

METHODS COMMISSION

2nd MC Meeting 2024

Minutes

Date Time	Thursday	29.08.2024	14:00 - 18:00 (CET)
	Friday	30.08.2024	09:00 - 18:00 (CET)
Venue	Courtyard Vienna Prater/Messe - Vienna “Krieau 1”		
MC Members	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman	
	Monique Tijsterman	Methods & Coaching	
	Patrick Luig	Education & Training	
	Lidija Bojić-Ćaćić	Youth, School, and Non-competitive sport	
	Carmen Manchado	Development	
	Marina Gillard	IHF Medical Commission Member Europe	
Office	Doru Simion		
	João Pedro Monteiro		
	Noémi Szécsényi		
	Matěj Nekoranec		
	Eva Reihofer		

Minutes

Agenda:

1. Welcome / Agenda

Pedro Sequeira welcomes the participants to the 2nd MC meeting 2024.

2. MC Minutes and other minutes (MC related topics)

The MC minutes from the meeting in February 2024 are approved with no further comments. P. Sequeira summarizes information received during the last EXEC meetings. Furthermore, he expresses the appreciation of the amount and quality of work to the EHF office.

3. Methods & Coaching

3.1 YAC analyses – status

M. Tijsterman and M. Nekoranec are informing about the actual status of the YAC analyses. All YAC competitions for 2024 are concluded. Currently the nominated analysts are creating the analyses. The deadline for submitting the final documents is 30 September 2024. All analyses will be published on the EHF website accordingly. The foreseen date for the publication is 31 October 2024. With the newly created template, which was accepted at the last MC meeting, the YAC analyses will appear in the same design as the senior EURO analyses.

M. Tijsterman informs on the status quo of the upcoming EHF Women’s EURO analysis. The same group of analysts from the 2024 EHF Men’s EURO was contacted and confirmed. A meeting between the analysts, M. Tijsterman and the EHF office will be arranged next month.

From 2025 it is foreseen to nominate the analysts for the senior EUROs as well as the YAC competitions based on a contract. The contract is to be signed by the EHF as well as the analysts and shall contain particularly fixed deadlines for the delivery of the analyses.

3.2 Injury prevention manual – status

M. Nekoranec updates the MC members on the status of the injury prevention manual. The contract with EHF Expert Jesper Bencke was signed, and the writing of the Injury Prevention manual has started. The second group of authors, Tanja Sarenac and Maja Ivanovic from Total Movement, were contacted. The two EHF Experts expressed their interest in contributing to the development of the manual. It is planned to finalise the contract in August. For September a workshop with Jesper, Tanja, and Maja is planned to ensure maximal coherence. The planned date for the conclusion of the manual is March 2025.

P. Sequeira adds that the future manuals need to be linked to the competences of the “R” C manual. The idea is also to create a library of exercises with videos of coaching exercises and in-game actions from the analyses to be linked to the specific parts of the manual.

3.3 XPS Sideline | Handball.ai

There are no advances or issues so far, most of the development is linked to the player's index discussed in point 3.4.

3.4 Player's Index | Scouting providers alignment | Kinexon

M. Nekoranec is reporting on the development of the player's index.

The player's index is being developed on two levels. First, there is the technical implementation of the player's index ensuring that Handball.ai efficiently uses EHF live scouting. The matches cannot be scouted post-match manually, which limits the practical usability of the index. Therefore, this level involves everything from the unification of scouting definitions across providers (Swiss timing, Sports Radar, Handball.ai, Oris, EHF Glossary) to matching the providers to the competitions.

At the second level, all inputs in terms of in-game actions used in the index need to be gathered. Furthermore, the question of necessary, additional parameters must be answered. Caution must be taken regarding the actual technical and scouting possibilities of EHF.

The MC members are asked for their opinion. P. Luig raises the question of the target group of the player's index. In the opinion of the MC the index shall help young, emerging coaches to be educated on how to use a player index and compare it to their own methods. The index shall represent a certain standard. Referring to the timeframe, a testing period can be started possibly in the summer 2025 during YAC championships.

