

CROATIA-HUNGARY 2014
MEN'S EUROPEAN HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



BID BOOK





CROATIA/HUNGARY 2014
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Application to the organization of the Men's European Championship 2014



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**Application to the organization
of the Men's European Championship 2014**

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MOTIVATION AND REASONS FOR ORGANIZING ECh 2014





MOTIVATION AND REASONS FOR ORGANIZING ECh 2014

- a. Promotion of handball
- b. Positioning of the Croatian and the Hungarian Handball Federation as relevant partners to the European Handball Federation and reliable organizers
- c. International promotion of the State and the host cities

Over the decades handball has been one of the most popular sports in Croatia and in Hungary. 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 rolls 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 both among the domestic sport public and the international one.

In order to maintain this tradition, our strongest motive to organize the 2014 Men's European Championship is precisely the further promotion and popularization of handball. 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 European handball 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 Handball 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 countries, being tourist destinations, have 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 2014 European Championship. We are definitely count on the major support from the side of the governments.

In case the Croatian-Hungarian bid earns the trust of the EHF and wins the right to organize the 2014 Men's European Championship, 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 bycheering his/her 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 2014 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 federations teaming up with in this bid. We firmly believe that our joint candidature is the strongest and that it is the winning option.

After 10 centuries of joint history of leaving together in the same State, Croatia and Hungary are now two neighboring countries with an excellent bilateral relationship. The main points of strategic partnership for both countries are good political and economical relationship (especially in the field of energy, tourism, traffic and infrastructure), cultural cooperation, and the high level of mutual minority protection program.

It is also important to mention the Trans-border Cooperation Program made between Hungary and Croatia for the period 2007-2013 by which considerable development relating the road infrastructure has been reached. The construction of the corporate bridge at the river Mura built both by Croatian and Hungarian construction companies was very important when constructing the route of the Budapest – Zagreb – Rijeka highway opened to public in the year 2008. This highway has connected Budapest with the Adriatic coast, which can now be reached in 5 hour drive.

From now on the citizens of both countries are better connected as all participants of EURO 2014 will be. It makes it easy and cheap for the spectators, as well as the media to reach the venues and follow the competition.

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.

The close distance between venues within Hungary and Croatia, excellent road connections, and unification of the two very competent handball federations for the same cause, make our bid even stronger and more competitive.

The mixture of Mediterranean spirit and Middle Europe culture will be at its best in 2014 when welcoming the guests from all Europe, this is our guaranty!

Considering all the facts, it is our opinion that the mutual bid of our two countries is a top score decision and that all of us, both participants as well as organizers, will in the best way transmit our vision – the spirit of togetherness, excellent communication, good fun, and a perfect carrying out of the Championship.





LEGACY





- a. Continuous use of infrastructure built for the European Championship 2004 and 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 federations.

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.

It has always been an important element of the Hungarian Handball Federation's (HHF) long term development program - which enjoys the full support of the Hungarian Parliament's Sport and Tourism Committee - to organize handball events in every 2-3 years.

As part of its strategy, the HHF organized several European and World Championships in the last one and a half decade; starting with the Austrian-Hungarian Women's World Championship in 1995, through the 2004 Women's European Championship and ending with the 2009 W19 Euro.

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 and the Hungarian Handball Federations 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 countries 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 2014.
- Website with continues info and stories

DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES:

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

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

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





EVENT CONCEPT





EVENT CONCEPT

The European Championship is expected to take place from January 12 to 26 2014. The exact dates will be fixed after the appointment of the host association.

There will be 16 teams participating, 48 Matches to be played in 15 days according to the following playing schedule:

Arrival of the teams - January 11th

1. Preliminary Round - 2-2 groups in Croatia and in Hungary: January 12-15th

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
A1	B1	C1	D1
A2	B2	C2	D2
A3	B3	C3	D3
A4	B4	C4	D4

Departure teams ranked 13-16.

Rest day and travel day: Thursday, January 16th

2. Main Round - 1 group in Croatia and 1 group in Hungary: January 17-21st

GROUP I	GROUP II
3.A	3.C
2.A	2.C
1.A	1.C
3.B	3.D
2.B	2.D
1.B	1.D

Departure teams ranked 9 to 12

Rest day: Wednesday, January 22nd

Travel day: Thursday, January 23rd

3. Placement Matches and Semifinals - 1-1 semi-final and placement match in Croatian and in Budapest, Hungary: Friday, January 24th

SF 1	SF2	Place 5/6	Place 7/8
1.I : 2.II	2.I : 1.II	3.I : 3.II	4.I : 4.II

Rest day and travel day: Saturday, January 25th

4. Placement Matches and Final Zagreb - Sunday, January 26th,





Place 3/4
L SF 1 : L SF2

Place ½
W SF1 : W SF 2

Departure Day Monday, January 27th

The longer duration of the tournament will provide opportunity to the players, officials, spectators and the media to have gain better experience from the venues and the local culture and traditions.

Rest days provide good opportunity to all participants not only for relaxation, but also to look around in the cities and get cultural experience as well.

Similar to previous events, official receptions are foreseen in each city, organized by the local municipalities.





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.







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







Split is a business, administrative and cultural centre of Dalmatia (200,000 inhabitants). A city and a harbour in middle Dalmatia, located on a peninsula between Kaštelan bay and Split canal. After the fall of Salona the citizens found shelter inside the palace walls. Soon a new settlement emerged; in 1069 Split was annexed to Croatia by King Petar Krešimir IV. In 1420 Split recognized the Venice protectorate. After the fall of Venice, Split, together with the rest of Dalmatia, fell under the Austrian rule, which in 1805 gave it to France. In 1882 Croatian government was established in Split. In the beginning of the 20th century Split was the most important harbour in east coast of the Adriatic. Today, Palace is the very hart of interior part of the town where all most important historical buildings can be found. It is one of the best- known historic inheritances on the coast of the Adriatic and it's a part of big historical legacy of the whole world. In 1979 UNESCO adopted the proposal for registering the Split's interior part of town in the World cultural inheritance records. Split is a city of sports, known by Goran Ivanišević, football, basketball, but also by the world's best handball player Ivano Balić.







Rijeka is a Mediterranean and a middle-European town situated in the Kvarnerski Zaljev bay in the Adriatic sea. Kvarner is a name that unifies the well-indented coast of the Croatian Littoral, its numerous immerses islands, but also the wooded mountains of the Gorski Kotar region in the coastal hinterland.

The town of Rijeka is the main crossroad of the Adriatic tourist traffic, which goes from the Middle Europe to the middle and south Adriatic. It is an important junction of magistral roads, an important railway centre, and on the island of Krk there is Rijeka airport, some thirty kilometres from the centre of town Rijeka.

The town has a rich sports history. Some of the oldest sports clubs were founded at the end of the last century (rowing, mountaineering, skiing, sailing, etc.). The town Rijeka came to the world handball scene when it organized the Junior World Handball Championship in 1997. The pride of Rijeka surely are the double Olympic medal winner Valter Matošević; Alvaro Načinović and Mirza Džomba, golden medal winners from Atlanta,i.e. Athens; and also the World Champion from Portugal 2003, Renato Sulić.







Zadar was for centuries the capital city of Dalmatia and today it is the centre of the region. A city with a rich heritage of world importance, visible at every step: the 1st century Roman Forum, St. Donatus' Church from the 9th century - the most famous medieval basilica and trademark of the city. The reconstructed Romanesque St. Grisigono's Church from the 12th century and the St. Mary's bell tower from the year 1105; St. Anastasia's Cathedral from the 13th century; People's Square with the City's Lodge and Guardhouse from the 16th century, as well as the mighty fortification walls with first class Sea and Land gates from the 16th century. There are also Three and Five Wells Squares and many palaces, villas and other monumental heritage.

Its attractiveness is due greatly to its fantastic natural position in the very heart of the Adriatic coast, and to the four National Parks surrounding it: Plitvica Lakes, National park Paklenica, unique Rivera Krka waterfalls and a string of wondrous islands called Kornati. No less attractive are the nature Parks of Telašćica, the canyon of the Zrmanja River and the largest natural lake in Croatia - Lake Vrana near Biograd. It is possible to reach the central Zadar Riviera region equally easily from all directions and by all means of transport.

Zadar is a town of sports, especially basketball. It is a town from which comes the slogan - 'God created man, and Zadar created basketball.'







Poreč, Parenzo, in Latin: Parentium. In a rough, two millennium long town history it seems like the whole European history passed through Poreč: Romans, Aquileia, Huns, Byzant, Slovenes, Avars, Ostrogoths, Langobards, Franks, Venice, Napoleon, Austrian-Hungarian empire, Italy, Yugoslavia; today Croatia. This small town-peninsula was inhabited from the pre-historic era. Romans gave it today's form after defeating the native Histrians. Byzant left us the most important cultural monument – the 6th century Eufrozijus basilica with diocese. Since 1861 Poreč is the capital of Istria, residence of Istrian, i.e. Poreč-Pulan diocese. In the final years of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century Poreč recorded sudden and tempestuous development. Construction of the town Palace, theatre, agricultural school, sport hall (palestra), two bathing beaches, home for the aged people, first hotels. After the world war second the tourism in Poreč started to develop rapidly and Poreč became the strongest centre of tourism on the east Adriatic coast. In 2003 Poreč was an excellent host for a heat of Women's World Handball Championship.







