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## **EHF EURO 2008 in FYR MACEDONIA DRAW FINAL TOURNAMENT – PREVIEW**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Women's European Championship Final Tournament will take place from **2 to 14 December 2008 in Skopje and Ohrid, FYR Macedonia**.

Alongside **Norway** as defending champion, **Russia, France, Germany, Hungary** (ranks 2 to 5 at the EHF EURO 2006 in SWE) and **FYR Macedonia** as organiser, **Austria, Belarus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Sweden and Ukraine** have also qualified for participation in the Final Tournament of the 2008 Women's European Championship.

### **Draw Final Tournament:**

After the play-off matches finished last weekend the field of participating teams is complete and the draw for the EHF EURO 2008 Final Tournament will take place on 20 July 2008, 20:00 hrs. in Ohrid – on the eve of the 2008 Women's U20 World Championship.



During the period of 12 July to 20 August 2008, the Ohrid Summer Festival is taking place. This Ohrid Summer Festival Stage in the Ohrid Amphitheatre will be the location where the EHF EURO 2008 Preliminary Round Groups will be drawn on Sunday, 20 July 2008.

The draw will be transmitted live in Macedonia and will be available live at the EHF EURO Events website: [www.ehf-euro.com](http://www.ehf-euro.com). The draw will be followed by an official EHF EURO 2008 Press Conference.

Altogether 16 teams are divided into four pots - along with all three reigning champions,

- Olympic Champion: Denmark
- World Champion: Russia
- European Champion: Norway



qualified from the past European Championship and the winners of the play-off matches which took place over the past two weekends.

**POT 1: NOR, RUS, FRA, GER    POT 3: ESP, AUT, DEN, MKD**

**POT 2: HUN, SWE, CRO, POR    POT 4: UKR, SRB, BLR, ROU**

Portugal made its way to a Women's European Championship Final Tournament for the first time in EHF EURO events history. After not participating in the EHF Euro 2006, Romania and Belarus have now qualified again for the EURO event in 2008.

The EHF EURO 2008 Preliminary and Main Round Groups will be played in Skopje and Ohrid, the Final Weekend in Skopje.

The assignment of the four preliminary round groups to the playing venues will take place directly after the draw and will be announced during the EHF EURO 2008 Press Conference. Due to the playing schedule – groups A/B and C/D are finishing the preliminary round with one day difference – therefore the parallel groups will play the preliminary round at separate venues.

For all those who are interested in tickets for the upcoming European Championship EHF Euro 2008 **tickets will be available online from 15 September 2008**. The **accreditation procedure** for media representatives starts at the beginning of September (deadline for EHF Euro 2008 accreditation is 31 October 2008). The accreditation procedure will be an online process.

The official EHF Euro 2008 Website will launch before the draw and will be available at [www.ehf-euro.com](http://www.ehf-euro.com). After the draw, a video of the draw will be available on the EHF EURO Events website. In the attached document please find the detailed draw procedure.

All specific details regarding the EHF EURO 2008 can be found on the official EHF EURO events website: [www.ehf-euro.com](http://www.ehf-euro.com). and the EHF website: [www.eurohandball.com](http://www.eurohandball.com). In addition further information is available on the FYR Macedonian event site: <http://www.eurohandballmkd2008.com>.

**EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION**