



# **IHF Activities 2013 – 2017**



## **President's Report**



# Content

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Events</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1. Indoor World Championships	4
2.1.1. IHF World Championships 2013-2017	4
2.1.2. Organisation	19
2.1.3. Rules of the Games	21
2.1.4. Financial investments of IHF	22
2.2 Beach Handball events	23
2.2.1. IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships	23
2.2.2. 2017 IHF Men's and Women's U17 Beach Handball World Championships in Mauritius	25
2.2.3. The World Games 2017 - Wroclaw	26
2.2.4. All Star Exhibition Match for the IOC in Lausanne	27
2.3. Rio 2016 Olympic Games	28
2.4. IHF Super Globe	30
2.5. IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championships	32
2.5. IHF Congress 2015	34
<b>3. Marketing</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>4. Media</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>5. Development</b>	<b>44</b>
5.1. Traveller Coach Project	45
5.2. Four Year Plan	46
5.3. Development Aid	48
5.4. New Markets Project	49
5.5. Handball@School	51
5.6. Refereeing – GRTP and ARTP	52
5.7. IHF Trophy and IHF Beach Handball Trophy	52
5.8. Former Players Project	53
<b>6. Anti-Doping</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>7. Transfers</b>	<b>55</b>



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Handball has been growing more and more popular over the past two decades thanks to the efforts of all IHF Member Federations and Continental Confederations to develop handball at all levels – from grassroots level through to national teams –, thanks to the continuous search for ways to make our sport more attractive and thanks to unforgettable handball events that promote our sport in the best possible way.

The present report focuses on the IHF work of the past four years, providing not only an overview of the activities but also describing the progress handball has made in the context of events and projects, for example, and highlighting the successes of the period 2013-2017.



## 2. EVENTS

### 2.1. Indoor World Championships

#### 2.1.1. IHF World Championships 2013-2017

Handball grows all over the world proven by the fact that the 12 World Championships organised since the IHF Congress in 2013 were played on four different continents with medallists from Europe, Asia and Pan America on the one hand and on the other that we could welcome several new federations at IHF events, such as the women's teams from Serbia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the men's junior teams from Burkina Faso and Faroe Islands or the women's youth team from Uzbekistan. The women's youngsters from Korea, for example, showed an impressive performance at the World Championships, while Qatar and Brazil surprised in the senior categories.

#### First time for a Pan American team to claim gold and spectator record at Serbia 2013

At the 2013 Women's World Championship it was Brazil's time to shine as they made history to become the first Pan American country to win a World Championship. They beat the hosts, Serbia, by two goals in the final in front of 19,467 spectators – a new record for a Women's World Championship match. Denmark, as well, had every reason to celebrate – the hosts of the 2015 edition of the event claimed their first medal since 1997 by defeating Poland in the third-place play-off.

For the Democratic Republic of Congo and the hosts, Serbia 2013 was their Women's World Championship premiere.

95,120 handball fans travelled to Serbia to watch the event, which was broadcast in 136 countries, in the arena.



## Final ranking



2. SRB



1. BRA



3. DEN

4. POL, 5. NOR, 6. FRA, 7. GER, 8. HUN, 9. ESP, 10. ROU, 11. MNE, 12. KOR, 13. NED, 14. JPN, 15. CZE, 16. ANG, 17. TUN, 18. CHN, 19. ARG, 20. COD, 21. PAR, 22. ALG, 23. DOM, 24. AUS





## Surprise team Netherlands steal the show

Two years later, Netherlands beat 2013 runners-up Serbia in the eighth-final, France in the quarter-final and Poland in the semi-final to play their first final – thus claiming their first medal – at an IHF World Championship in front of 12,500 handball fans. In their last match, however, they had to admit defeat against powerhouse Norway who claimed their third Women's World Championship gold medal. Poland suffered the same fate as in 2013, this time losing the bronze-medal match against Romania who claimed their first medal since 2005. Puerto Rico made their World Championship debut at Denmark 2015, finishing 20th.

Overall 165,000 spectators watched the matches live in the four host cities Næstved, Frederikshavn, Kolding and Herning. The event was broadcast in 143 countries.



## Final ranking



4. POL, 5. NOR, 6. FRA, 7. GER, 8. HUN, 9. ESP, 10. ROU, 11. MNE, 12. KOR, 13. NED, 14. JPN, 15. CZE, 16. ANG, 17. TUN, 18. CHN, 19. ARG, 20. COD, 21. PAR, 22. ALG, 23. DOM, 24. AUS



## Korea claim gold at 2014 Women's Junior World Championship

Asian powerhouse Korea beat Russia in the final to claim gold at the Women's Junior World Championship in Croatia. Germany and Denmark played a thrilling match for third place, in which Denmark turned a three-goal deficit at half-time into a one-goal victory.

### Final ranking



4. GER 5. FRA, 6. ROU, 7. HUN, 8. NED, 9. NOR, 10. CRO, 11. CZE, 12. SRB, 13. SWE, 14. SLO,  
15. BRA, 16. POR, 17. JPN, 18. URU, 19. CHN, 20. ARG, 21. ANG, 22. TUN, 23. KAZ, 24. COD



## Home side heartbreak as they finish runners-up of IHF Women's Juniors in 2016

Once again, Russia played the final of an IHF Women's Junior World Championship and just like two years before they had to settle for silver after losing to Denmark in the final.

Romania were impressive in winning the bronze medal after beating a tough Germany by one goal after surviving a strong second half comeback.

### Final ranking



4. GER, 5. NOR, 6. SWE, 7. KOR, 8. CRO, 9. NED, 10. HUN, 11. BRA,  
12. ESP, 13. FRA, 14. ANG, 15. JPN, 16. ARG, 17. MNE, 18. CHN, 19.  
AUT, 20. EGY, 21. TUN, 22. CHI, 23. KAZ, 24. UZB





## Romania with a bright future ahead

In 2014, the women's youth teams met in FYR Macedonia and Romania beat Germany in a one-sided final to win the IHF Women's Youth World Championship trophy. In a tightly contested bronze-medal match Denmark beat Montenegro by one.



### Final ranking



2. GER



1. ROU



3. DEN

4. MNE, 5. KOR, 6. NED, 7. BRA, 8. RUS, 9. SWE, 10. CRO, 11. POR, 12. ARG, 13. NOR, 14. JPN, 15. HUN, 16. FRA, 17. MKD, 18. TUN, 19. PAR, 20. ANG, 21. KAZ, 22. CHN, 23. CGO, 24. UZB

## A successful summer for Denmark and Russia

At the 2016 IHF Women's Youth World Championship, held in Bratislava, Slovakia, the Danish women's youth side climbed the podium again but lost to the strong Russian squad who claimed the title a matter of weeks after their junior team finished as runners-up at the junior event – after losing to Denmark.

In the bronze medal match, Korea beat Norway by two goals after trailing by one at half-time.

Both results and women's younger age championships in 2016 showed a bright future for women's handball in Russia and Denmark.

### Final ranking



2. DEN



1. RUS



3. KOR

4. NOR, 5. HUN, 6. FRA, 7. SWE, 8. CRO, 9. EGY, 10. ANG, 11. GER, 12. BRA, 13. SVK, 14. ROU, 15. ESP, 16. SLO, 17. JPN, 18. ARG, 19. KAZ, 20. CHN, 21. PAR, 22. CHI, 23. COD, 24. UZB



## Qatar 2015 sets new benchmark for World Championships

The first Men's World Championship after the 2013 IHF Congress was held in Qatar in 2015, a championship which set a new benchmark for Men's World Championships in many ways. The hosts were one of the biggest surprises when they advanced to the final, having only lost once in the preliminary round, against Spain. In the final they met the all-conquering French side who claimed their fifth World Championship title in front of 15,000 spectators.

The fifth title was a new record at that time – who knew that they would break their own record only two years later?

The bronze medal in 2015 went to Poland who beat Spain in a thrilling match for third place.

Qatar's silver medal was the first time a team from outside of Europe had made the podium at a Men's World Championship and just the third time a non-European team had got through to the final four.

Overall 306,000 handball fans travelled to Doha to watch the matches, which were broadcast live in 168 territories.



### Final ranking



3. POL, 4. ESP, 5. DEN, 6. CRO, 7. GER, 8. SLO, 9. MKD, 10. SWE, 11. ISL, 12. ARG, 13. AUT, 14. EGY, 15. TUN, 16. BRA, 17. CZE, 18. BLR, 19. RUS, 20. BIH, 21. IRI, 22. KSA, 23. CHI, 24. ALG



## New spectator record and sixth title for the hosts at France 2017

In 2017, the event was staged in France and again, the hosts put on a phenomenal show, remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament to raise the coveted trophy on home ground by defeating Norway in the final. After an incredible comeback in the bronze-medal match, Slovenia left Croatia stunned, celebrating their first medal at a Men's World Championship, just like Norway.

