



**CROATIAN  
FOOTBALL  
FEDERATION**

HRVATSKI NOGOMETNI SAVEZ



**2017**

**RESULTS | PROJECTS | ACHIEVEMENTS**



**HRVATSKI  
NOGOMETNI  
SAVEZ**  
CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

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# CROATIA



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” The senior national team is just the tip of the football pyramid that includes over 100,000 players - men and women - coaches, officials, referees, medical staff, business partners and sponsors, physiotherapists, kitmen and numerous other employees, tireless in devoting their time and energy in order to be active in football. Croatian Football Federation is obliged to take care of this base in the best possible way. HNS cannot provide financial aid to each and every one of 1600 clubs, but is responsible to keep the football system working, and to develop it further, to the benefit of all participants in our favourite sport, one that significantly helped promote our country throughout the world. ”

**Davor Šuker**  
President of the  
Croatian Football Federation

## Be proud!

Dear friends of football,

we are wrapping up another successful year that will be remembered, above all, by Croatia securing its tenth major tournament berth. However, in 2017 we have accomplished other missions as well, on and off the pitch. Sometimes, we are not even aware of the scope of activities in Croatian football, and therefore this traditional "yearbook" is an excellent reminder of everything our football has experienced during the year.

For the fifth time in history, Croatia reached the FIFA World Cup - a tenth major competition! It is an extraordinary success, one that can leave larger and more affluent national associations envious. These numbers put Croatia shoulder to shoulder with footballing giants worldwide. One can notice that several football and economic powerhouses such as Italy, Netherlands, Chile or United States have not made it to Russia, and immediately become aware what an achievement is to play at the biggest of stages.

Home encounter with Greece in Zagreb is the best 90 minutes of Croatian football this year, confirming how strong we are when we stand together. When the team breathes as one, when the fans support the team, and when we all work in the best interest of Croatian football. The triumph at Maksimir Stadium should be an example, additional motivation to continue working on and off the pitch.

Reaching the final tournaments of major competitions help us meet the strategic HNS objectives. Therefore, it was imperative to reach Russia. Now, we become a part of this spectacle that improves HNS image, guarantees financial resources, increases the value of our players and clubs, and of course, brings joy to all of our supporters. I would like to use this opportunity as well to congratulate the head coach Zlatko Dalić and our internationals for accomplishing this magnificent feat!

Naturally, the senior national team is just the tip of the football pyramid that includes over 100,000 players - men and women - coaches, officials, referees, medical staff, business partners and sponsors, physiotherapists, kitmen and numerous other employees, tireless in devoting their time and energy in order to be active in football. Croatian Football Federation is obliged to take care of this base in the best possible way. HNS cannot provide financial aid to each and every one of 1600 clubs, but is responsible to keep the football system working, and to develop it further, to the benefit of all participants in our favourite sport, one that significantly helped promote our country throughout the world.

In a single publication, it is impossible to mention everybody who deserved it through their effort in football. However, this "yearbook" shows that football does not include merely men and women who play, and that the success of Croatian football is extending beyond the pitch boundaries.

I believe we share similar desires for 2018, starting with a positive result for our national team in Russia. Moreover, we desire a new Sports Act, that will provide a more quality framework for sports financing and infrastructure improvements, hopefully creating the basic prerequisites to build a national football stadium. Looking at the stadiums where we have played, from Ukraine to Turkey and Greece, it is clear that we have fallen behind, leaving Croatia as one of the last countries in Europe where the government has not taken care of the national team. Haven't the Vatreni deserved a proper stadium with their results and significance in promoting our country?

I believe that in the next "yearbook" we will enjoy the story of new First Division pitches, financed by the Croatian Football Federation. I sincerely hope that in the near future we will dedicate a couple of pages to this extremely desired national stadium.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who work hard in clubs, counties, and football centres, as well as in HNS headquarters, for your contribution, effort, energy, knowledge, and desire to participate in all football activities.

Let us keep up the good work in 2018!

Be proud!