Pula. About three thousand years ago, on a hill where Kaštel stands today, the first town settlement was created- Histria fort. The real town history begins with the Romans. The official name of the town was Colonia Pietas Iulia Pola. From Humanism and Renaissance period Pula's ancient monuments have become more known for the European cultural public: Arena, Sergians' triumphal arch, Augustus temple, ... The most well-known and the most significant monument, a construction with which begins and ends each city sightseeing – Pula's Arena- an edifice in which gladiator fights took place. It was built in the 1st century, in time of emperor Vespasian's rule, at the same time when the biggest and the most famous edifice of the same kind was built –the Colosseum in Rome.

With the fall of Venice Istria and Pula came under the Austrian rule. Since it got its railway connection to Vienna in 1876, Trst, Pula and nearby Briuni islands were becoming tourist destinations. Today the islands of Briuni are a national park, and have a unique flora and fauna in this part of the world.

Severely damaged during the Second World War bombings, Pula bloomed once again in the second part of the 20th century, and it developed to become the biggest town in Istria, important because of two economic branches: industry, at the head with the shipbuilding industry, and tourism.

Pula is also known as a host of many sports' competitions, among which European Boxing Championship 2004 is one of the more significant ones.







Varaždin 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 favourable 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.

Varaždin is a town in which the very first handball match in Croatia was played.





CROATIAN HANDBALL





CROATIAN HANDBALL

The golden story about Croatian handball started in Atlanta in 1996, when the brilliant generation led by Velimir Kljaić crowned the effort of all the previous years and took the Olympic golden medal. In the Atlanta team there were Matošević, Losert, Jelčić, Čavar, Smajlagić, Šujster, Kljaić, Načinović, Jović, Puc, Goluža, Perkovac, Gudelj, Saračević, Mikulić and Franković; and that team will forever be written in golden letters in Croatian and World sports publications.

The second part of the golden story is the world champion title from Portugal in 2003. It was won after the 16th place in European championship in Sweden, when nobody couldn't dream of something like that happening. Lino Červar and Irfan Smajlagić led the team in which were Šola, Matošević, Kelentrić, Kaleb, Džomba, Zrnić, Sulić, Jović, Vori, Lacković, Valčić, Dominiković, Balić, Špoljarić, Goluža and Metličić.

The golden trilogy was concluded in Athens at Olympic Games 2004 when the same team won the Olympic gold without a single defeat. In regard to Portugal, the team played without Kelentrić, Jović and Valčić but with Losert and Šprem.

The independent Croatia also remembers the European bronze medal in handball from the first ECh in Portugal, silver medal from WCh on Island 1995, and in Tunis ten years later.

But those are not the only medals of Croatian handball players. Handball saw the light in the Olympics in Munich in 1972. Yugoslavian national team won the gold led by league captain Ivan Snj. The team coach was Vlado Stenzel. Golden Olympic medals in Munich in 1972 were won by Hrvoje Horvat, Zdravko Miljak, Miroslav Pribanić, Albin Vidović and Zdenko Zorko.

Twenty years later at the Los Angeles Olympic Games Yugoslavia won gold one more time. Croatian players who became famous then and are still active today are Mirko Bašić, Pavle Jurina and Zdravko Zovko, who later on became a selector.

When we talk about the Olympics, women handball players also had something to show. In the same year, 1984, in Los Angeles, led by Josipom "Bepa" Samaržija they won gold. A big stake in this famous story had Mirjana Ognjenović, Jasna Ptujec and Biserka Višnjić.

Croatian women and men handball players both have medals from OG in Seoul and Moscow.

Croatian handball also has two golden medalas won on World Championship in Switzerland in 1986 by Mirko Bašić and Zlatko Saračević under Yugoslav flag. Treasury keeps silver medals from World Championship in Germany 1982, bronze medals from World Championship in France in 1970 and East Germany in 1974.

Women handball players don't lack golden medals either. They took it in 1973 at the World Championship in Belgrade, led by Vilim Tičić - Kaja Ileš, Zdenka Ištvanović, Dragica Palaversa, Biserka Rožić, Ana Titlić, Milka Veinović and Božena Vrbanc.

We remember silver medals from World Championship in Yugoslavia in 1965, the Netherlands in 1971, World Championship bronze medal from Hungary in 1982, etc.





ABOUT HUNGARY





ABOUT HUNGARY

- **Geographical position:** Hungary is landlocked county in the Carpathian Basin of Central-Europe, bordered by Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.
- **Population:** 10,020,000 inhabitants; composition of population: the majority of the population is Hungarians (95%); national minorities are Germans, Slovaks, Croats, Romanians, Ukrainians and Serbs.
- **System of government:** parliamentary republic.
- **Capital:** Budapest (1,712,210 inhabitants), the political, cultural, commercial, industrial and transportation centre of the country.
- **Highest peak:** Kékes: 1,014 m above sea level.
- **Climate:** Hungary has a Continental climate, with hot summer with low overall humidity levels, bust frequent rain showers and frigid to cold snowy winters. Average annual temperature is 9.7 °C. Temperature extremes are about 42 °C in the summer and -29 °C in the winter. Average temperature in the winter is 0 to –15 °C. The average yearly rainfall is approximately 600 millimeters (24 in). A small, southern region of the country near Pécs enjoys a reputation for a Mediterranean climate, but in reality it is only slightly warmer than the rest of the country and still receives snow during the winter.
- **Currency:** forint. Foreign currency can be exchanged in banks, exchange offices, travel agencies, hotels.

