

EHF NEWS 09 – 16.01.2008



**2009 Men's World Championship
in Croatia (17 January to 1 February 2009)**

**QUALIFICATION EUROPE
PLAY-OFF MATCHES**

Procedure for the draw

The draw for the play-off matches Europe for the 2009 Men's World Championships in Croatia will be held on the occasion of the Euro08 final day in "Hakons Hall" in Lillehammer/Norway, on Sunday, 27 January 2008, at 12:45 hrs.

Procedure for the draw of the play-off matches

Date: 27 January 2008 **Time:** 12:45 hrs. (local time) **Venue:** Hakons Hall, Lillehammer

Total entries in qualification Europe: 37 teams

Teams at final tournament in CRO: 24 teams

Places Europe at final tournament: 14 teams

Qualified for final tournament: 5 teams: **GER** (defending champion), **CRO** (organiser) and, in addition, the 3 best ranked teams from Euro08

Qualified for play-offs (18 teams)

1. Qualified from the Euro08 NOR:

11 teams from the 16 participating teams will qualify for the play-off matches

2. Qualified through qualification groups in January 2008:

7 winners of the qualification groups will qualify for the play-off matches

DRAW:

9 Teams in pot 1:

XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX

(9 best ranked teams of the Euro08 NOR which are not qualified directly for the final tournament in CRO)

9 Teams in pot 2:

XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX, XXX

(remaining 2 teams of the Euro08 NOR which are not qualified directly for the final tournament plus 7 winners of the qualification groups)

Procedure:

One team of pot 1 is drawn against one team of pot 2 (9 times)

For each pairing the home and away right will be drawn.

Playing dates for the play-off matches:

First leg: 7/8 June 2008

Second leg: 14/15 June 2008

The winners of the play-off matches will qualify for the 2009 Men's World Championship in Croatia (IHF event) from 17 January to 1 February 2009.