**Davor Šuker**

President of the  
Croatian Football Federation

# CROATIA



# NATIONAL TEAM



# CROATIA



## CROATIA IN 2017: UP AND DOWN AND OFF TO WORLD CUP

This year, Croatia national football team has been through some turbulent times, including a managerial change, but ultimately managed to accomplish its mission - secure the FIFA World Cup berth.

First days of 2017 saw Croatia visiting China Cup in Nanning, without its superstars, drawing 1:1 with South American champions Chile and host nation China only to lose in both penalty shootouts. However, Ante Čačić's men, not usually in the spotlight, performed very well, with Franko Andrijašević and Luka Ivanušec finding the net. Ivanušec thus became the youngest Croatia goalscorer in history.

The qualifying path towards Russia

was continued in March at Maksimir Stadium, when Croatia finally enjoyed home fans' support and defeated Shevchenko's sturdy Ukraine 1:0, courtesy of Nikola Kalinić's goal. Four days later, a friendly international was played in Estonia, but alongside a 3:0 loss came a serious injury of Marko Pjaca.

In late May, in its North American premiere, Croatia brought joy to local supporters as the players available at a non-FIFA date overcame a strong Mexican side 2:1. Duje Čop and Fran Tudor were on target.

Later in June, in one of the key European Qualifiers, the Vatreni visited Reykjavik to face Iceland. A tough encounter produced no goals

until the 90th minute, when resourceful Magnusson scored to win all three points for the hosts, complicating the situation in Group I. Ultimately, this moment marked the beginning of a turnaround that witnessed the Northern EURO 2016 sensation booking a direct ticket to Russia.

However, Čačić's selection still had everything in their own hands at the start of September and October deciders, and the first step in the right direction was a difficult win over Kosovo in Zagreb. Unusually, this match was abandoned in the first half due to heavy rain and resumed the next day. In these demanding conditions, it was Domagoj Vida (1:0) who broke the opponents' resistance.





# NATIONAL TEAM



Little over 50 hours later, Croatia had to visit the partisan atmosphere of Eskisehir, Turkey. The Vatreni coped excellently with fatigue and very motivated hosts, even with a major referee's oversight, and created some chances, but it was Tosun on 75 minutes who beat Danijel Subašić and compromised Croatia's plans.

Finland then came to Rijeka, instead of originally scheduled Osijek due to pitch condition, and was left with no other choice but to win. Mario Mandžukić's opener was a significant relief, with Juventus striker reaching No. 2 at Croatia's all-time goalscorers list. That was his 30th goal, while Davor Šuker leads with 45. Nonetheless, in the closing minutes Soiri levelled the score, triggering the termination of Ante Čačić's contract. His replacement, Zlatko Dalić, took the national team towards a

formidable challenge in Kyiv. It was necessary to win at Ukraine in order to reach the play-offs.

Andrej Kramarić assumed the hero-of-the-day role at the NSC Olimpiyskiy, scoring a brace in a 2:0 victory, but the entire team deserved praise for a brave and efficient quality performance in the gravest of moments, especially in the second half. Following the play-off draw, Croatia had to prepare for the familiar face of always inconvenient Greece.

As the qualifying campaign was coming to a close, the stage was set for Croatia's finest hour. Extraordinary performance in the first leg, at the sold-out Maksimir Stadium, crowned a brilliant night in Zagreb. Croatia won 4:1, with captain Luka Modrić and cheeky Nikola Kalinić quickly securing a two-goal lead. Papastathopoulos

halved the deficit, only for Ivan Perišić and Andrej Kramarić to respond with two more goals.

Croatia cold-bloodedly held on to a goalless draw in the return leg at the passionate Karaiskakis Stadium in Piraeus. Ivan Perišić missed the winner by an inch - his excellent drive hit the woodwork, but the entire nation could once again celebrate with its footballers: Croatia will play at its fifth World Cup! In the final days of 2017, the Vatreni can start to prepare for the most prestigious of tournaments, where they will face Messi's Argentina, talented Nigeria, and anew Iceland. The draw does seem tough, but considering the introductory performances of Dalić's Croatia, it could be even tougher for Croatia's rivals...





CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
**FORWARD**  
OF THE SEASON

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
**GOALKEEPER**  
OF THE SEASON

UEFA  
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
**FORWARD**  
OF THE SEASON

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
**DEFENDER**  
OF THE SEASON

# LUKA MODRIĆ

## BEST MIDFIELDER IN THE WORLD

Even though 2016 has already been Luka Modrić's dream year, in 2017 Croatia captain was thoroughly recognized as one of the best footballers worldwide.

The wizard from Zadar has continued to win trophies with Real Madrid, simultaneously earning numerous individual prizes, playing a key role on the international level as he led Croatia towards the FIFA World Cup in Russia.

Through excellent midfield displays, he contributed to winning the Spanish league title - Modrić's first - with Real Madrid ending a five-year drought, followed by a Spanish Supercup title.

Real Madrid managed to defend the Champions League trophy - another historic feat, with Modrić assisting in the impressive final against Juventus - again followed by a second successive European Supercup title.

For the fifth consecutive year, Modrić has won «The Football award» as the best Croatian player, and has once again been included in the Champions League team of the season, this time as the best midfielder of the competition. At the FIFA The Best Award ceremony, Modrić has been included in the World 11, yet Modrić's reputation in the world of football is probably best described through the player of the years selections: UEFA has ranked him fourth, FIFA sixth, while the respectable France Football ranked him fifth as they gave the famous Ballon d'Or. Modrić was trailing only the untouchable trio of Messi, Ronaldo, and Neymar, or Buffon and Ramos, but the overall winner - Portuguese Cristiano Ronaldo - selected Modrić as

the best player in the world, casting his vote.

Besides, Modrić is nominated to defend his place in the UEFA Team of the Year, and in the final days of 2017 he expanded his trophy collection, as Real Madrid managed to defend the FIFA Club World Cup title. Modrić also won the Golden Ball, the award for the most outstanding player of the tournament - one step above the double goalscorer Ronaldo. His status as one of the idols in the powerhouse of Real Madrid has also been confirmed this summer as he took over the mythical No. 10 jersey. Thus, he joined the legends such as Figo, Michael Laudrup, or Clarence Seedorf.

*"Luka Modrić is one of the best midfielders of all time", said the legendary striker and Ukraine manager Andriy Shevchenko without delay. "At Real Madrid, we'll cry when he retires", added Predrag Mijatović.*

A very special moment for Croatia captain was the October World Cup qualifier with Finland, when he celebrated his international jubilee, a 100th national team cap. "My dream was to wear the Croatia jersey at least once. This jubilee is beyond all expectations", said the emotional Modrić, at the same time overjoyed with the birth of his third child.

In Croatia's Club 100, he joined Šimić, Olić, Šimunić, Pletikosa and his previous captain Srna, with the upcoming World Cup setting a great stage for a great players, presenting him with the opportunity to leave even a deeper mark in the national team.



# NATIONAL TEAMS

## CROATIA WINS UEFA REGIONS' CUP, YOUNGSTERS STAY ON COURSE



Besides the Vatreni, other Croatia national teams have also had an eventful and interesting year, one that saw Croatia triumphant in the UEFA Regions' Cup.

In July, Croatia was represented by the selection of Football Centre Zagreb, who won silver medal two years ago. This time, they have returned wearing - gold. In the final match, Croatia faced Republic of Ireland once again. However, it was Adžić strike that decided the outcome (1:0).

The Croatian team has reached the final competing with Portugal, Ukraine and host nation Turkey. *"Ten beautiful days. What is impressive is that we have drawn in the first match, and then won the remaining three games"*, said Croatia manager Tomislav Gričar.

*"I can only praise our camp, our attitude, our performance, and finally, our celebrations on return journey and later in Zagreb. I believe we have 20 more amateur players who deserved to be here. The quality of Croatian amateur football is very high, our leagues are excellent, and winning the domestic qualifiers was probably the most difficult task"*, he added.

In 2017, Croatia U-21 national team has started another qualifying campaign, for the EURO 2019 in Italy and San Marino. Gračan's youngsters are staying well on course, considering convincing wins over Moldova, San Marino and top seeds Czech Republic, as well as brilliant comeback win in added time over Belarus, and a 1:1 draw away at top rivals Greece.