While 15,609 spectators cheered for their teams during the sold-out final, the spectator record for a Men's World Championship match was broken already in the eighth-final in Lille as 28,010 handball fans watched France beat Iceland in the famous football stadium and home of local side Lille, Stade Pierre Mauroy, which had been specially converted to host handball.

An impressive 540,000 fans partied in the arenas and fan zones in the eight host cities to watch the event, which was broadcast in 167 countries.



### Final ranking



4. CRO, 5. ESP, 6. SWE, 7. HUN, 8. QAT, 9. GER, 10. DEN, 11. BLR, 12. RUS, 13. EGY, 14. ISL, 15. MKD, 16. BRA, 17. POL, 18. ARG, 19. TUN, 20. KSA, 21. CHI, 22. JPN, 23. BRN, 24. ANG





JANUARY 2017

FRA



NOR

FINAL 29TH JANUARY

ANCE 2017  
NDBALL



FRANCE 2017  
HANDBALL

## Unbeaten France claim gold at Brazil 2015

At the senior level all the way through to the younger age categories it becomes clear that France have a strong new generation of men's players coming up. Right after the success of the men's seniors, the France junior team claimed gold at the 2015 Men's Junior World Championship in Brazil, beating Denmark in the final. Germany edged out Egypt in a nail-biting match for third place, which went into extra-time.

### Final ranking



4. EGY, 5. SWE, 6. BLR, 7. ESP, 8. ROU, 9. QAT, 10. BRA, 11. KOR, 12. TUN, 13. ARG,  
14. POR, 15. NOR, 16. RUS, 17. SRB, 18. JPN, 19. NED, 20. ALG, 21. ANG, 22. URU,  
23. CHI, 24. PAR





## Second silver medal in a row for Denmark at Algeria 2017

At the 2017 edition of the Men's Junior World Championship France were in the medals again, but could 'only' claim bronze after beating Germany in the match for third place.

As had been one of the themes of the tournament – especially when the hosts had played – the final was played between Spain and Denmark in a packed arena of upwards of 8,000 fans and in a thrilling 60 minutes, Spain won by one goal to raise the trophy.

African side Burkina Faso made their World Championship debut at Algeria 2017 and even though they finished last they did not let that spoil the experience and joy of competing on the international stage.

### Final ranking



4. GER, 5. HUN, 6. MKD, 7. TUN, 8. RUS, 9. SLO, 10. CRO, 11. NOR,  
12. ISL, 13. ARG, 14. ALG, 15. SWE, 16. FAR, 17. EGY, 18. BRA,  
19. KOR, 20. KSA, 21. QAT, 22. MAR, 23. CHI, 24. BUR



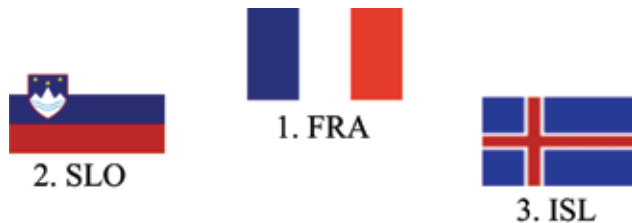
## Three out of three for France in 2015

At the 2015 Men's Youth World Championship, which was staged in Russia, France claimed their third gold medal that year after the senior and junior squads had already achieved that feat, by beating Slovenia in the gold-medal match.

Bronze went to Iceland who defeated Spain in the third-place play-off.



## Final ranking



4. ESP, 5. SWE, 6. NOR, 7. DEN, 8. BRA, 9. SUI, 10. HUN, 11. RUS, 12. SRB, 13. KOR, 14. CRO, 15. EGY, 16. TUN, 17. GER, 18. QAT, 19. POL, 20. JPN, 21. ARG, 22. VEN, 23. ALG, 24. CHI





## France, Spain and Denmark again at Georgia 2017

Just as in Algeria only a couple of weeks before the 2017 Men's Youth World Championship in Georgia, it was again France, Spain and Denmark who claimed the medals. France succeeded in defending their title as they beat Spain in the final and Denmark defeated Croatia by one goal to claim bronze in the dying seconds.

### Final ranking



2. ESP



1. FRA



3. DEN

4. CRO, 5. SWE, 6. RUS, 7. POR, 8. JPN, 9. GER, 10. ISL, 11. TUN, 12. KOR, 13. SLO, 14. EGY, 15. POL, 16. CHI, 17. NOR, 18. SRB, 19. BRA, 20. GEO, 21. ARG, 22. BRN, 23. ALG, 24. MEX



## Overview of all World Championship medallists (December 2013-August 2017)

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
France	5	-	1
Denmark	1	3	4
Russia	1	2	-
Norway	1	1	-
Spain	1	1	-
Romania	1	-	2
Korea	1	-	1
Brazil	1	-	-
Germany	-	1	1
Slovenia	-	1	1
Netherlands	-	1	-
Qatar	-	1	-
Serbia	-	1	-
Iceland	-	-	1
Poland	-	-	1

## 2.1.2. Organisation

The Local Organising Committees (LOCs) of any World Championship always think about new ways to promote the competition and get as many handball fans as possible to come and watch the matches live in the arenas. Therefore, Denmark launched a bodypainting campaign in 2015 and France staged a state-of-the-art roadshow which included raising the World Championship trophy on top of Europe's highest mountain, Mont Blanc.

In addition, in order to create a set-up more suited for spectators and media, and to continue raising the interest in world championships, the IHF decided to split match days into different ticketed sessions.

Once any World Championship begins, an increased number of professional and entertaining side events are held on the fringes. These include fan zones and many sport-related events like huge coaching seminars or medical conferences in Qatar as well as France or the Secretaries General conference at Qatar 2015.



The 'IHF Education Week' debuted at Qatar 2015 with almost 1,000 coaches, lecturers, Secretaries General, players, physicians and many more handball stakeholders participating in a variety of events including; Administrative Course for Secretaries General, a Coaches' Symposium, an advanced national team coaches course, an IHF Lecturers' course, a Women's Conference, a meeting for the Presidents of National Federations, an IHF meeting with Top Nations and Representatives of Clubs and the CAHB Congress.

## 2.1.2. Organisation



Over the past four years several changes at the team level have been introduced which were well-received and have made handball even more attractive in many ways for athletes and spectators at the same time.

Paying close attention to the athletes' needs, the Calendar of Events has been amended to give the players the needed time for rest and fixed national team weeks were introduced in which the clubs are obliged to release the players to the national teams.

In order to improve the conditions for athletes in general, customised solutions for the teams' accommodation and nutrition were organised at the senior events in Qatar and France and at France 2017, the training times were increased from 50 minutes to 1hr 45 minutes allowing for the coaching teams of all the different nations to plan for

in-depth sessions on the one hand and full acclimatisation to their playing and training halls on the other.

Furthermore, a state-of-the-art communication tool for the teams participating in the World Championship was introduced at Qatar 2015 and all communication was made online through special software with a variety of uses, including match downloads directly after games.

To ensure consistency of the evolution of our young players through to the senior teams, the same match scheme for all competitions has been introduced and the event dates of the younger age category events were adapted so that IHF Junior World Championships take place in July and IHF Youth World Championships are staged in August.



### 2.1.3. Rules of the Games

To continue the positive growth and spread of handball further to win new fans globally, the IHF is constantly looking at ways to increase the attractiveness of our sport.

For this reason, new rules and new technologies are introduced regularly into the game after long periods of testing, dialogue and feedback between all interested parties.

The latest rule changes came into force in 2016 and made it easier not only for players and coaches but also for spectators to follow the game.

One of the main examples of this was the introduction of a blue card and the maximum of six passes after passive play when the forewarning signal has been shown.

Further new rules include; the goalkeeper being substituted for an additional field player without having to wear an over shirt, injured players receiving medical care on court, who then must leave, only being allowed to re-enter after three attacks of their team, plus, the 'Last Minute' rule was amended to apply to the 'Last 30 seconds'.

In 2015, the new video proof system was used for the first time, which makes it easier for referees to determine if a goal was indeed a goal and allows them to repeat a scene in case of uncertainty so that mistakes can be avoided.

The IHF is also working on the improvement of the conditions for referees and, for example, introduced preparation seminars several months in advance of the World Championship.

The first time such a seminar was staged was in October 2016 ahead of France 2017; the seminar for the upcoming 2017 Women's World Championship in Germany was held in September 2017. Furthermore, the focus is now put on targeted training control throughout the whole year, considering the physical and mental aspects of refereeing.



## 2.1.4. Financial investments of IHF

The IHF wants to ensure that the national teams can send their best athletes to the IHF World Championships and thus pays player releasing fees and so-called 'loss of salary' insurance to the releasing clubs. Moreover, the travel expenses of all participating teams at senior World Championships – except for the host team – are paid by the IHF.

