran, Cabernet and Merlot in Istria and Oplo, Plavac, Dingac and Postup in Dalmatia. In the coastal area, some quality white wines are also produced, such as Pinot, Malvazija, Kujundzusa and White Muskat, while continental Croatia produces Traminac, Burgundac, Graševina and Kraljevina.

Arena Zagreb

Spectators Capacity: 15.200





Zagreb is the biggest city and the capital of the Republic of Croatia. The city surface is 641,355 km², and it has a population of about one million.

The city of Zagreb is a scientific, political, administrative, economic and cultural center of Croatia. It is the residence of the Croatian Parliament, the President and the Croatian Government.

In written documents Zagreb is for the first time mentioned in 1094, the year when the first Diocese was established

In 1557 Zagreb was mentioned for the first time as the capital of Croatia, and it became the capital of the Republic of Croatia on 25 June 1991. It is the date when the Croatian Parliament proclaimed independence and sovereignty of Croatia, and made Zagreb the capital of the country.

The city of Zagreb was the organizer of numerous sports' competitions throughout history, among which a special place can be given to Women World Championship

Spaladium Arena
Spectators Capacity: 11.000





Split is a city in the Croatian region of Dalmatia, on the eastern shores of the Adriatic Sea, centred on the structure of the ancient Roman Palace of the Emperor Diocletian and its bay and port. With a population of 178,192 citizens and a metropolitan area numbering up to 350,000, Split is by far the largest Dalmatian city and the second-largest city of Croatia. Spread over a central peninsula and its surroundings, Split's greater area includes the neighboring seaside towns as well. An intraregional transport hub and popular tourist destination, the city is a link to numerous Adriatic islands and the Apennine peninsula.

Split is also one of the oldest cities in the area. While it is traditionally considered just over 1,700 years old counting from the construction of Diocletian's Palace in 305 CE, archaeological research relating to the original founding of the city as the Greek colony of Aspálathos (Ἀσπάλαθος) in the 4th century BCE establishes the urban tradition of the area as being several centuries older.

In 1979, the historic center of Split was included into the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. Split is said to be one of the centres of Croatian culture. Its literary tradition can be traced to medieval times, and includes names like Marko Marulić, while in more modern times Split excelled by authors famous for their sense of humor. Among them the most notable is Miljenko Smoje, famous for his TV series *Malo misto* and *Velo misto*, with the latter dealing with the development of Split into a modern city.

City Hall Varaždin
Spectators Capacity: 5.200





Varaždin is a town in which the very first handball match in Croatia took place on May 25th 1930. It is economically and culturally developed centre of the County and of the North-west Croatia. It is situated on a very busy European crossroads, and besides its favorable position it also has a rich monumental and cultural heritage.

Varaždin is one of the oldest Croatian towns, whose historical name (Garestin) was firstly mentioned on 20 August 1181, in a document of Croatian- Hungarian king Bela III. Varaždin is also one of the first Croatian towns which got the status of a free royal town. This privilege was given to Varaždin people by king Andria Arpadović II, in his deed from 1209, and was reconfirmed in a legal document by king Bela IV in the year 1220. As early as the 15th century Varaždin became an important commercial, crafts and trade, social, administrative and traffic center of the north-west Croatia. Even at that time Varaždin had its town arms, which was in 1464 specially confirmed by Matija Korvin. Although in the mentioned period from the 16th to the 17th century Croatian Parliament had its sessions in Varaždin several times, the town of Varaždin had its biggest social, political and economical boom in the second half of the 18th century. It then became the capital of Croatia (Marie Therese 1756).

Today Varaždin can be distinguished by an extraordinary monumental and artistic heritage, and with one of the best preserved and richest baroque urban entirety in the continental part of Croatia.

Žatika sport centre

Spectators Capacity: 3.500





Poreč is a town and municipality on the western coast of the Istrian peninsula, in Istria County, Croatia. Its major landmark is the 6th century Euphrasian Basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997

Poreč is almost 2,000 years old, and is set around a harbor protected from the sea by the small island of Saint Nicholas/San Nicolo (St. Nicholas). The town's population of approximately 12,000 resides mostly on the outskirts, while the wider Poreč area has a population of approximately 17,000 inhabitants. The municipal area covers 142 square kilometres (55 sq mi), with the 37 kilometres (23 miles) long shoreline stretching from the Mirna River near Novigrad to Funtana and Vrsar in the south.

The town plan still shows the ancient Roman Castrum structure. The main streets are Decumanus and Cardo Maximus, still preserved in their original forms. Marafor is a Roman square with two temples attached. One of them, erected in the first century AD, is dedicated to the Roman god Neptune; its dimensions are 30 by 11 m (98.43 by 36.09 ft).

The Euphrasian Basilica, rebuilt in the 6th century under the Byzantine Empire and bishop Euphrasius, is the most important historical site in Parenzo. It is a protected World Heritage Site, so designated by UNESCO in 1997.



CROATIAN MEN'S TEAM





CROATIAN MEN'S TEAM

Handball is one of the most popular sports in Croatia and since independence, the one sport that has brought the country the most sporting trophies. The Croatian Men Handball Selection has had great results at World and European Championships and, but their greatest success remains two gold medals at Olympic Games.

Men's national handball team won medals on almost all tournaments they competed in last 10 years, and they have entered semi-final stage of competition on all European championships from Slovenia in 2004.

Medals and Honours

- WCh 2013 SPAIN – bronze
- OG 2012 LONDON– bronze
- ECh 2012 SERBIA – bronze
- ECh 2010 AUSTRIA – silver
- WCh 2009 CROATIA – silver
- ECh 2008 NORWAY – silver
- WCh 2005 TUNISIA – silver
- OG 2004 ATHENS – gold
- WCh 2003 PORTUGAL – gold
- OG 1996 ATLANTA – gold
- WCh 1995 ICELAND – silver
- ECh 1994 PORTUGAL – bronze

The first official performance on great tournaments men handball players had in 1993 on European championships 1994 where they won the bronze medal.

As it was earlier mentioned two great Croatian Men Handball Teams won gold medals at Olympic Games in Atlanta 1996 and at Olympic Games in Athens 2004. Players like Smajlagic, Saracevic, Jovic, Matosevic, Losert from 1996 generation and Balic, Metlicic, Dzomba, Sola, Vori from 2004 generation will always be remembered in Croatia as national sport's heroes which brought so much joy to the fans in our country.





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