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## MINUTES TO THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS COMMITTEE WOMEN (NCW)

**Date:** Monday, 17 October 2022  
**Time:** 14:00 – 16:30  
**Venue:** Courtyard by Marriott Wien Messe | Krieau 1

**NCW Participants:** Sarka Drozdova Member | CZE  
Pirje Orasson Member | EST  
Paola Fiorillo Member | ITA  
Cristina Varzaru Member | ROU

**EHF Participants:** Michael Wiederer President (In Part)  
Markus Glaser Chief Sports Officer  
Alenka Cuderman Coordinator Women's Handball | Minutes

**Excused:** Nodjialem Myaro Chairwoman | FRA  
Leonor Mallozzi Vice Chairwoman | POR

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### 1. Welcome & Formalities

Opening the meeting, the President Michael Wiederer welcomed the members to the meeting and noted that the Chairwoman Myaro and the Vice Chairwoman Mallozzi are absent due to the private and business reasons, who both were representing Nations Committee Women in the Women's Handball Board. He further explained that according to the EHF Statutes they were nominated and confirmed by the EXEC as persons representing NCW in the WHB, therefore it cannot happen automatically that another person substitutes them in their functions in the WHB meeting. However, the statutes foresee the possibility of a second Vice Chairperson in the NCW, which allows at least a proper run-down of the meetings.

In the absence of the Chairwoman and the Vice Chairwoman Pirje Orasson led the meeting and represented NCW in the Nations' Board, whilst Alenka Cuderman (EHF) submitted the NCW input to the WHB.

#### *1.1. NCW Meeting 03/2022 – Minutes and Follow-up*

With no addition comment or question, the minutes were adopted.

#### *1.2. Follow-up to Common Meeting*

Topics to be discussed under the relevant agenda points.

## 2. Women's National Team Competitions

### 2.1. 2022 Younger Age Category Events - Review

#### 2.1.1. Women's 16 European Open – Review

17 teams participated at the event with ESP as the winner followed by ROU and FRA. The future change of the age from 16y. to 18y. in the European Open competition (in 2024) was briefly discussed for the teams not participating at the WU18 WCh and as a preparatory option for the teams participating at the WU18 WCh. The importance of the international games was highlighted, as well ensuring the standard of the competitions from year to year.

#### 2.1.2. Information Exchange IHF W18/W20

A new playing format of the IHF W18/W20 competitions was reviewed (32 teams, 8 groups with 4 teams in Preliminary Round with the best two teams from the groups moving forward to the Main Round and the last two teams in each group partake in the Presidents Cup, followed by the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals on all levels.

**W18 WCh. in MKD:** 20 European teams participated, the winner KOR, followed by DEN, HUN.

**W20 WCh. in SLO:** 18 European teams participated, the winner NOR, followed by HUN, NED.

The event organisers MKD and SLO have proven their experience in event organisation.

#### 2.1.3. Future Outlook – Input & Feedback

The upcoming women's YAC competitions 2023 were reviewed: W19 EURO/ROU, W19 Championships (LTU, KOS), W17 EURO/MNE, W17 Championships (AZE, TUR). A positive move to involve 3 new organisers (KOS, AZE, TUR) was noted.

The step to 24 teams in the YAC EURO competition brings a positive motivation for the federations and the players, improved option for obtaining funding, a good base to develop the event (TV/streaming, social media activities, marketing, etc). On other hand a reduced standard of the competition at the beginning, higher costs (logistics, longer tournament), challenges with the playing schedule (early matches, training time) and optionally efforts to find the organiser(s) can be expected.

### 2.2. EHF EURO 2022 SMM – Information

#### 2.2.1. Competition

The playing schedule, the Head of Delegation information to the teams, hygiene concept, EURO promotion and the concerning ticketing status were reviewed. A discussion regarding the fan situation at women's event (international fans - logistic, price of the tickets, etc.) took place. It is proposed that a link for the EURO ticketing will be sent to the Federations via women's handball network.