### Financial investments at senior IHF World Championships

	2015	2017
'Loss of salary insurance'	EUR 278,250	EUR 242,309.50
Player releasing fees		
- <b>Men's WChs</b>	CHF 1,160,625	CHF 1,055,650 (forecast)
- <b>Women's WChs</b>	CHF 722,150	CHF 8,000,000 (forecast)
Travel costs		
- <b>Men's WChs</b>	CHF 462,671.40	CHF 384,035
- <b>Women's WChs</b>	CHF 363,820.70	CHF 400,000 (forecast)

In addition, the IHF pays a qualification bonus amounting to CHF 25,000 and CHF 10,000 to teams participating in Men's and Women's World Championships.

Furthermore, younger age category teams from each continent receive support regarding their travel costs.

## 2.2 Beach Handball events

### 2.2.1. IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships

The beach version of handball enjoys great popularity all over the world as it can be played everywhere without the need of large-scale sports facilities. Introduced as a demonstration sport at the 2001 World Games, the first IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships took place in Egypt in 2004, and since then, the Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships have taken place on four continents and medallists from Africa, Asia, Europe and Pan America clearly illustrate handball continues its growth all over the world.

## VI. Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships - Recife 2014









2014 was the second time the IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships were organised in Brazil and for the hosts it was a big beach handball celebration as both teams, again, went all the way, defending their titles picked up in 2012.

In total, 24 participating teams from five continents took part in the men's and women's competition at the beautiful Boa Viagem beach in Recife.

The Croatia men claimed silver with Qatar as bronze medallists in the men's competition, while in the women's tournament it was Hungary who claimed silver and Norway bronze – the exact same medallists as they were in the women's competition at the World Games 2013 which took place in Cali, Colombia.

### Final ranking

Men			Women		
					
2. CRO	1. BRA		2.	1. BRA	3.
					
		3. QAT			

Men: 4. DEN, 5. ESP, 6. SRB, 7. RUS, 8. EGY, 9. URU, 10. ARG, 11. AUS, 12. OMA

Women: 4. UKR, 5. ESP, 6. ITA, 7. DEN, 8. URU, 9. THA, 10. TPE, 11. ARG, 12. AUS

## VII. Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships – Budapest 2016

The Beach Handball World Championships in 2016 were staged on Margaret Island right on the River Danube in the heart of Budapest, Hungary.







Once again, 12 teams in each gender category competed for the World Championship trophy with the beautiful skyline of the city of Budapest in the background.

The national teams of Croatia in the men's tournament and Spain in the women's competition finally broke the Brazilian dominance and won gold. Brazil took the silver medal in both competitions while Qatar's men's team won bronze and Norway's women finished third.

The event in Budapest was the first that featured a women's team from Africa (Tunisia) and it was the last time a Beach Handball World Championship was played with 12 teams as from Sochi 2018 on, 16 men's and women's teams each will participate in the competition.



### Final ranking

Men			Women		
					
2. BRA	1. CRO		2.	1. ESP	
					
	3. QAT			3.	

Men: 4. HUN, 5. ESP, 6. UKR, 7. OMA, 8. EGY, 9. BRN, 10. URU, 11. USA, 12. AUS

Women: 4. HUN, 5. ITA, 6. TPE, 7. ARG, 8. AUS, 9. THA, 10. POL, 11. URU, 12. TUN



## 2.2.2. 2017 IHF Men's and Women's U17 Beach Handball World Championships in Mauritius

The IHF aims to include beach handball in the Olympic programme and the next step to achieve that goal is Buenos Aires 2018, where beach handball will replace indoor handball at the Youth Olympic Games.

To act as a qualifying tournament, the first Men's and Women's U17 Beach Handball World Championships were staged on the Flic en Flac beach in Mauritius in 2017.

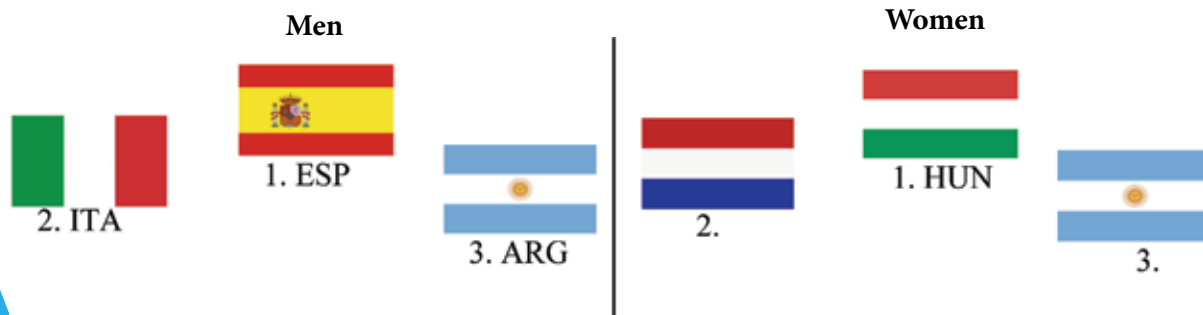
15 teams in the men's competition and 14 in the women's tournament fought for the coveted spot at the Youth Olympics with all teams, some in their first-ever World Championship at any level, showing a very high level of competition.

The beach handball on show promises a quality beach handball tournament at Buenos Aires 2018 and teams can expect more of the same from Mauritius as in a full arena Spain won gold, Italy silver and Argentina bronze in the men's competition, while Hungary grabbed gold, Netherlands silver and Argentina bronze in the women's tournament.

For both Argentina teams it was the first time their country had ever won a medal at an IHF World Championship in the long and distinguished history of the South American nation's federation.



### Final ranking



Men: 4. RUS, 5. VEN, 6. TPE, 7. POR, 8. THA, 9. PAK, 10. AUS, 11. PAR, 12. MRI, 13. NZL, 14. TOG, 15. RSA

Women: 4. POR, 5. ESP, 6. THA, 7. CHN, 8. TPE, 9. CRO, 10. VEN, 11. PAR, 12. ASA, 13. AUS, 14. MRI

### 2.2.3. The World Games 2017 - Wroclaw

For the second time in the official programme and for the fifth time in total, beach handball was part of The World Games with eight teams in each gender competing for the medals.







In a sold-out stadium in Marsowe Fields in Wroclaw, the Brazil teams won gold once again in the men's and women's competition. Croatia's men won silver while the team from Qatar claimed bronze for the third time in a row.

As runners-up in the women's tournament, Argentina made history again winning their first medal in an international senior event, while World Champions Spain had to content themselves with bronze.

The beach handball competition at The World Games was a complete success with close to 80 hours of broadcast, 9.17 million TV viewers and 177,310,000 event impressions (global).



#### Final ranking

Men			Women		
					
2. CRO	1. BRA		2.	1. BRA	
					
		3. QAT			3. ESP

Men: 4. HUN, 5. URU, 6. AUS, 7. POL, 8. EGY

Women: 4. NOR, 5. POL, 6. AUS, 7. TPE, 8. TUN

## 2.2.4. All Star Exhibition Match for the IOC in Lausanne

In July 2015, the IHF invited the 32 best players from all over the world in order to present beach handball in an exhibition game to the IOC and their President, Dr Thomas Bach. In an amazing atmosphere on the shores of Lac Lemman, in the backyard of the IOC, the beach handball all-stars demonstrated the attractiveness of the sport and proved how spectacular beach handball can be. This opened the path to beach handball being accepted in the programme of the Youth Olympic Games which will take place next year in Argentina.





## 2.3. Rio 2016 Olympic Games



Even though the conditions were challenging, the Rio 2016 Olympic Games were a huge success for handball. Our sport was again one of the most popular Olympic sports, ranking second – only behind football – in terms of ticket sales with 85% of the tickets available for the handball tournaments sold to a crowd which also included many highly-captivated VIPs and celebrities from well-known athletes to members of royal families.

In both competitions, men's and women's, France made it to the final but both teams lost, against Denmark and Russia, respectively.

Denmark thus claimed their first gold medal in an Olympic men's tournament and, just like Germany, who beat Poland with ease in the men's bronze-medal match, Norway had no trouble defeating Netherlands in the women's tournament to claim third place.

## Final ranking



Men: 4. POL, 5. CRO, 6. SLO, 7. BRA, 8. QAT, 9. EGY, 10. ARG, 11. SWE, 12. TUN  
Women: 4. FRA, 5. BRA, 6. ESP, 7. SWE, 8. ANG, 9. ROU, 10. KOR, 11. MNE, 12. ARG

## 2.4. IHF Super Globe

The IHF Super Globe is an annual competition for the best club teams in each of the five IHF continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, Pan America, Oceania). Since 2010, the world's best club teams have met in Doha, Qatar to compete for the coveted trophy.

### Qatar's Al Sadd surprise as 2014 Super Globe runners-up



In 2014, it was Al Sadd who surprised everyone, beating Flensburg by one goal in the semi-final – after they were trailing by six at half-time – to set up a final against then eight-time EHF Champions League winners FC Barcelona who claimed their second title in a row. In the match for third place, 2014 EHF Champions League winners SG Flensburg-Handewitt beat El Jaish from Qatar.

#### Final ranking

1. FC Barcelona (ESP), 2. Al Sadd (QAT), 3. SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER), 4. El Jaish (QAT), 5. Esperance Sportive de Tunisie (TUN), 6. Esporte Clube Taubate (BRA), 7. Al Ahly (EGY), 8. Sydney University HC (AUS)

### Sydney Uni with first Super Globe victory in 2015

One year later, German side Füchse Berlin made their debut at the IHF Super Globe and claimed the trophy right away, defeating Veszprem in a thrilling final by one goal.

Sydney University, who had who won their first-ever IHF Super Globe match against Club Africain in the quarter-finals, were outclassed by Veszprem in the semi-final and the Australian team put on a good show but stood no chance against the strong Spaniards – then defending champions FC Barcelona, in the bronze-medal match.

#### Final ranking

1. Füchse Berlin (GER), 2. MKB-MVM Veszprem (HUN), 3. FC Barcelona (ESP), 4. Sydney University HC (AUS), 5. Al Ahly (EGY), 6. Esporte Clube Taubate (BRA), 7. Club Africain (TUN), Al Sadd (QAT)





## Füchse Berlin win second title in a row in 2016



French powerhouse Paris Saint-Germain Handball and 2016 EHF Champions League winners Vive Tauron Kielce made their first appearance on the Super Globe stage in 2016 and both showed impressive performances, claiming second and third place, respectively.

Kielce beat Qatar's Al Sadd in the third-place play-off, PSG faced then defending champions Füchse Berlin in the final. Despite their three-goal lead at half-time, the French team could not overcome the 'Foxes' and lost by one in the end.

### Final ranking

1. Füchse Berlin (GER), 2. Paris Saint-Germain HB (FRA), 3. KS Vive Tauron Kielce (POL), 4. Al Sadd (QAT), 5. Esperance Sportive de Tunisie (TUN), 6. Lakhwiya (QAT), 7. TCC Taubate (BRA), 8. Sydney University HC (AUS)

## FC Barcelona Lassa claim 2017 Super Globe trophy

In 2017, the best club teams met for the eighth straight time in Doha. After Füchse Berlin won the previous two editions against European top teams they had to admit defeat against 2014 champions FC Barcelona Lassa who thus claimed their third IHF Super Globe trophy.

HC Vardar Skopje, first-time participants, beat Al Sadd in the match for third place.

### Final ranking

1. FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP), 2. Füchse Berlin (GER), 3. HC Vardar Skopje (MKD), 4. Al Sadd (QAT), 5. EC Pinheiros (BRA), 6. Esperance Sportive de Tunisie (TUN), 7. Naft & Gaz Gachsaran (IRI), 8. Sydney University HC (AUS)



## 2.5. IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championships

Two IHF Emerging Nations championships, the most recent seeing the top three National Federations automatically move into qualifying for the European Championship, have been held – in Kosovo in 2015 and two years later in Bulgaria. Both tournaments turned out to be a success, for Faroe Islands in particular as they won both editions.

### Faroe Islands claim maiden Men's Emerging Nations Championship title

The first IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championship in Kosovo, in 2015, saw the hosts make use of the home crowd advantage, claiming the bronze medal with a victory over Uruguay in the match for third place.

Latvia and Faroe Islands faced each other in the final in front of 1,000 handball fans who witnessed the latter making history as first winners of the tournament.



### Final ranking



4. URU, 5. EST, 6. MDA, 7. CMR, 8. MLT, 9. GBR, 10. CHN, 11. BUL,  
12. AUS, 13. IRL, 14. ALB, 15. AND, 16. ARM

## Faroe Islands and Kosovo on the podium again in 2017

Two years after the first edition, the second IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championship was staged in Bulgaria. This time the teams did not only compete for the trophy but also for one of three tickets to the European championship qualifiers. In the bronze-medal match Kosovo beat Cyprus clearly, while Faroe Islands took to court against Turkey in the final. The teams kept the spectators in Veliko Tarnovo on the edge of their seats but in the end Faroe Islands held the upper hand winning by one goal.



### Final ranking



2. TUR



1. FAR



3. KOS

4. CYP, 5. BUL, 6. CHN, 7. LUX, 8. GEO, 9. MDA, 10. AZE,  
11. GBR, 12. IRL, 13. MLT, 14. AND, 15. ALB, 16. ARM



## 2.6. IHF Congress 2015

The XXXV Ordinary IHF Congress and the Extraordinary IHF Congress were organised by Russia. Overall 300 participants from 146 IHF Member Federations gathered in Sochi from 6-9 November 2015 to discuss current topics of the handball world and exchange ideas on how to develop handball worldwide.



The following federations were admitted as full IHF Members at the 2015 Ordinary IHF Congress:



- American Samoa (ASA)
- Kosovo (KOS)
- Nauru (NRU)
- South Sudan (SSD)
- Tonga (TGA)

The IHF then counted 204 Member Federations. At the IHF Council meeting in Paris, France in January 2017, three further federations were admitted so that the IHF now consists of 207 federations:

- England (ENG)
- Fiji (FIJ)
- Scotland (SCO)

The IHF Congress 2015 also saw six World Championship hosts awarded. The IHF Men's World Championship will be hosted by Egypt in 2021 and Poland/Sweden in 2023, the 2018 IHF Women's Youth World Championship will be organised by Poland, while Hungary hosts the 2018 IHF Women's Junior World Championship. The organising rights for the 2019 Men's Youth World Championship were awarded to FYR Macedonia and the 2019 Men's Junior World Championship went to Spain.

Furthermore, new IHF projects such as IHF Handball Academies and the IHF Education Centre, an educational online platform for players, coaches, referees, teachers and delegates, were introduced.

On the occasion of the event, IHF ball supplier Molten presented the progress they made regarding the so-called resin-free ball – another example of the innovative ideas surrounding handball as it continues to pursue progress through technology.





### 3. MARKETING

The past four years have been remarkable in terms of marketing and media. In all areas, the IHF could record significant improvements.

In 2013, the IHF made an agreement with beIN SPORTS, a global network of sports channels, which bought the TV rights for the IHF senior events for the period 2014-2017 for a record amount of CHF 100,000,000.





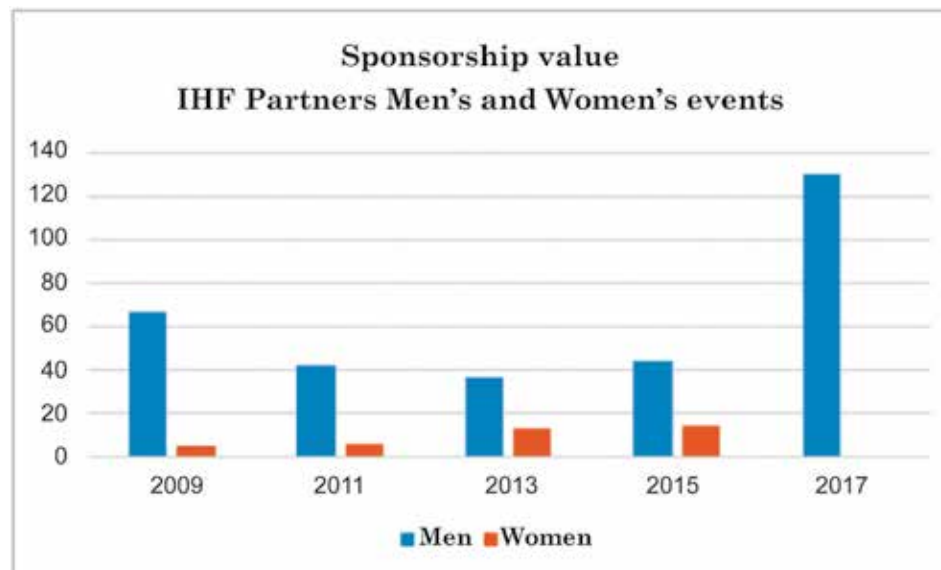
With the marketing income generated by the Men's World Championship in Qatar and the new official sponsors for the Women's World Championship in Denmark such as the Norwegian insurance company Gjensidige, online gambling operator Unibet and Santander Bank, 2015 has been an extraordinary year.

In 2017, new official sponsors like automobile manufacturer Renault and the supermarket chain Lidl were welcomed and long-term deals were signed with the Danish Handball Federation and the Norwegian sports advertising company Glov Reklame.

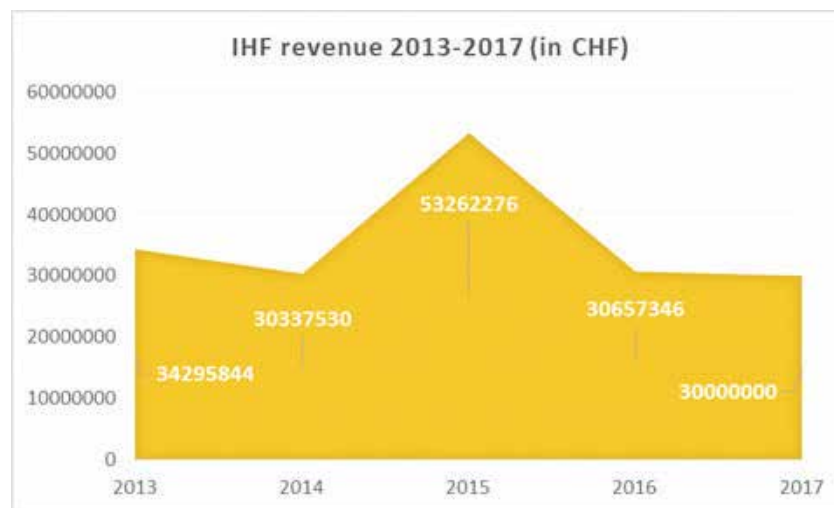
Furthermore, the long-term IHF partners Grundfos, Molten and Gerflor have extended their partnerships beyond 2017.



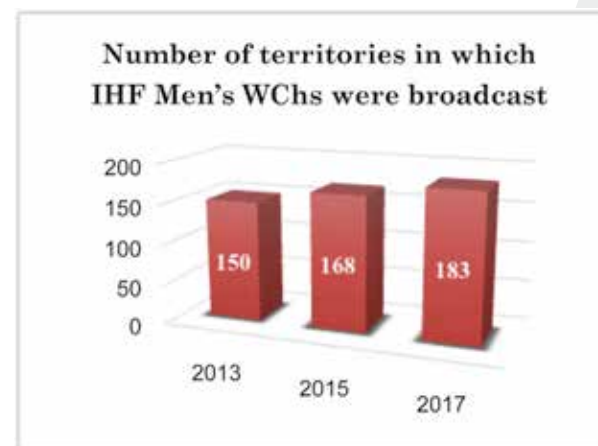
Considering the three senior World Championships in 2013 and 2015, a sponsorship value of more than 108 million euros was reached and over the four-year period the IHF had marketing revenues amounting to 35 million euros.



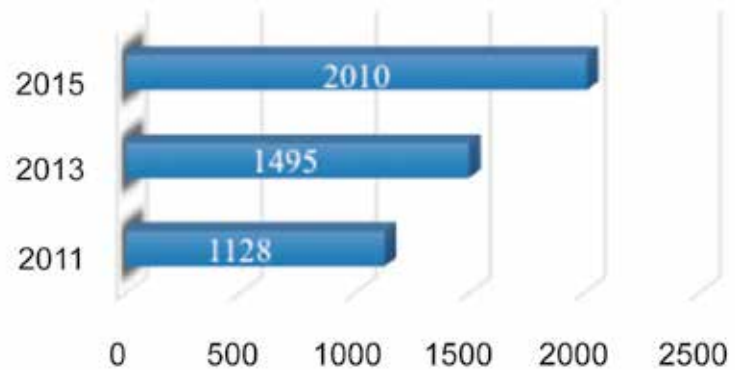
In total, the IHF revenue of the period 2013-2016 amounts to CHF 148,553,036.00. In 2017, the estimated revenue is approximately CHF 30,000,000.00.



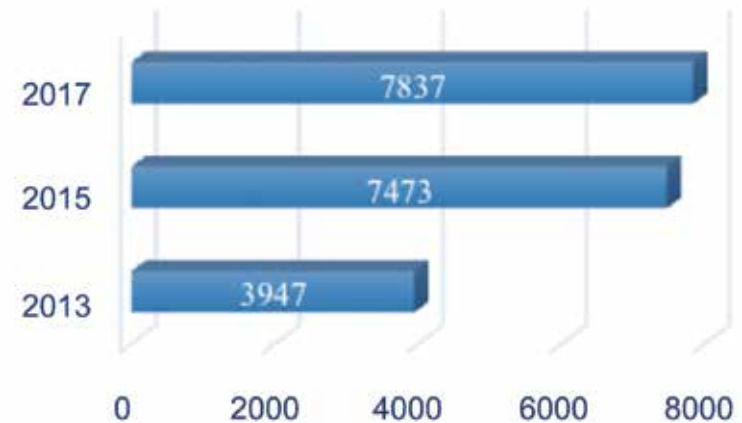
Handball is a global sport and the latest senior World Championship was broadcast in 168 countries (and 183 territories) – in comparison to 44 in 2001. In 2015, 9,000 hours of senior events were broadcast and in Denmark and Norway, a market share of more than 80% was reached several times during the IHF Men's and Women's World Championships. For the France 2017 final – France vs Norway – up to 12.1 million people tuned in.



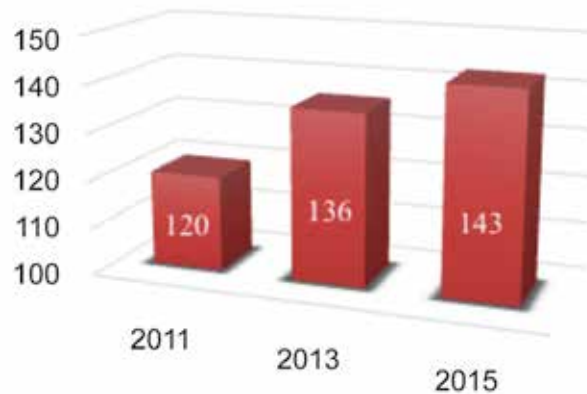
**Broadcasting hours Women's WChs**



**Broadcasting hours Men's WCh**



**Number of territories in which Women's WChs were broadcast**





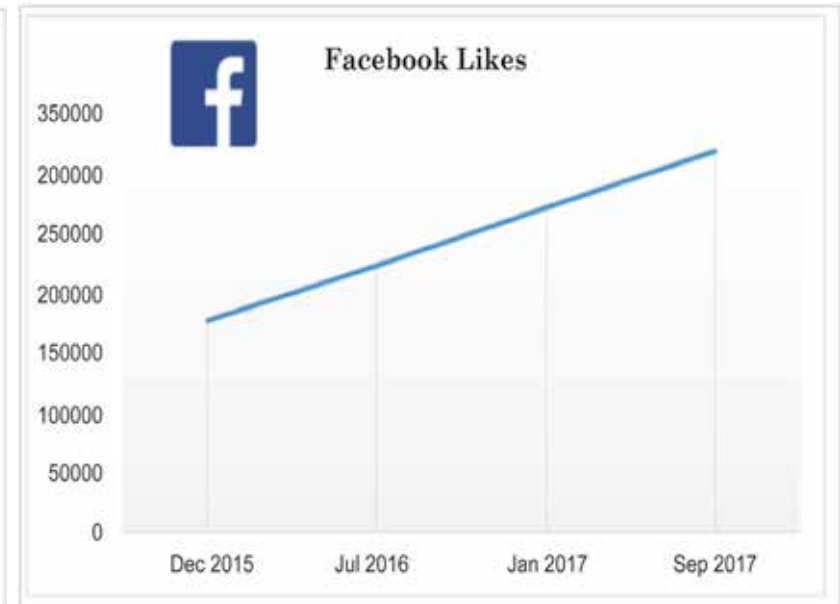
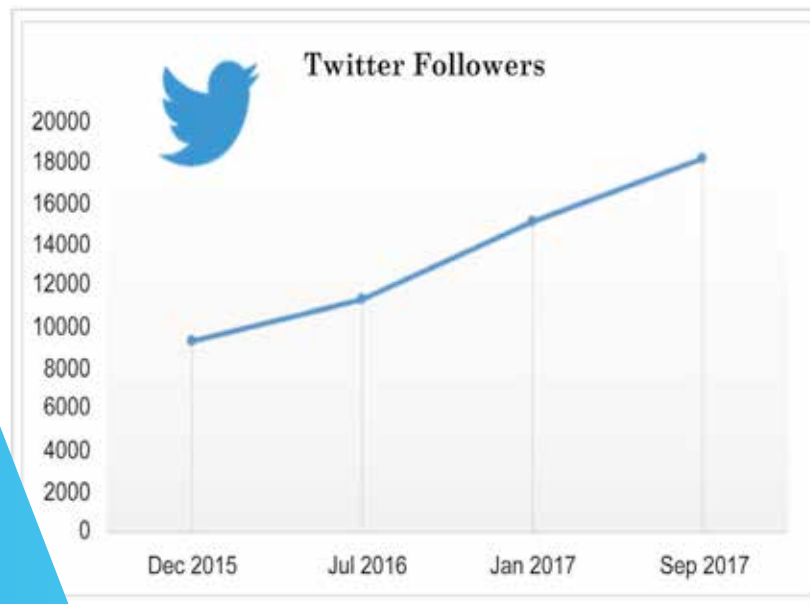
The last senior World Championship in France 2017 has shown again how attractive handball is, as more than 540,000 spectators watched the matches in the venues and with more than 28,000 spectators, a spectator record was broken at the eighth-final match France vs Iceland in Stade Pierre Mauroy in Lille.