The MC will form a working group together with the EHF office to collect necessary inputs in terms of in-game action, that needs to be gathered. The meeting shall be held until the end of September.

The Kinexon contract extension is almost finalised. The final version will be sent to Kinexon beginning of September.

3.5 Pseudo-anonymization of players' data

The current use of player data (Swiss Timing, Kinexon) is very limited due to the exposure of sensitive data and violation of GDPR laws. Everything must be done with extensive data processing agreements, which limits practical utility. This project, coordinated with the IT department, is a tool built on top of the EHF API.

The name of the player as well as the name of the team are pseudo-anonymized, while using the same code for the same team over all competitions. It will be possible to filter out columns of the data set. The possible use of this project is to create a fast lane for research collaboration. This means that any research institution can submit a research proposal. If the proposal is accepted, the required data can be sent without violation of GDPR laws. It is also possible to negotiate contributions such as a participation at the Scientific Conference, inclusion in the list of EHF Experts, webinars, or the creation of novel metrics for data analysis.

The possible starting point can be after the EHF Women's EURO. The MC is asked for input on how to use this open data in the future. Only after a positive decision by the MC a research proposal can be accepted, and the data shared. An agreement needs to be signed by the parties involved, that defines the benefit from the shared data. The EHF shall have access to the outcome of the scientific work.

4. Education and Training

4.1 "RINCK" Convention

4.1.1 Signatories / non-signatories' status

Update on signatories' status, four annual reports are still missing: LTU (problems within the Federation), MLT (no reaction), UKR (started the first national Master Coach course, Module II: 08. / 10.03.24), LAT (no reaction). Reminders were sent to the signatories concerned. LAT and LTU take part in "Baltic Sea Master Coach" course, together with EST, FIN, leadership is taken over by FIN.

D. Simion informs about the application of FAR as the 43rd signatory of the "RINCK" Convention. Two extended exchanges have taken place, followed by a successive working session in MNE during the EHF M18 EURO. The application was shared with the MC members before the meeting. The MC is accepting FAR as the new signatory of the "R" C with signatory level three. The official signing is planned during the final weekend of the 2024 EHF Women's EURO in December.

P. Luig suggests implementing a map of the signatory federations in the "R" C manual, which highlights the signatory level of the respective federations. The MC members are in favour of this suggestion. With every change the map needs to be updated in the digital version of the manual.

4.1.2 "RINCK" Convention in the future | 2nd relaunch

P. Luig, together with J. Monteiro and M. Nekoranec, is presenting the status of the "RINCK" Convention relaunch. The suggestions from the last MC meeting were implemented in the renewed "R" C manual, which is now concluded for the second relaunch in December 2024.

Having been presented to and approved by MC and TD, the restructured version of the EHF "R" C will be submitted to the EHF EXEC in September for approval. Furthermore, it will be introduced in December 2024, Vienna at the 17th EHF Conference of Presidents | 16th Extraordinary Congress.

P. Luig highlights, that with the publication of the "R" C manual, it needs to be communicated, that the manual is a living document. It will be updated regularly. The updates will be consulted with the Methods Commission before applying.

Furthermore, P. Sequeira mentions that the difference between the education system and the licensing system must be clear. The PRO Licence is valid for three seasons. It is discussed if the validity shall be changed from seasonal to annual. The unanimous opinion is not to change the current process. With the first achievement of the Master Coach, the PRO Licence is valid in the education season plus two further seasons. When the PRO Licence is renewed, it is prolonged for three more seasons. To also align the EHF Open Master Coach course with the seasonal validity, P.

Luig suggests starting the course in June/July rather than in January. The MC members agree with the proposal. For the next EHF Open Master Coach course, the start shall be in June 2026.

It is highly recommended by the MC to start the development of a coaches database in order to monitor the licensing system as well as the validity of the PRO Licences efficiently. The project is already started by the EHF office. The next step is the approval of the EHF leadership.