Croatia U-19, led by head coach Milin, was tested in March in the Elite Round in Portugal. A dramatic set of events saw young Croatians finish second, just a step behind the hosts. Later in the year, the new head coach Jarni took the U-19s into the new campaign. The Qualifying Round tournament was held in Rovinj, with Croatia meeting Denmark, Latvia, and San Marino, but the third place was not enough to progress.

This May, Dario Bašić's Croatia U-17 was in football focus due to being the host nation at the European Championships. Long-awaited appearance in front of the home crowd was completed following a narrow loss to Italy (0:1), defeat by Turkey (1:4), and an exciting draw with

future champions Spain (1:1). Afterwards, Petar Krpan was appointed at the helm of U-17s, and in October the efficient national team played Albania, Liechtenstein, and always dangerous Spain to secure first place and progress to the Elite Round.

Croatia women and head coach Miletić have used the spring dates to successfully perform in a couple of friendly internationals. In autumn, they have embarked on a World Cup 2019 qualifying campaign. An excellent draw at Ukraine was recorded despite a red card, a valuable point was also won in Hungary, and the group favourites Sweden and Denmark met a tough resistance when playing Croatia.

Croatia national futsal team secured runner-up position and a play-off spot in the EURO 2018 qualifying tournament in April, facing hosts Ukraine, Belgium, and Montenegro. In September, France won a tense two-legged tie by the narrowest of margins and got the ticket to Slovenia. Furthermore, Croatia won an international friendly tournament in China in October.



# NATIONAL TEAMS

## HEAD COACHES



**ZLATKO DALIĆ**  
National team A



**NENAD GRAČAN**  
U-21



**ROBERT JARNI**  
U-19



**PETAR KRPAN**  
U-17



**MLADEN IVANČIĆ**  
U-15



**BOŽIDAR MILETIĆ**  
WA



**HRVOJE MATIJEVIĆ**  
WU-19



**TIHANA NEMČIĆ**  
WU-17 & WU-15




**MATO STANKOVIĆ**  
Futsal

# NATIONAL TEAMS

## RESULTS IN 2017

126 matches / 47 wins / 33 draws / 46 losses / goal difference 195:173

<b>National team A</b>	15.07. Friendly JPN 1:1 CRO	10.11. Friendly BRA 2:0 CRO	<b>W U-17</b>
11.01. Friendly CHI 1:1 (5:2 P) CRO	17.07. Friendly MEX 2:1 CRO	12.11. Friendly BOL 2:2 CRO	23.08. Friendly BIH 2:1 CRO
14.01. Friendly CHN 1:1 (5:4 P) CRO		14.11. Friendly CRO 1:3 ECU	25.08. Friendly BIH 1:0 CRO
<b>24.03. Qualifiers CRO 1:0 UKR</b>	<b>U-17</b>		<b>16.10. Qualifiers CRO 0:2 RUS</b>
28.03. Friendly EST 3:0 CRO	14.02. Friendly CRO 2:1 ESP	<b>U-14</b>	<b>19.10. Qualifiers SWE 11:0 CRO</b>
27.05. Friendly MEX 1:2 CRO	16.02. Friendly CRO 0:1 ESP	05.06. Friendly CRO 0:1 BIH	<b>22.10. Qualifiers ISR 2:1 CRO</b>
<b>11.06. Qualifiers ISL 1:0 CRO</b>	07.03. Friendly CRO 1:1 UKR	07.06. Friendly CRO 3:1 USA	
<b>03.09. Qualifiers CRO 1:0 KOS</b>	09.03. Friendly CRO 1:1 UKR	08.06. Friendly CRO 1:2 USA	<b>W U-16</b>
<b>05.09. Qualifiers TUR 1:0 CRO</b>		13.06. Friendly MKD 0:1 CRO	12.05. Friendly USA 4:0 CRO
<b>06.10. Qualifiers CRO 1:1 FIN</b>		14.06. Friendly SRB 0:1 CRO	14.05. Friendly SUI 3:0 CRO
<b>09.10. Qualifiers UKR 0:2 CRO</b>		16.06. Friendly MNE 0:1 CRO	16.05. Friendly BEL 1:0 CRO
<b>09.11. Qualifiers CRO 4:1 GRE</b>			
<b>12.11. Qualifiers GRE 0:0 CRO</b>			
			
<b>U-21</b>	<b>03.05. EURO CRO 0:1 ITA</b>	22.01. Friendly MNE 0:1 CRO	<b>W U-15</b>
23.03. Friendly CRO 3:0 SVN	<b>06.05. EURO CRO 1:4 TUR</b>	24.01. Friendly MNE 3:3 CRO	19.06. Friendly BIH 4:1 CRO
<b>31.08. Qualifiers MDA 0:3 CRO</b>	<b>09.05. EURO ESP 1:1 CRO</b>	01.03. Friendly CRO 3:0 HUN	20.06. Friendly CRO 1:1 ALB
04.09. Friendly AUT 1:1 CRO		03.03. Friendly FRA B 0:2 CRO	22.06. Friendly MNE 1:0 CRO
<b>05.10. Qualifiers CRO 2:1 BLR</b>		06.03. Friendly CRO 0:0 BIH	
<b>09.10. Qualifiers CRO 5:1 CZE</b>	29.07. Friendly SVK 0:0 CRO	08.03. Friendly CRO 3:0 SVN	<b>Futsal A</b>
<b>08.11. Qualifiers CRO 5:0 SMR</b>	31.07. Friendly HUN 2:2 CRO	06.04. Friendly CHN 2:0 CRO	09.01. Friendly CZE 1:2 CRO
<b>13.11. Qualifiers GRE 1:1 CRO</b>	02.08. Friendly CZE 1:4 CRO	09.04. Friendly CHN 2:1 CRO	10.01. Friendly CZE 3:7 CRO
	19.09. Friendly CRO 4:2 SVN	06.06. Friendly BIH 2:2 CRO	26.01. Friendly CRO 2:1 ITA
	21.09. Friendly SVN 3:2 CRO	27.07. Friendly CRO 3:0 JOR	27.01. Friendly CRO 4:3 ITA
	<b>19.10. Qualifiers ALB 0:1 CRO</b>	<b>15.09. Qualifiers UKR 1:1 CRO</b>	24.03. Friendly MKD 2:2 CRO
	<b>22.10. Qualifiers CRO 6:0 LIE</b>	<b>19.09. Qualifiers CRO 0:2 SWE</b>	26.03. Friendly MKD 0:3 CRO
	<b>25.10. Qualifiers CRO 1:1 ESP</b>	<b>19.10. Qualifiers HUN 2:2 CRO</b>	03.04. Friendly CRO 4:2 IRN
		<b>24.10. Qualifiers CRO 0:4 DEN</b>	04.04. Friendly CRO 1:1 IRN
	<b>U-16</b>		<b>08.04. Qualifiers CRO 4:0 MNE</b>
	27.02. Friendly SCO 1:0 CRO	<b>W U-19</b>	<b>09.04. Qualifiers BEL 1:6 CRO</b>
	01.03. Friendly AUT 2:1 CRO	15.09. Friendly CRO 0:1 SCO	<b>11.04. Qualifiers CRO 1:2 UKR</b>
	03.03. Friendly ISL 0:0 CRO	17.09. Friendly CRO 2:2 SCO	<b>12.09. Qualifiers FRA 1:1 CRO</b>
		<b>17.10. Qualifiers CRO 0:4 AUT</b>	<b>26.09. Qualifiers CRO 4:5 FRA</b>
	<b>U-15</b>	<b>20.10. Qualifiers BEL 7:0 CRO</b>	20.10. Friendly CRO 3:1 VIE
	24.04. Friendly AUT 2:0 CRO	<b>23.10. Qualifiers MKD 0:1 CRO</b>	21.10. Friendly NED 0:0 CRO
	26.04. Friendly MEX 1:0 CRO		22.10. Friendly CHN 0:3 CRO
	27.04. Friendly MAS 0:1 CRO	<b>W U-18</b>	
	29.04. Friendly ITA 2:0 CRO	24.05. Friendly MNE 1:1 CRO	<b>Futsal U-25</b>
	01.05. Friendly AUT 1:1 CRO	25.05. Friendly CRO 2:0 MDA	08.04. Friendly CRO 0:1 TKM
	06.11. Friendly CRO 0:3 PER	27.05. Friendly BUL 1:2 CRO	09.04. Friendly JPN 1:3 CRO
	08.11. Friendly VEN 2:1 CRO	30.05. Friendly CRO 2:0 ROM	11.04. Friendly CRO 7:0 Jeonju (KOR)



# COMPETITIONS

## RIJEKA'S HISTORIC SEASON, COMMENDABLE EUROPEAN PERFORMANCE

Domestic 2016/2017 season will be remembered by Rijeka celebrating the league title, the first in Croatian history. Under the leadership of Slovenian coach Matjaž Kek, Rijeka won on 27 occasions, alongside seven draws and two defeats late in the season - enough to top defending champions Dinamo by two points and to end their trophy streak.

### LEAGUE/CUP 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Croatian domestic competitions, First Division and Croatian Cup, have celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. Since 1992, Dinamo has won 18 league titles, Hajduk six, while Zagreb and Rijeka won one each. Cup trophy was lifted by Dinamo (14), Hajduk (6), Rijeka (4), Osijek (1), and Inter (1).

Bottom-placed RNK Split was relegated, while the ninth-placed Cibalia managed to avoid relegation through play-off matches against Gorica. Second Division champions Rudeš secured their debut promotion and joined the top tier.

Rijeka's cherry on top was the Croatian Cup success, including the victory in the Varaždin final over

Dinamo. The Kvarner side won 3:1, and then embarked on the Champions League adventure.

In the qualifying rounds, Rijeka overcame The New Saints of Wales, followed by away goals triumph against Austrian champions RB Salzburg. Greek champions Olympiakos were too high an obstacle on the road towards group stage, but Rijeka continued in the Europa League. Finishing third, behind AC Milan and AEK Athens, and ahead of Austria Vienna, the farewell home victory over Italian giants was a special day for Croatian champions.

Dinamo Zagreb successfully took on Norway representatives Odd in the Europa League third qualifying round, only to be knocked out by Albanian side Skenderbeu. Hajduk Split eliminated Levski Sofia of Bulgaria and Brøndby of Denmark, with the English powerhouse Everton ending their group stage hopes. The impressive run of Osijek included UE Santa Coloma of Andorra, Luzern of Switzerland, and famous Dutch PSV, while Austria Vienna clash proved costly.

Four Croatian clubs in the play-off round of UEFA competitions were an exciting achievement, said Croatian Football Federation president Davor Šuker:

*"This is a brilliant outcome, a result to remember! We really have to be proud of this success. Everybody deserves praise, from the players to the club management - well done to everyone who gave a contribution. We have witnessed Croatians' love of football, and how much their club's success means to them. Moreover, this was a confirmation of the Croatian clubs' quality".*

In the Croatian Women's First Division, ŽNK Osijek continued the magnificent streak with 11th consecutive title, 21st in total, recording all 18 wins and unbelievable goal-difference of 157:2, leaving Agram at second and Split at third place. Mateja Andrić was the top goalscorer with 39 goals. ŽNK Osijek won the double in the Cup final against Trnava Goričan, and won second place in the Women's Champions League qualifying group in August, below Stjarnan of Iceland.

Nacional Zagreb won the domestic futsal double, and repeated European success in autumn, reaching the UEFA Futsal Cup Elite Round, a place among the best 16 continental teams. Nacional performed excellently once again, including a victory over former European champions, Dina Moskva.