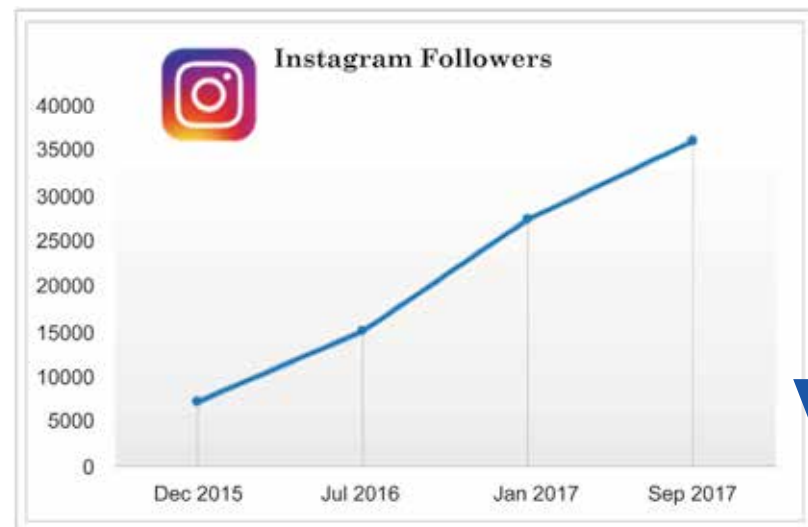
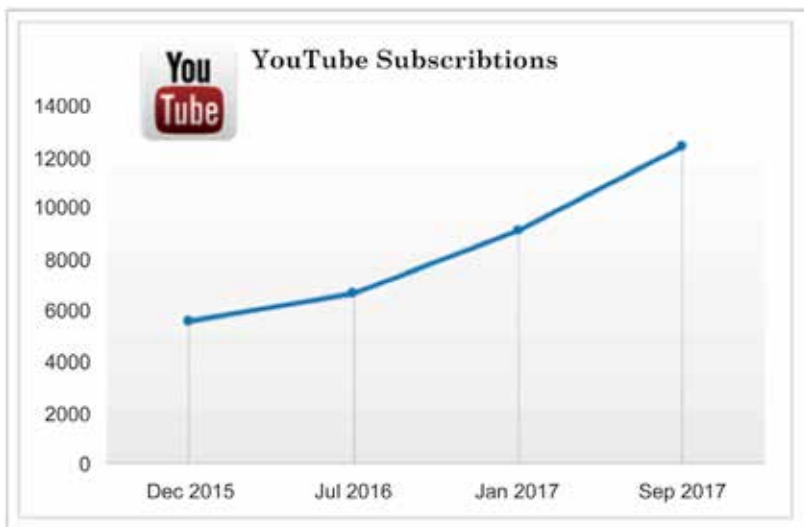


The IHF has improved their presence significantly over the past few years throughout the media landscape, especially through social media activities.

After the accounts have been set up in 2014, the IHF social media activity took off at the 2015 Men's World Championship in Qatar and through social media strategies customised for the events, for example, the IHF accounts have become more and more attractive.

Less than 50,000 Facebook Likes in September 2014 have turned to more than 320,000 Likes by mid-September 2017, a growth which has been driven mostly organically. By the end of 2015, the IHF Twitter account had 9.3K followers, in mid-September 2017 it have been 18.1K. The IHF YouTube channel counted 5,579 subscribers in December 2015 and the number increased to more than 12,400 by mid-September 2017. The IHF Instagram channel has become very popular, as 7.2K follower by the end of 2015 have turned into 36.2K in mid-September 2017.





As the figures of the IHF website show, [www.ihf.info](http://www.ihf.info) is visited regularly and proves to be a valuable source for any information related to the world of handball and the IHF events.

During the events, handball fans can find all information they need on the respective mini-sites, starting from squad lists and fixtures up to several news articles per day to be always up-to-date and live streams, if applicable. In-between IHF events the visitors can inform themselves about what is going on in the rest of the world with news about the federations in all continents.

Out of the people reading the website, 45% are returning visitors, while 55% visit the page for the first time in the period 2012-2017.

Overall 3,805,532 users have visited the page in that period, while the page was viewed impressive 26,236,546 times.

It is also noticeable that during events there are clear spikes in the overview of sessions proving that all over the world the website gets particular attention in that time.





Between the 2015 Men's World Championship in Qatar and 2017 World Championship in France, there is a slight decrease in sessions which might be due to the increased social media activity as a lot of information is already provided on the Facebook and YouTube channels of the IHF.



Taking a look at the countries that rank among the top 10 of the nations visiting the website the most often, it is obvious that it is still the traditional European powerhouses who show the most interest, with Germany on top, followed by France, Denmark and Spain. However, Brazil and the USA can be found on the list too, proving again that handball is continuing to extend its reach out of the traditional fanbase and furthermore around the world.



## 5. DEVELOPMENT

The aim of the International Handball Federation is to promote and develop handball all over the world and the main tool of development is education. Therefore the IHF launched several projects all over the world such as the IHF Trophy events, Handball@School, the Four Year Plan, the Traveller Coach programme and the New Markets project in addition to numerous refereeing and coaching courses every year.

### Course Overview 2016



## 5.1. Traveller Coach Project

After the successful launch of the Traveller Coach project in 2015, the project has been growing continuously and helped many emerging handball federations strengthening their national teams.

Five federations – Nigeria, Uganda, Pakistan, Angola and Ivory Coast – welcomed a Traveller Coach to their country so far. During their visits the coaches mainly worked together with national teams of the federations but, amongst others, they also organised coaching courses for local handball coaches.

All of the IHF Traveller Coaches are very experienced and have an expert knowledge of handball-related issues. Therefore, they can not only provide assistance in coaching to the federations, but also in refereeing, organisational, structural, marketing, communication or financial questions.

A huge advantage of the project is also that the coaches have the possibilities to adapt their activities according to the requirements and existing conditions in the country. As a result, the federations receive exactly what they need, they can give input to the coach and therefore do not receive a standardised product.

Since the Traveller Coaches spend several weeks in the federation's country they build up a strong relationship with the people in charge. This means that they do not only serve as short-term lecturers but also as mentors over the course of the whole year. The local coaches and staff are in constant contact with the coaches throughout the year via email, Skype and other channels and therefore can always get support and questions answered by a person who knows their federation very well.

So far Angola, Mexico, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, Ivory Coast, India, Singapore, Nepal, Uganda, Nigeria and Turkey are part of the project and 10 lecturers are ready to travel to the respective countries. Three further federations from Pan America have already shown interest in participating in the programme: Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba and Guatemala.





## 5.2. Four Year Plan



Since its launch in 2013, the Four Year Plan has been the main focus of the International Handball Federation's development efforts. By combining all development projects into one customised plan the IHF can ensure those National Federations who require some extra support can take advantage of everything the IHF offers. This includes a variety of courses for referees, coaches and beach handball, Handball@School, Development Aid and League Support.

Over the past four years a total of 63 courses have been conducted across 18 countries giving National Federations the unique opportunity to receive expert tuition from the IHF lecturers.

Courses were delivered in a series with the ultimate goal of some attendees progressing to the Global Referee Training Programme (GRTP) or the Global Coaching Clinic (GCC) respectively. Development Aid and League Support have allowed National Federations to access much needed equipment and monetary contributions to support their league and national clubs. Over \$500'000 has been donated to strengthen leagues and provide materials since 2013.

In 2015 the IHF announced the Emerging Nations Championship which would allow all National Federations who are part of the Four Year Plan to gain crucial experience while competing at an international level. In 2017 a second tournament was announced but this time with a focus on younger athletes and with a more lucrative prize – direct entry into the European Championship's qualification process. Both Championships have been fully funded by the IHF, including travel for teams participating.

The Four Year plan has been extremely successful with those National Federations partaking reporting considerable improvements in their development since inclusion.

The IHF is pleased to announce that the Four Year Plan will continue beyond the initial four years and support for those currently included will continue. In addition, the IHF plans to add more National Federations to the project going forward.



## Pan America Review



After the successful implementation and execution of the Four Year Plan in Europe the same development programme was expanded to Pan America and successfully started in the beginning of 2017.

After the First Meeting of the PATHF Emerging Nations in May 2016, led by IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa, a questionnaire was sent to all 21 federations that attended the meeting, asking them to provide information about the current situation of handball in their country. In total 15 federations sent back the filled out questionnaire and are now part of the IHF Four Year Plan: Canada, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA.

Based on these questionnaires and the current level of handball in the countries the IHF designed for each federation a customised plan concerning the development aid over the next four years. Within the five key areas Education, Competition, Marketing, Cooperation and Management, the federations have the chance to benefit from various development support concerning for example ordering handball material, financial support for the execution of their national league and coaching, delegate, referee, Handball@School or beach handball courses. The aim of these courses is to educate members of the National Federations to become professional coaches, referees and delegates in all fields with a fundamental understanding of the sport.

Since the beginning of the PATHF Four Year Plan in January 2017 several courses in different countries were organised in all fields in collaboration with the national federations. The national federations highly appreciated the support through materials to develop handball further, as well as the granted league support to the federations, which were eligible for it.

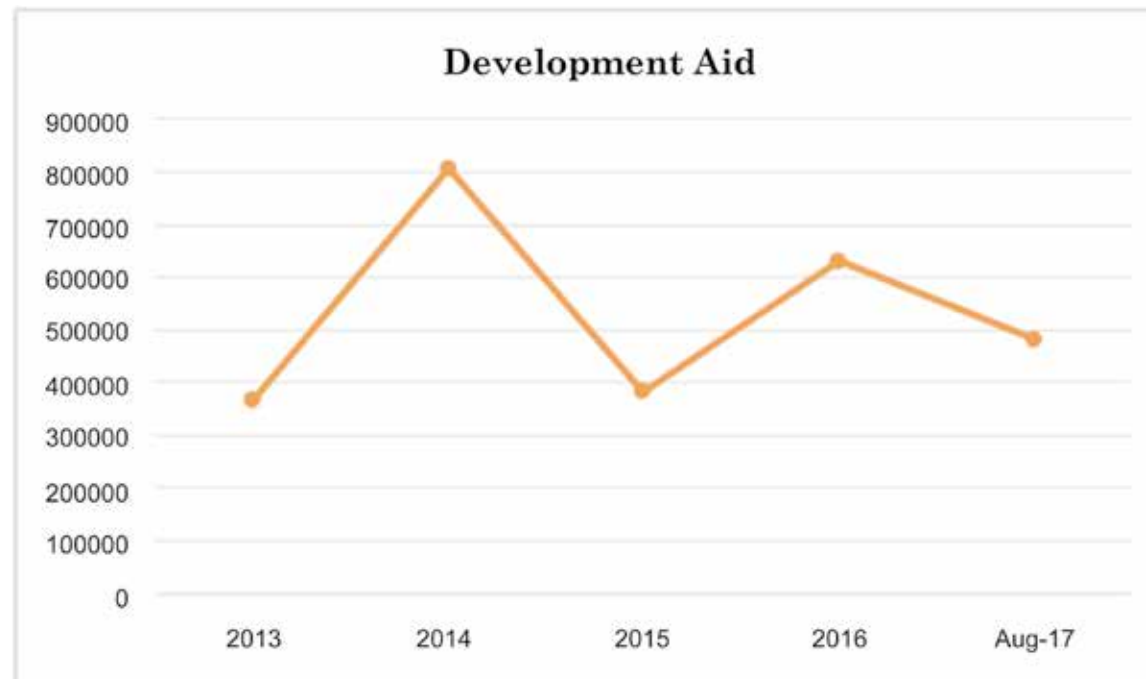


### 5.3. Development Aid



Each year, the IHF provides emerging and developing nations with balls, floors, beach handball goals and lining systems, as well as general training materials and tournament equipment like bibs, whistles or watches in the framework of the Development Aid programme.

In order to reach their goal to develop handball all over the world, the IHF exceeds the amount of equipment as determined in the contracts and grants additional material to federations worldwide.





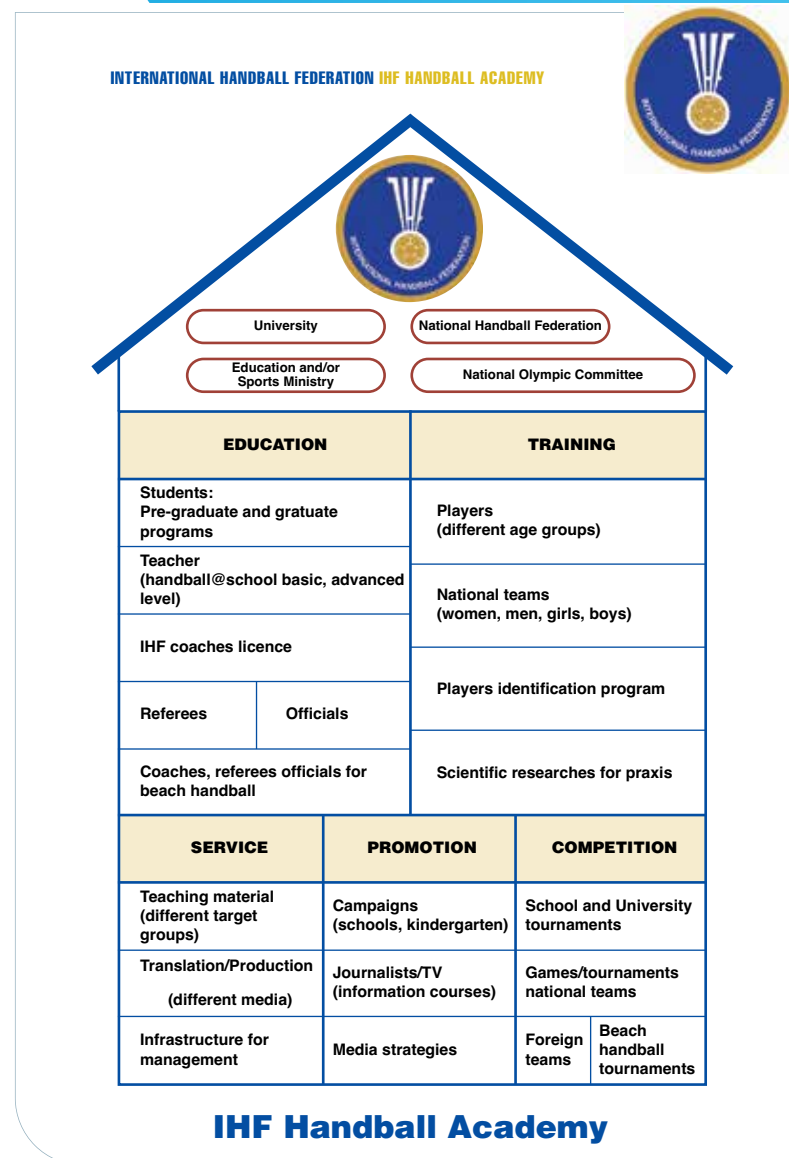
## 5.4. New Markets Project

The IHF launched the New Markets Project in Great Britain, China and the USA, and in the next step, India, to promote and develop handball in key markets.

Together with the British Handball Association, the home of the 2012 Olympic Games, and in collaboration with the IOC Olympic Solidarity programme, the first handball development project was launched in September 2015. Two-thirds of the USD 300,000 project were paid by the IHF and one third was paid by Olympic Solidarity. With the funds provided Great Britain supported the national men's U18 and the women's U17 teams, introduced an Elite Coach Programme and a grassroots programme which already bears fruits.

In China and the USA, IHF Handball Academies were or are about to be established at three sports universities. The goal is, amongst others, to implement handball at schools and universities and include the sport in the curriculum. By means of training, education and competition centres, the IHF aims to establish a complex education system according to IHF requirements. By now, four IHF Academies have been introduced in China – Shanghai, Beijing, Chouzhou and Tianjin – and one in the USA (Auburn).

While the programme is getting underway in the USA, China has been busy with the implementation of some plans that were elaborated to develop the sport further. This includes, for example, the Wild Card China received to take part in the 2017 Emerging Nations Championship, European Coaches going to China to coach the national teams of the country and Chinese referees travelling to Europe to gain experience.





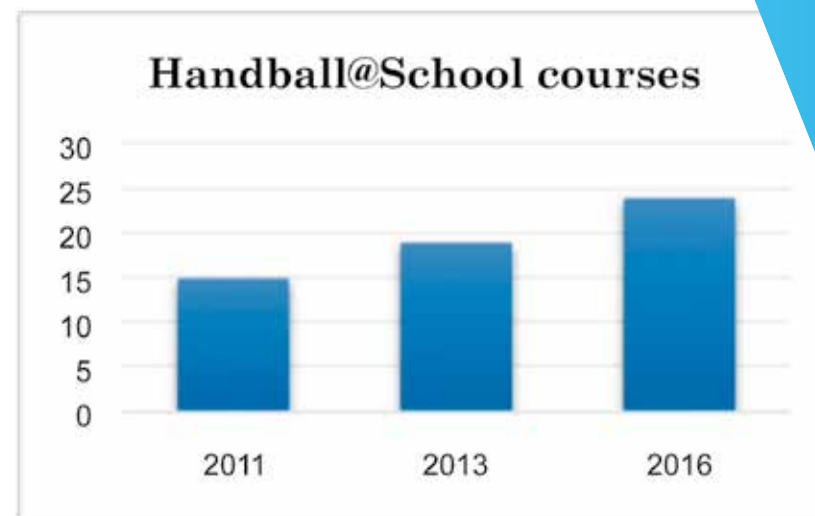
IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa travelled to China several times to meet not only with representatives of the Chinese Handball Association but also with the Chinese Minister of Sports, Gou Zhongwen, who is at the same time the President of the Chinese Olympic Committee, to discuss the future of handball in the country.