4.1.3 “RINCK” Convention Seminar | 2025

The “R” C Seminar shall follow the MC meeting in February 2025 facilitating the interactive presence of MC members. The seminar is foreseen to last 1.5 days including multiple sessions of collaborative work between the national federations. The subjects/contents of analysis and discussion will be the new “R” C Manual, specifically working groups discussing:

- Fast lane for players & coaches in the national federations
- Coaches’ competences | competence-oriented education
- New general conditions & recommendations
- Curriculum of the level 1 model course
- Specialisations (Video analyst, YAC, goalkeeper, strength & conditioning)

In January 2025, after the official announcement of the relaunch, a webinar will be organised for the participants of “R” C Seminar prior to update them on the relaunch and prepare the “R” C seminar together with the participants. The MC members are asked for their input for the seminar latest until 30 September 2024.

The exact dates for the 2025 Commission meetings are not fixed yet. As soon as they are, the MC members will be informed and a suitable schedule for the MC meeting as well as the subsequent “R” C seminar will be designed.

4.1.4 Level I complementary education courses – pilot model

The EHF Level I coach course is organised in cooperation with the Scottish Handball Association (linked with EHF - SCO Master Plan). The preparations are currently being finalised.

The curriculum of the EHF Level 1 Coach Course is prepared and shared with the MC members. There are three e-learning and two presential modules planned.

The presential parts will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland:

1st presential part – 28-29 September 2024

2nd presential part – 26-27 October 2024

The nominated EHF experts are Andrea Ongaro, Jennie Linnell, Milan Petronijevic, Ricardo Vasconcelos. Other EHF Experts are cooperating on creating the Level I e-learning such as Julian Bauer, Luisa Estriga, Henk Groener, Vanessa Patucca-Bourgeois and Jacqueline Mueller.

The MC members approve the curriculum. It will be added to the annex of the “R” C manual as a blueprint and example for other national federations.

It is planned to create a Level III coaches’ course together with FAR in 2025 as part of their signatory of the “R” C.

4.1.5 Fast Lane for coaches | Fast Lane for players

The concept for “Fast Lane for coaches | Fast Lane for players” – confirmed by the MC in May 2024 as of the interim meeting – is integrated in the new structure of the EHF “R” C. The naming was

changed from “Professional Player” to “Elite Player” after consultation with all MC members. The Fast Lane concept was already used internally by some coaches, for example: Ales Pajovic, Igor Vori, Ivan Cupic, Ivano Balic, and Andy Schmid to follow.

4.1.6 Specialisation – different branches

Specialisation of the coaches’ education are discussed among the MC members: Possible branches refer to Video Analysts, Goalkeeper, Kids, YAC, Strength and Conditioning and Beach Handball, whereas the specialisation of Strength and Conditioning is open for discussion as there are many education possibilities already existing.

Specific education levels need to be required prior to a specific trail. The requirements, that are needed for accessing the respective levels of the specialisation, must be defined.

As a first step a draft for the Goalkeeper Specialisation shall be prepared for the “R” C seminar to be discussed together with the “R” C contact persons from the respective National Federation.

4.2 National Master Coach courses

An overview regarding this year’s National Master Coach Courses is at hand (see enclosure 2).

P. Sequeira suggests a language requirement if a coach is registering for a Master Coach / PRO Licence course outside their home country. Furthermore, the curriculum of renewal courses as well as possible alternative renewal methods are discussed.

At this moment, the majority of the Master Coaches fulfil 16 TU in a renewal course for the prolongation of their PRO Licence. P. Sequeira highlights that passive learning is not sufficient. The practical and interactive approach shall also apply to the renewal course. Alternative renewal methods, like lecturing at coaches’ courses, writing articles or another thesis or being a tutor to a developing coach, shall be accepted. During the “R” C seminar this topic will be discussed with the National Federations. A proposal will be drafted. The MC members are asked for their inputs until end of October 2024.

P. Luig asks about the progress of implementing a calendar function on the homepage. The aim is to implement the calendar at the newly to be developed CAN website. Coaches and other stakeholders will be able to see the dates of coaches’ courses, renewal courses and conferences (see also point 4.4).

4.3 2024 EHF Master Coach course

J. Monteiro reports on the second module of the EHF Open Master Coach course, that took place from 8.-13. July 2024 during the EHF M20 EURO in Celje/SLO.

In the second module 14 experts were lecturing, based on the inserted new, practical, and interactive approach. This was fully appreciated by the participants as well as the experts. For the full report of the first module see enclosure 3.

The preparations for the third module already started. The following schedule is fixed:
Module 3 - Women’s EURO in Vienna / AUT, taking place from 2-8 December 2024.

A different approach for the competence of the jury, that evaluates the thesis of the participants was implemented. Instead of a restraint group of 3 experts, a group of 17 experts (male and female) was chosen for mentoring and tutoring the participants during the preparation of the thesis. The participants are mentored by the experts throughout the entire theses process:

1st step – Topic Definition – 6 experts.

2nd step – Thesis Orientation – 17 experts.

3rd step – Thesis Defending – 4/5 experts will be present in Vienna during the presentation of the thesis in the third module.

4.4 EHF Webinars 2024 – status

An overview of the EHF Webinars 2024 since the interim MC meeting in May is presented:

- 31.05. | Talent Identification & Development Trends | Jochen Beppler, Olivier de la Fuente, Joao Varejao, Ricardo Clarjjs
- 5.06. | Sold out! Men’s EHF EURO 2024 promotion success | Thomas Zimmerman
- 13.06. | Dual Career in Handball | Andrea Lekic & Carlos Prieto
- 18.06. | The Importance of Grassroots Events | Carlos Prieto & Paulo Sa
- 10.07. | The Importance of Communication and Media Skills for Coaches | Paul Bray
- 11.07. | How to Create a Safe Environment for Players of All Ages? | Gunes Viter & Zrinka Greblo Jurakic

Together with Business Development & Media Communications departments it was decided to reduce the load of webinars to a maximum of two per month to allow more promotion time for each of the webinars and therefore to reach a higher number of registrations. In the remaining months of 2024, there will be two webinars per month with a spotlight on the Women’s Handball Conference.

Topics on Coaching, Media, Strength & Conditioning will complete the second webinar of the month. A webinar on Dual Career with the national team coaches and EHF Open Master Coach participants Ales Pajovic and George Buricea is also foreseen live from the 3rd module of the EHF Master Coach Course.

P. Luig highlights to also link the webinars to the “R” C competences. For the level I course recordings from past webinars will be used within the e-learning part.

Excursus CAN website:

Negotiations about the CAN website with the IT department started with the aim of having implementation approval by leadership in October. The concept of the website has already been created. The content to be published is currently gathered and a categorisation to align with the existing structure and projects is developed.

It is planned, that the CAN website above all shall include webinars recordings, a calendar of non-competitive events like coaches’ courses or seminars, the research database, EHF manuals, and senior and YAC analyses.

In cooperation with the Business Development department, the CAN website will be connected to the EHF digital strategy and the currently developing CRM strategy – meaning stakeholders will be able to access the content for free only after registrate with their personal data. The aim is to create customer journeys all over the EHF stakeholder groups to gain the possibility of targeting them specifically.

4.5 Beach Handball Education | Beach Handball Specialisation

The Methods Commission and Sports & Game Services department remain open for cooperating and assisting the Beach Handball Commission to work in a sustainable and consistent manner in terms of education and different specialisation levels.

After a meeting of the Chairman of the MC with the Chairwoman of the BC, together with selected members of both Commissions, a concurring agreement for the Beach Handball Specialisation was found. Regarding the coaches licensing, the three levels of the specialisation of Beach Handball coaches shall be connected to level I and II of the “R” C core education. The prerequisite for starting the Beach specialisation is completion of level I of the core education.

4.6 EHF Goalkeeper Summit | 2025

After the positive outcome of the last EHF Goalkeeper Summit 2023, the project will continue with a new edition. The date was fixed on 2-3 October 2025. It is foreseen that the summit takes place in the new EHF office in Vienna.

