
MINUTES TO THE 6TH MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS COMMITTEE WOMEN

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023
Time: 11:00 – 16:30
Venue: Renaissance Hotel Vienna

NCW Participants: Leonor Mallozzi Vice Chairwoman | POR
Sarka Drozdova Member | CZE
Pirje Orasson Member | EST
Cristina Varzaru Member | ROU

EHF Participants: Markus Glaser Chief Sports Officer
Alenka Cuderman Coordinator Women's Handball | Minutes

Excused: Nodjialem Myaro Chairwoman | FRA
Paola Fiorillo Member | ITA

1. Welcome & Formalities

The Vice Chairwoman Mallozzi welcomed the members to the meeting wishing them productive work and noted that the Chairwoman Myaro and Paola Fiorillo are absent due to health reasons.

1.1. NCW Meeting 10/2022 – Minutes and Follow-up

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

In the follow-up Cuderman informed:

- The proposed “**Women's Handball Day**” has no regulatory binding, therefore the EHF can only encourage and not mandate participation.
- **IHF Women's Trophy** – no respective statement regarding the event to be played in 2023 has been received from the IHF.
- **EHF Delegate Course** will be organised in April 2023. The EHF issued a respective invitation with a strong support to women, to encourage more potential delegates to take over a role in European handball. Currently 10 female and 19 male delegates are pre-selected, which after the final candidate interview may be invited to the course.

1.2. Follow-up to Common Meeting

Topics to be discussed under the relevant agenda points.

2. Women's National Team Competitions

2.1. 2023 Younger Age Category Events

As a positive move 3 new organisers were noted (KOS, AZE, TUR) who will extend their organisational skills and take the opportunity to promote handball in the country. A concern for TUR as W17 Championship organiser has been expressed due to the extent of the consequences of the earthquake disaster last month.

2.1.1. Women's 19 EHF EURO | ROU

16 teams will participate at the event with two venues in Romania (6-16 July 2023).

2.1.2. Women's 19 EHF Championships | KOS, LTU

9 teams will participate at the event in Kosovo (8-16 July 2023) and 8 teams at the event in LTU (10-16 July 2023).

2.1.3. Women's 17 EHF EURO | MNE

16 teams will participate at the event in MNE (3-13 August 2023).

2.1.4. Women's 17 EHF Championships | AZE, TUR

10 teams will participate at the event in AZE (5-13 August 2023) and 10 teams at the event in TUR (5-13 August 2023).

2.1.5. EYOF (W17/M17) | SLO

8 teams (W17 and M17) including organiser will participate at the event in SLO (23-29 July 2023).

The first W17/W19 EUROs for women with 24 teams will take place in 2025.

2.2. EHF EURO 2022 SMM

2.2.1. Event Review

- The last event with 16 teams.
- There has been a proper organisational rundown with essential satisfaction of the teams and officials with accommodation, meals, and transportation provided. The organisers have taken sustainable approach in promotion, logistics, etc. and made also further steps in branding of the women's EURO event.
- The lack of spectators onsite / weak spectator occupancy per playing stage (PR: 61%, MR 35%, FW 49%) and in total (47%) and therefore necessary measures to increase the number of spectators have been noted. The spectators from MNE were a positive example.
- The digital figures have compensated the lower TV figures, which were affected by the start of the FIFA World Cup on the final day.

- The referees appreciated additional mentoring and mental support during the EURO. Out of 12 referee couples 7 were female. The teams in general have been satisfied with the officiating performance at the EURO. 71% of the EHF officials were female. NCW mentioned a positive effect of nomination of female referee couples to Champions League matches and even to men's matches, which both are strengthening their self-confidence and performance. The referees reported some challenges with the video technology at the EURO and Glaser informed that the EHF is working to improve it for the next season and the EUROs in GER and AHS.
- A negative example lacking the Fair Play in the last match of the Preliminary Round in Podgorica (GER vs ESP) which caused negative headlines for the competition was discussed.

For more information see the minutes of the common meeting AP 3.1.1.

2.2.2. Women's Handball Conference 2022 - Follow up

The NCW appreciated the structure and the programme of the delivered Women's Handball Conference focussing on developing national teams and national team events, developing players and players pathways, providing more professional environment to the players, presentation of women's sport in relation to raise sponsor interest and the role of clubs and leagues in strengthening of women's handball. The NCW proposed that the best practice of the successful event to be continued at the EHF EURO 2024 Women.