#### 2.2.2. Women's Handball Conference 2022

The main objectives are the strengthening of women's handball network (all stakeholders present: federations, clubs, leagues) and to encourage the federations to register for the EHF

EURO 2024. The interest is high, currently there are registered 61 federation and 40 club representatives, all together with the partners and sponsors over 130 guests.

The agenda is excellent, providing an information regarding the development of national teams, organisation of the national team events, presentation of women's handball and the relation with the sponsors, the role of the clubs and the leagues in strengthening of women's handball, therefore it is a must for the teams who will register to the EHF EURO 2024. It was agreed that a reminder for the extended registration will be sent to emerging nations together with a detailed agenda.

### 2.3. EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers

#### 2.3.1. Promotion & support for incoming national teams

The introduction of the “**Women's Handball Day**” as a promotion tool to highlight the Women's EHF EURO 2024 during the first Round of EURO Qualifiers Phase 2 (9-15 October 2023), targeting the following activities: special press conference involving the players and EURO ambassador, matches on TV/streaming, content on social media channels, involvement of role models, grassroots activities, all additionally strengthening the status of women's handball and women in handball. Further promotional activities will follow: social media campaigns with I/D, draw event, etc.

To support the federations, which will for the first time participate in the EURO competition an “**Emerging Nations' Workshop**” was further discussed. The NCW concluded, that **a marketing supervisor** nominated to the respective qualification match would be able to provide better support at the venue regarding the set-up and ensure the required quality standard of the TV picture, advertising (LED, floor sticker). An online workshop can help in addition.

Input EHF: The solution with a marketing supervisor is currently in the checking process.

Under this AP also the importance/challenge of the venue standard for the emerging nations was discussed.

### 2.4. EHF EURO Events 2024 – 2028 and 2030

The preparation of the EHF EURO 2024 (HUN/SUI/AUT) with 24 teams participating is going according to the plan. The invitation for the registration to the competition will be sent out in November 2022. Due to the playing format a minimum of 36 teams need to register to have a Qualifiers with 32 teams and for the pre-qualification round more than 36 teams need to register. An additional appeal for the federations to register for the event will be provided at the Women's Handball Conference (19/20 November 2022), especially to the federations that have never taken part at an EHF EURO event.

The EHF EURO 2026 was awarded to RUS and the EHF decision about an alternative host is expected in the first half of 2023.

## 2.5. Other Competitions

No further competitions were discussed.

## 3. Miscellaneous

### 3.1. *Women's Handball strategy update*

A very brief discussion regarding the focus of the strategy took place. The importance of the player development pathway (early start in kindergarten, mini handball, bringing the school children to the clubs, talent management, national team pathway) and the quality of the coaches and the age-related training were highlighted. To strengthen gender equality and status of women's handball and women in handball the importance of a quality presentation of women's handball and of female handball players in media and to the sponsors was summarised.

### 3.2. Further NCW input

**Resin-free ball:** out of the brief discussion, there is a common understanding of the NCW that they are not in favour of implementing the resin-free ball. Concerns: raising costs, quality of the ball is changing quickly, affecting the playing technique and attractiveness, existing ball supplier contracts, etc.

IHF/EHF Women's Trophy 2017 was the last **IHF competition for the women's emerging nations**. On the men's side since 2017 already two tournaments were organised by the IHF, therefore it is suggested that an equal status to be targeted for the women's competition.

**EHF Female delegates:** the fact that there are currently 119 male and 21 female delegates in the EHF officiating system initiated the reaction – the promotion of the role and an EHF support at the next delegates course (expected in spring 2023) for female candidates is explored. The required standards and preconditions were discussed.

**Economic and social impact study of the EURO event is recommended:** the information can serve the federations and organisers in discussions with the sponsors and negotiations for the governmental financial support.

Orasson concluded the meeting and thanked the members for participation.

Vienna, 24 October 2022

Committees and Boards\Nations Committee Women\NCW \*5\_2210e