For the new edition, a practical part will be included as it was suggested by the experts as well as the participants of the first summit. A draft programme was prepared and shared by the EHF office – inputs from MC members are welcome until the end of October. The programme is aimed to be closed until the next MC meeting in February 2025. The start of the promotion of the event will start as soon as possible, preferably January 2025.

P. Sequeira states, that the “R” C Goalkeeper specialisation following the inputs collected at the “R” C seminar shall be presented. Beach Handball and Wheelchair goalkeeping are also to be included at the summit. Furthermore, the possibility of live streaming the lectures is discussed.

5. Youth, School, and Non-competitive sports

5.1 EHF Grassroot Growth (EHF Master Plan) | 2024 activities

5.1.1 2nd EHF Women’s Handball Conference, 10/11. December 2024, Vienna

N. Szécsényi shares the status of the second Women’s Handball Conference, which will take place during the main round of the EHF Women’s EURO in Vienna on 10-11 December at Flemings Hotel. The program is almost complete, all potential speakers have been contacted within the 4 main topics: approaching the new generation, women’s empowerment, sustainability in women’s handball and tools & techniques. At this point 20 speakers are confirmed, 8 are interested and will give final answers in September. Promotion in newsletter, social media started already, webinars leading up to the event are planned. P. Sequeira states, that the link to grassroots needs to be stronger within the promotion of the event.

The registration system is open, and the first participants have already registered. In addition to the handball world, institutions and NGOs focusing on women’s sport will be targeted through direct emails. Target and maximum audience are 150 participants.

5.1.2 EHF Grassroots Charter

N. Szécsényi presents the EHF Grassroots Charter together with the criteria system. The respective documents were already shared with the MC Members before the meeting.

For easier understanding and better visibility, the criteria system was modified, which resulted in 7 main criteria and several sub criteria. The MC members are sharing their feedback and inputs. They are asked to provide their final inputs by the end of September, so the additional and editorial steps can be completed before the introduction in December.

The next steps are legal and language reviews of the document before the final version of the document in terms of design and presentation will be created by the inhouse graphic designer. In December the final EHF Grassroots Charter will be presented to the stakeholders at the EHF Extraordinary Congress | EHF Conference of Presidents.

P. Sequeira highlights, that the Grassroots Charter like the “R” C manual, is a living document, that will be updated consecutively. He suggests that the criteria shall be aligned with the competences of the “R” C and to create a short version | abstract. The Grassroots Charter also will be presented in the “R” C seminar.

L. Bojić-Ćaćić declares to identify the responsible persons for grassroots from the National Federations, respectively update the existing information.

5.2 Wheelchair handball

5.2.1 European Wheelchair Handball Championship 2025

J. Monteiro reports that FRA as well as NED are interested in hosting the European Wheelchair Handball Championship in 2025. It is discussed among the MC members on how to proceed.

P. Sequeira is proposing not to focus only on one variation, 4-a-side or 6-a-side, but to offer both variations, whereas the 4-a-side matches can be used to the qualification for the next World Cup.

The MC members are unanimously in favour of organising the European Wheelchair Handball Championship 2025, as development shall be linked to competition. P. Sequeira will present the organising of the championship at the next EXEC meeting.

5.2.2 Future of Wheelchair Handball

P. Sequeira and D. Simion are presenting a strategy proposal regarding the development of Wheelchair Handball in Europe (see enclosure 4). Taking the status quo under consideration – 7 NF actively involved, 15 NF basically interested in developing, 16 NF not interested/no capacity – a conceptual approach is presented. P. Sequeira together with the EHF office is suggesting to primarily create a common foundation between the EHF and the interested member federations in sharing knowledge and education. Simultaneously, the official EHF competitions, based on the participation of the developed member federations, shall be organised.

Only in the next step, it is possible to create tailor-made, middle- to long-term programmes for the developing federations in terms of specific support (knowhow, mentoring, financial, and material).