As follow up of the conference **EHF support will be provided to the emerging nations who will participate in the Qualifiers Phase 2 of the EHF EURO 2024 Women** (see AP 2.3.1.) and an activation of the role of women's league has been decided. As a first preparation step the **"Women's League Convention"** will be organised in Budapest during the EHF FINAL4 2023 Women gathering the representatives who are responsible for management of the women's national handball leagues in Europe and discussing the role of a league in relation to player environment (i.e.: player contract, player protection, integration of young players), TV and marketing contracts etc. The information on organisational structures of the national leagues has been collected to provide better understanding of the respective development stage.

The NCW proposed that regular meetings of the women's leagues representatives would be organised with the EHLB in order to exchange the knowledge and experiences and ensure the progress on the women's league side.

For further information see the minutes of the common meeting AP 2.3. and 5.

2.3. *EHF EURO Events 2024-2028*

2.3.1. EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers

- 32 teams (8 groups x 4 teams) will play the Qualifiers Phase 2, the best two teams of each group and the best four third teams will qualify for the final event.
- The draw event will be on 20 April 2023. The matches will be played in October 2023, February/March and April 2024.

- The NCW discussed the importance for Federations that the Competitions Information are released as soon as possible allowing them to take further organisational steps.
- Orasson asked if it would be possible that all EHF Commission and Board Members would receive the updated information in respect of the national team events (i.e.: Qualifiers) to be able to provide a service to the participating Federations (reference: EHF Competitions Info distribution list).

2.3.2. Event Organisation (EURO 2024)

- It will be the first Women's EHF EURO with 24 teams. The match schedule (PR: 6 groups x 4 teams, MR: 2 groups x 6 teams, FW: top 6 teams) will be the same as at the men's EURO. The attention will be given to the rest days and traveling teams.
- The organisational structure has been changed in respect of the venues in the Main Round and the Final Weekend (AUT instead of HUN). For information see the minutes of the common meeting AP 3.1.3.
- 36 teams registered for the event, the Champion (NOR) and the organisers (AUT/HUN/SUI) are qualified and will play EURO Cup, 32 teams will play qualification for 20 places at the EURO.
- The final tournament draw will take place in May 2024, the final tournament will be played from 28 November-15 December 2024.
- Mallozzi informed about an urgent request of AUT that the EHF would confirm the schedule of the EURO Cup 2024.

2.3.3. Workshop Update | Promotion and support for incoming national teams

- An EHF support will be provided to the emerging nations who will participate in the Qualifiers Phase 2 of the EHF EURO 2024 Women; first time participants are: AZE, BUL, GBR, LUX, BIH, and LAT. A **"preparation workshop for the newcomers"** will be organised to discuss the standards, the expectations, as well as the possibilities (arenas of required standards, event presentation and promotion to attract spectators, media, and sponsors) and a **"game supervisor"** provided to help the teams to meet the required EURO standards in presentation and delivery of the game (TV production, set-up, etc.). Possible **"financial support"** may be provided to the new registered federations.
- Orasson asked if it would be possible that at the "Preparation Workshop" also the non-participating emerging federations would participate to get more information about of the event organisation at the EURO level.

2.4. *Other Competitions*

IHF Women's World Championship 2023

The tournament will be organised by DEN/NOR/SWE (29/11-17/12/2023) with 32 teams, there are 16 places for Europe are granted, further teams are possible as substitute nations; 6 teams are already qualified: organisers and FRA, MNE, NED.

3. Miscellaneous

3.1. Tackling Sexual Harassment

Mallozzi presented the anti-harassment national campaign “There is no room for harassment in sport. Report it!” in Portugal, highlighting the high importance of prevention and awareness of the sexual harassment at all levels of sport. It is mandatory that the organisations have an anti-harassment concept / strategy and respective education and policies are implemented and provide a safe environment to all participants in sport.

3.2. Women’s Handball Development

- NCW emphasised the pro-active approach of the EHF Media by initiating the activation of the **“female women’s handball commentator”** position at international events and the **“empowering women campaign”** presenting successful women in various roles i.e.: player on- and off-the court, referees, delegates, coaches, sport managers, and representatives.
- The opportunity for the female delegates at the EHF Delegate Course 2023 has been noted.

Mallozzi concluded the meeting and thanked the members for participation.

Vienna, 20 March 2023

Committees and Boards\Nations Committee Women\NCW 16_2303e