To an average tourist, Hungary means the Great Plain, bath and goulash with paprika. But in our world, it is a handball nation, handball being the second most popular sport in Hungary. In this difficult period what we are facing all over the world, sport and especially handball is where there is a consensus between all parties of the parliament. Children from the age 6 and adults till the age 66 are playing handball in organized championships. The popularity of handball is growing and growing. In the past years, we have continuously broke records in the number of matches broadcasted live on TV. The 172 matches in 2008 were followed by more than 81 million viewers.

Hungary, situated in Central-Europe, is easily accessible from all parts of the world by all kinds of transportation, except ocean line, unfortunately. It is a small country, but full of wonders, and Budapest is a popular meeting point in Europe. The city infused with memory and history. Yellow trams rattling down the grand boulevards, faded neo-baroque interiors, facades marked with signs of revolution, streets of cobblestone and grand turn of the century apartment blocks. Widely regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, its World Heritage Sites include the banks of the River Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter, Andrásy Avenue and the Millennium Underground Railway, the second oldest in Europe.







Debrecen, the second biggest city in Hungary has proved several times in the past years that it is capable to host the best athletes of the world in all kinds of sport, like gymnastics, ice-hockey, swimming or athletic and of course handball. Both the men's and women's first division teams are playing in the European Cup and front of a full house all the time. The atmosphere at the 2004 European Championship was so fascinating that the photos from the hall are frequently integrated into different publications and presentation on European level.







MKB Veszprém hallmarks the city **Veszprém**, the city of queens. Winner of the 2008 Cupwinners Cup, host and runner up of the Champions Trophy, the city knows well the main participants of the world's men's handball. The new arena has been built to provide a top class home for one of the best teams of Europe. Maybe one day it will be called the Arena of the kings of handball.







Budapest is one of the favourite destinations in Europe. At the 1995 Women's World Championship, you could not drop a pin in the sports hall and the whole country acted as the 8th player to take the team to the final, and the effects very enormous right after the championship. Thousands of girls and boys started to play handball in the different clubs or within school framework, similarly like after the Women's European Championship in 2004.





HUNGARIAN HANDBALL





It has always been an important element of the Hungarian Handball Federation's (HHF) long term development program – which enjoys the full support of the Hungarian Parliament's Sport and Tourism Committee – to organize handball events in every 2-3 years.

As part of its strategy, in the last years the HHF was the successful host of the Women's World Championship (together with Austria, 1995), EHF Congress (1998), Women's and Men's Junior World Championship (2001 and 2005), Women's European Championship and the EHF Extraordinary Congress (2004), as well as the IHF Council Meeting (2005), the III. European Masters Championship (2006) and last but not least the 2009 Women's 19 European 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.

But our spectators are not only watching the TV, but also ready to support the team both on home and foreign ground as well. None will ever forget the atmosphere the 9000 Hungarian fans made in Zagreb in 2003 at the women's world championship final, just one week before Christmas. As previous experience shows not only the Hungarian team can enjoy this excellent crowd, but all matches are expected to be played in a full hall.

Results

Based on the results of the Olympic Games, women's, men's, junior and beach handball world championships in the period of 2000-2004., Hungary was on the top of the world ranking. On the current ranking of the International Handball Federation, Hungary is still among the top nations.

The Hungarian women's national team:

2000. silver medal at the Olympic Games; European Champion

2003, silver medal at the World Championship

2004. 5th place at the Olympic Games;

bronze medal at the European Championship in Hungary

2005. bronze medal at the World Championship

The men's national team, who also belong to the top team in the world, finished 6th at the World Championship in 2003 and 2009. and 4th at the Olympic Games in Athens.

In 2005 the men's junior national team won the bronze medal at the World Championship organized in Hungary, whereas the women's junior national team won the silver medal at the European Championship in 2009.

The men's beach handball national team won the silver medal at the World Games (Olympic games for non-Olympic sports), which took place in Kaoshiung, in June 2009., bronze medal at the European Championship in Norway (2009).

At the 1st Youth Beach Handball Championship, which took place in Hungary, the championship trophy stayed at home both in the girl's and the boy's category.





CROATIA/HUNGARY 2014 MEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPINSHIP

January 12. - 26. 2014

Come, Meet, Cheer and Celebrate!





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