The proposal is discussed amongst the MC members. All are in favour of committing to the development of Wheelchair Handball. It is suggested to create a manual dedicated to Wheelchair handball and Special handball. Additionally, the possibility of a coach specialisation in Wheelchair handball will be analysed. Together with the Business Development department a partnership with providers of wheelchairs will be examined.

Furthermore, the question of four-a-side vs. six-a-side is discussed. All agree to treat both forms equally. It is of greater importance to promote the value of Wheelchair Handball rather than to promote only one variation.

M. Tijsterman and P. Sequeira report about the Wheelchair activities in their respective federations. In the Netherlands there is a league with 12 teams, playing two matches per month, in mixed teams and only six-a-side. There also exists a grassroots initiative. The biggest challenge is the costs of the wheelchairs and the logistics. In Portugal the teams play both variations regularly in organised competitions. The MC members are asked to send additional feedback until the end of September 2024.

During the visit of the Secretary General, he states that the EHF is fully committed to the development of Wheelchair Handball, as well as Special Handball. This is also included in sustainability strategy. He aligns with the MC members in treating both variations equally. The big goal shall be, to bring Wheelchair Handball to the Paralympics.

5.3 Handball coaching app | Learn Handball

M. Nekoranec informs about the possible collaboration with Learn Handball. The first, successful meeting was held on 7 May 2024. It was agreed upon the possibility of cooperating and developing

the platform together to align the existing app with the Circle of a Handball Life. Martin Hausleitner presented the project at the last EXEC meeting, receiving a positive response in moving forward with the negotiations.

A second meeting is scheduled for 6 November 2024, where the potential acquisition in share-hold regime will be defined and eventually agreed on, with the aim of starting the collaboration in the first quarter of 2025.

5.4 Circle of a Handball Life

As several times mentioned, the Circle of a Handball Life a living document with direct impact on the whole spectrum of the EHF activities. Adjustments as well as new trends resulting from research sources and cooperation projects (i.e. universities) will be inserted into the existing document.

6. Development (Embrace Handball projects)

6.1 Development programmes

SMART programme:

The programme for MDA ended in May 2024. The final report was already shared with the MC members.

ALB and RUS are the remaining projects left with open support.

- ALB ends 12/24. Phase 3 started in January 2024. The EHF office contacted Albania regarding the ongoing programme and EHF Expert nominations.
- RUS was supposed to end 08/23. Due to the restrictions phase 3 is still on hold. The open material (beach handball) can be sent when the restrictions lift.

360 Master Plan Development programme: currently 16 active or partly active programmes: ENG, GBR, MNE, BEL, ITA, LUX, SUI, POR, GEO, MLT, CRO, SCO, TUR, SLO, GER, POR

New applications are coming from ISR, FAR, AND, and SRB.

Aligned with the personnel changes within the EHF Office, in the forthcoming future the administration and development of the Master Plan will become part of the S&GS department with a regular involvement of the MC. L. Bojić-Ćaćić highlights that the EHF Master Plan programme shall focus on long-term goals of the respective federations.

6.2. Handball4Health | Walking Team Handball

C. Machado and M. Nekoranec give an overview of the project Handball4Health. It is a joint research project by the Portuguese Federation, University of Porto (faculty of Sport/Medicine) and the Southern University of Odense/DEN. The initiator of the project is Susana Povoas, an EHF Expert. A cooperation agreement is to be signed, where also obligations of the research group are fixed. A financial support of € 8.500 is defined, approval from FD is available.

6.3. Special Power League | “Sportska Liga”, Zagreb/CRO

This project is aiming to help and support kids with disabilities. A first information was already sent out to the MC members with positive feedback. After receiving more specific information on the project a possible link with Special Olympics needs to be examined.

The FD defined and approved € 5.000 support out of the budget for short term projects in March 2024. Before moving further with the funding, more detailed information is needed.

L. Bojić-Ćaćić informs, that the CRO federation is planning to integrate the league into the umbrella of the national federation to ensure its further development. It is foreseen to organise Spring - Autumn events for person with special needs. Specific goals and figures need to be defined.

