

EHF NEWS 91– 02.07.2007**2009 Men's World Championship in Croatia
(16 January to 1 February 2009)
QUALIFICATION EUROPE****Information on the qualification procedure**

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| <u>Total entries:</u> | 37 teams |
| <u>Teams at final tournament:</u> | 24 teams |
| <u>Places Europe at final tournament:</u> | 14 teams |

Qualified for final tournament: 5 teams: **GER** (defending champion), **CRO** (organiser) and 3 teams from EURO 2008 in NOR

The three best ranked teams of EURO 2008 in Norway will qualify directly for the final tournament in CRO.

Qualifiers for the play-off matches (11 teams from the 2008 ECh NOR):

BLR / CZE / DEN / ESP / FRA / HUN / ISL / MNE / NOR / POL / RUS / SLO / SVK / SWE (11 out of 16 as CRO and GER are already qualified)

37 European teams registered for the 2009 Men's World Championship in Croatia (IHF event). All teams which qualified for the 2008 Men's European Championship in Norway are qualified directly for the play-off matches.

The qualification matches will be played in a group system among the following 21 teams:

AUT, BEL, BIH, BUL, CYP, EST, FAR, FIN, GRE, ISR, ITA, LAT, LTU, MKD, NED, POR, ROU, SRB, SUI, TUR, UKR (21 in total)

1. The qualification matches will be played in **7 groups of 3 teams** as follows:
 - First and second leg: 2 to 6 January 2008
 - Third and fourth leg: 9 to 13 January 2008
 - Fifth and sixth leg: 16 to 20 January 2008
2. The winner of each group will qualify for the play-off matches (1st leg 7/8 June, 2nd leg 14/15 June 2008), where they will meet with the 11 teams coming from EURO 2008 in NOR.

The **draw** for the qualification matches of the 2009 Men's World Championship in Croatia will take place on the occasion of the W17 European Championship in Bratislava (Slovakia) on Friday 6 July 2007 between the semi-finals at 19:15 hrs (venue: Sibamac Arena NTC).

Further information regarding the detailed procedure of this draw will follow in due time.