Furthermore, several coaching and refereeing courses were held to develop handball in China.



## 5.5. Handball@School



Since its launch in 2011, Handball@School has become one of the most popular projects organised by the IHF with courses being held in all five IHF continents with 82 Handball@School courses taking place in 62 federations. More than 7,000 teachers and coaches have taken part worldwide so far and there are many more to come.

2016 was the most successful year with 24 Handball@School courses being held, six of them in Europe, four in Pan America, five in Asia, seven in Africa and two in Oceania.

The goal of the project is to make handball an integral part of the curriculum in physical education also in early age. For that reason the IHF sends Handball@School experts to countries all over the world to hold courses for teachers which include theoretical and practical lessons on how to teach handball to 5-11-year-old children.





## 5.6. Refereeing – GRTP and ARTP

The IHF Global Referee Training Programme, or short GRTP, was initiated by the IHF to raise young and talented referees to an international level. Experienced experts such as IHF PRC members and IHF lecturers lead the courses to train and educate referees, who already officiate matches at national and continental level, and to assess if they are fit to be an IHF referee. Since its launch in 2010, 180 referees took part in 20 courses, with 62 of the participants, i.e. 31 couples, receiving their official IHF badge.

For referees who have just recently received their IHF badge, the IHF offers the Advanced Referee Training Programme. In order for them to gain more experience, one European national federation hosts chosen couples who then officiate national league matches.

Since 2014, six courses took place in Switzerland, Spain and France, with eight couples from Argentina, Brazil, Bahrain, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Iran, Tunisia and Uruguay participating.

## 5.7. IHF Trophy and IHF Beach Handball Trophy

The IHF Trophy, formerly known as Challenge Trophy, is a biennial competition which gives the opportunity to emerging and developing countries around the world to play in continental and intercontinental tournaments and provides workshops for training and the further development of coaches and referees.

All five IHF continents take part throughout each competition cycle consisting initially of zonal competitions within the continent deciding the final line-up for the men's and women's continental competition. Overall 121 countries participated in the tournaments so far.





Since the indoor version enjoyed great popularity, a beach handball version of the competition was created in 2016, the IHF Beach Handball Trophy.

The success of the IHF Trophy tournaments is also reflected in the number of countries which, since the beginning, have developed to a level which allowed them to even qualify for junior or senior IHF World Championships.

From Africa, Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as the Congo took part in the major IHF events, from Asia Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, from Europe Faroe Islands – who also won the IHF Emerging Nations Championships in 2015 and 2017 – and from Pan America the teams from Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

As ‘graduants’ from the IHF Trophy, the women’s teams from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congo, Cuba and Kazakhstan all took part in Women’s World Championships and thus no longer compete in the tournaments. Faroe Islands just recently participated in the Men’s Junior World Championship in Algeria in 2017.



## 5.8. Former Players Project

Already in 2011 the IHF made the first steps to engage former top handball players in different fields in handball after their retirement as active player. Interested former handball players were offered support from the IHF to undergo different training and education programmes for the works as technical delegate, coach or referee. Following the further development of the programme, in 2017 seven National Federations proposed candidates which met the criteria of the IHF Former Players Project. Six out of the eight proposed candidates participated in the first former players course that took place on the fringes of the IHF Super Globe in Doha, Qatar, where they learned about the general structure of the IHF and the basic tasks of IHF Technical Delegates. Further, the matches of the IHF Super Globe 2017 were attended in order to observe the work of IHF Technical Delegates at the table.





## 6. ANTI-DOPING

The fight against doping is taken very seriously at the IHF and thus hundreds of samples in and out of competitions are taken each year in many ways, all according to the regulations of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

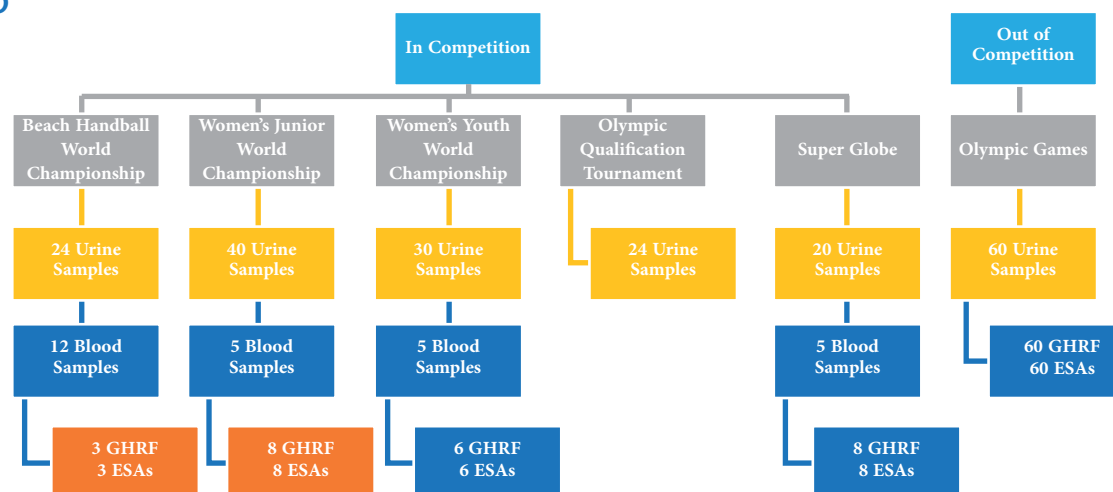
At each competition, the IHF takes urine as well as blood samples to test for any prohibited substances. In some cases, specific analyses are made to detect Growth Hormone Releasing Factors (GHRF) and Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents (ESA). The IHF continues to exceed the TDSSA (Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis) requirement as set by WADA.

2015 marked the introduction of the IHF's new Anti-Doping regulations which coincided with the new WADA Code. Whenever a new WADA Code is published all signatories must revise their own regulations to ensure compliance. The IHF worked together with the WADA legal team over a number of months to ensure the new regulations were in line with the Code.

Between 2013 and 2016, the IHF has taken almost 1,000 samples in competition and more than 200 samples out of competition. In 2016 alone, 138 urine and 30 blood samples were taken in competition and 60 urine samples out of competition.



### Anti-Doping tests 2016





## 7. TRANSFERS

In the period 2012-2016, a lot of movement could be observed in terms of transfers. The amount of professional player transfers increased by 95.5% from 122 to 239, while in the category of amateur players the transfers decreased slightly from 166 to 149 (-10.2%). The largest increase of transfers could be observed in the category 'students'. In 2012, 16 intercontinental student transfers were made, in 2016 66 – an increase by 312.5%. The so-called 5.3 Transfers, i.e. transfers of players who have not been registered for the past 24 months, increased by 149%, from 49 in 2012 to 122 in 2016.

In terms of finances this means a 110.7% increase in the category 'Professional players' – while the IHF earned CHF 183,000.00 in 2012 with professional player transfers, this amount increased to CHF 358,500.00 in 2016. As the transfer fees for amateur players were decreased from CHF 500.00 to CHF 150.00 by the end of January 2014, the amateur player transfer income decreased by 73.1%, from CHF 83,000.00 to CHF 22,350.00.

Thus, the IHF has had a total player transfer income of CHF 380,850.00 in 2016, which is a 43.2% increase in comparison to an income of CHF 266,000.00 in 2012.

Comparison InterContinental Transfers Year 2012 and 2016				
Year	Professional Players	Amateur Players	Students	5.3 Transfers
2012	122	166	16	49
	+95.9 %	-10.2 %	+312.5 %	+149.0 %
2016	239	149	66	122
Financial Comparison InterContinental Transfers Year 2012 and 2016				
Year	Professional Players (1500,00 CHF)	Amateur Players (500,00 CHF)	Total	
2012	Fr. 183'000.00	Fr. 83'000.00	Fr. 266'000.00	
	+110.7 %	-73.1 %	+43.2 %	
Year	Professional Players (1500,00 CHF)	Amateur Players (150,00 CHF*)	Total	
2016	Fr. 358'500.00	Fr. 22'350.00	Fr. 380'850.00	

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