6.4. "Vrtko" booklet

The Vrtko project is linked to the CRO Masterplan programme. L. Bojic-Cacic gives an overview of the project. The English version of an educational and promotional picture booklet for children and parents, addressing Kindergarten communities, shall be distributed as a service for the EHF member federations.

The contents, besides of translating Croatian in English language, shall be improved and developed. A financial support of € 3.500 is defined.

6.5. International Sport Policy and Practice Recommendations for Pregnant, Postpartum, and Parenting Elite Athletes

M. Nekoranec informs on this project from the University of Alberta/CAN – a programme for pregnancy and postpartum health. First contact was established, and the research project was distributed through the network of the EHF experts. The project can be promoted in various forms, i.e. through webinars as well as the researchers can be valuable addition to our expert network. The researcher, Margie Davenport, is part of the IOC working group on parenting and maternity.

Before initiating further collaboration, more specific information is needed, especially the way and level of cooperation as well as the addressability.

7. TD/CAN report

D. Simion shortly reports from the meeting of the EHF Technical Delegation on 29 August 2024.

8. EHF Experts

The renewal of the EHF Experts is concluded. The next renewal is planned for 2026. For the second half of 2024 an internal EHF Expert exchange (online | webinar) is planned.

8.1 EHF Experts Manual

As decided by the EHF EXEC in April, the daily allowance is increased from € 60 to € 100. The updated EHF Experts Manual will be sent to the EHF Expert group.

L. Bojić-Ćaćić is raising the question, about the maximum number of lectures per day. The topic is discussed among the MC members. The common opinion is, that the number of lectures regulated in the EHF Experts manual is best suited for the EHF Expert to deliver the best performance. However, EHF Experts and the organiser of the course can agree on additional lectures or days.

9. 2025 EHF Scientific Conference

The 8th EHF Scientific Conference 2025 will be held in Zagreb, Croatia on 13/14 November 2025. A site visit by the EHF office staff took place in April. A report was provided afterwards. The Hotel booking is finalised, approximate numbers for rooms, meals and coffee breaks will be shared with the hotel in due time. A save the date communication was shared with the audience from Porto already together with the documentation book. However, to communicate and promote the event timely, the topic must be defined. Suggestions for possible topics were sent to the MC members beforehand. After a short discussion the MC agrees on the following title: "Empowering the sustainable future of handball – From Grassroots to top-level play". The price is fixed on 150 € for presential and 75 € for online participation.

To start timely with the promotion for sending in abstracts and obtaining articles, the main information about the conference will be sent out to universities, national federations, scientific partners/UUHT and former participants: Title, date, and location as well as the four key topics | Grassroots, female handball, sustainability, coaching. The submission process is planned from November to May 2025.

P. Sequeira is suggesting building a scientific commission to evaluate the submitted abstracts. The commission group will be a group of 7-8, that is made up of EHF Experts, UUHT members as well as MC and EHF office members.

10. Others

- MC budget
E. Reihofner is presenting the 2024 and 2025 budget draft. The MC budget is adapted according to the planned activities for 2025.
- Dual career for players / coaches
Like suggested in the last MC meeting in February 2024, a webinar on dual careers in handball was held in June with Andrea Lekic and Carlos Prieto.
J. Monteiro is proposing to have another webinar in December involving Alex Pajovic and George Buricea in a lecture during the 3rd module of the EHF Open Master Coach course.
- EHF University Handball Teachers
Forty-one potential members were contacted, with thirty-three positive responses, including their CVs and photos. Potential use cases for this group were discussed regarding the overall vision of UUHT.

It is proposed to add the UUHT members to the EHF Experts, as a separate branch “academics”. The proposal is accepted. With the next renewal of the EHF Experts list in 2026, the UUHT updated list shall be added to the EHF Experts list.

- EHF Glossary of Handball Terms and Expressions
The next update of the EHF Glossary will be for the season 2025/26. All inputs in this regard should be forwarded directly to J. Monteiro. J. Monteiro is suggesting that symbols shall be included in the next edition. The MC members agree on that.
- Special Olympics
P. Sequeira reports that no further information was received from SOEE since the last MC meeting. Due to the lack of communication the foreseen support at the coaches’ seminar from 1-3 November 2024 is questionable. Despite the communication difficulties, the MC is still interested in further cooperation. The MC will aim for another meeting on a higher level

P. Sequeira suggest adding the topic on the agenda of the next MC meeting in February, to discuss the further steps. Special Handball shall be included in the draft version of the Wheelchair development strategy.
- ICCE | Sport Coaching Europe
P. Sequeira informs about the current work of the ICCE and Sport Coaching Europe, which is the European branch of ICCE. ICCE is interested in the relaunch of the “R” C. It is the common agreement to share the updated manual with the ICCE. The request will be addressed to the EXEC.
- New rules discussion
P. Sequeira is starting a discussion about the new handball rules. He is asking to insert this point regularly to the agenda. The MC members as well as the EHF office are asked to provide inputs before the respective meetings.

- Coach education / mentoring
P. Sequeira is proposing to create a coach education and mentoring programme during EHF YAC competitions similar to the YRs programme. The nominated EHF Expert who is already nominated for the referee programme can take over additionally coaching mentoring.
P. Sequeira will create a proposal to share with the MC members to be discussed at the next MC meeting in February.

11. Any other business

- EHF “Bridge” System – internal conceptual project
The EHF Bridge System was approved in the last MC meeting in February 2024. The first steps move forward with the involvement of the IT Department and the Business Development department, a categorisation for the first branch (Tournaments – Teams) were given. The practical implementation of the system is foreseen to take place until the end of the year (December 2024). The 2nd branch (Education opportunities – Technical Staff) was also categorised with the help of M. Nekoranec. The implementation will proceed in 2025. Further branches, besides the two mentioned need EHF leadership approval first.
- Handball Research Database – internal conceptual EHF project
Research database currently contains over 450 papers. There is a possibility of including the database on the future EHF CAN website. The database was also shared with Master Coach participants as a tool for thesis writing. A document called "Research Index Manual," outlining the methodological approach behind the collection of the papers, has been drafted and can be used as an official document leading to the creation of the EHF Research Index. This can potentially be introduced at the Scientific Conference in 2025.
P. Luig adds that the standardisation fields from the proposed index can be used also to cluster the abstracts for the Scientific Conference.
- EHF MC activity areas | working fields | new titles
At the last MC meeting new titles for the working fields of the MC were defined. D. Simion informs about a document, that includes the titles as well as a description of the working fields of all official positions within the EHF, being presented at the next EXEC meeting in September.
- Kids Handball Festival, Pinhel (Porto region)/Portugal
N. Szécsényi shared that the Kids Handball Festival was a great example of how a federation can bring together hundreds of kids in a cost-effective and sustainable way. Including a seminar for the benefit of the coaches was also very important. Although the events aim was mainly to promote handball and to make kids enjoy playing, which was very well reached, it is very important to invest in the coaches. For the future it is recommended to have at least two EHF Experts from different handball cultures for longer period – to split the seminar over more days and benefit from the observations | suggestions of the experts.
- 17th EHF Conference for Presidents | 16th EHF Extraordinary Congress | EHF Excellence Awards | EHF House Opening - 14. December 2024, Vienna
On the events during the Final Weekend of the EHF Women’s EURO 2024 in Vienna the following MC related events will take place:
 - Signing of the “RINCK” Convention by FAR
 - Presentation of the “RINCK” Convention relaunch
 - Presentation of the EHF Grassroots Charter

D. Simion adds, that for the next meeting, additionally to the regular agenda, the EHF office will prepare a “working agenda” – structured as follows:

Information	Discussion	Decision
- Informative documents - Reports	- Clarifications on pending topics	- Decisions to be made during the meeting

P. Sequeira welcomes this initiative, thanks the participants, and closes the meeting.

For the minutes:



Eva Reihofer