# COMPETITIONS

## UEFA RANKING FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS

- 1 Spain
- 2 England
- 3 Italy
- 4 Germany
- 5 France
- 6 Russia
- 7 Portugal
- 8 Ukraine
- 9 Belgium
- 10 Turkey
- 11 Austria
- 12 Netherlands
- 13 Czech Republic
- 14 Switzerland
- 15 Greece
- 16 CROATIA**
- 17 Denmark
- 18 Israel
- 19 Cyprus
- 20 Poland
- 21 Romania
- 22 Sweden
- 23 Azerbaijan
- 24 Bulgaria
- 25 Belarus
- 26 Serbia
- 27 Scotland
- 28 Kazakhstan
- 29 Norway
- 30 Slovenia
- 31 Liechtenstein
- 32 Slovakia
- 33 Moldova
- 34 Albania
- 35 Iceland
- 36 Hungary
- 37 FYR Macedonia
- 38 Finland
- 39 Republic of Ireland
- 40 Bosnia & Herzegovina
- 41 Latvia
- 42 Estonia
- 43 Lithuania
- 44 Montenegro
- 45 Georgia
- 46 Armenia
- 47 Malta
- 48 Luxembourg
- 49 Northern Ireland
- 50 Wales
- 51 Faroe Islands
- 52 Gibraltar
- 53 Andorra
- 54 San Marino
- 55 Kosovo

## HNS COMPETITIONS WINNERS

MEN		WOMEN	
HT 1st Division	<b>Rijeka</b>	1. HNLŽ	<b>Osijek</b>
II. HNL	<b>Rudeš Zagreb</b>	2. HNLŽ North	<b>Podravske Sesvete</b>
III. HNL West	<b>Vinogradar Mladina</b>	2. HNLŽ Center-West	<b>Dinamo Zagreb</b>
III. HNL East	<b>Međimurje Čakovec</b>	2. HNLŽ South	<b>Omla Dubrovnik</b>
III. HNL South	<b>Hajduk II Split</b>	Croatian Cup	<b>Osijek</b>
I. HNL U-19	<b>Lokomotiva Zagreb</b>	1. HNLŽ Indoor	<b>MC Plus</b>
I. HNL U-17	<b>Dinamo Zagreb</b>	HNLŽ - U-17	<b>Osijek</b>
I. HNL U-15	<b>Dinamo Zagreb</b>	HNLŽ Center - U-15	<b>Agram Zagreb</b>
		HNLŽ South - U-15	<b>Marjan Split</b>
		HNLŽ East - U-15	<b>Osijek</b>
Croatian Cup	<b>Rijeka</b>	FUTSAL	
U-19 Cup	<b>Hajduk Split</b>	I. HMNL	<b>Nacional Zagreb</b>
U-17 Cup	<b>Dinamo Zagreb</b>	II. HMNL	<b>Crnica Šibenik</b>
U-15 Cup	<b>Hajduk Split</b>	Futsal Cup	<b>Nacional Zagreb</b>
VETERANS		HMNL U-19	<b>Split Tommy</b>
Outdoor	<b>Autoklub Siget-HD Zagreb</b>	HMNL U-17	<b>Split Tommy</b>
Indoor	<b>Autocesta RI-ZG</b>		



ŽNK Osijek

### CROATIAN CLUBS IN EUROPEAN CUPS 2017./2018.

<b>Champions League</b>	<b>Rijeka</b>	<b>Europa League</b>	<b>Osijek</b>
2nd round: The New Saints (WAL)	2:0, 5:1	1st round: UE Santa Coloma (AND)	2:0, 4:0
3rd round: Red Bull Salzburg (AUT)	1:1, 0:0	2nd round: Luzern (SUI)	2:0, 1:2
Play-off: Olympiakos (GRE)	1:2, 0:1	3rd round: PSV Eindhoven (NED)	1:0, 1:0
<b>Europa League</b>	<b>Rijeka</b>	Play-off: Austria Beč (AUT)	1:2, 1:0
Group D - 3rd place:		<b>Youth League</b>	<b>Lokomotiva Zagreb</b>
AEK (GRE)	1:2, 2:2	1st round: Dinamo București (ROM)	2:0, 2:2
Milan (ITA)	2:3, 2:0	2nd round: Željezničar (BIH)	1:1, 0:0
Austria Beč (AUT)	3:1, 1:4	<b>Women's Champions League</b>	<b>Osijek</b>
<b>Europa League</b>	<b>Dinamo Zagreb</b>	Group - 2nd place: Stjarnan (ISL) 0:1;	
3rd round: Odds Ballklubb (NOR)	2:1, 0:0	KÍ Klaksvík (FRO) 4:0; Istatov (MKD) 7:0	
Play-off: Skenderbeu (ALB)	1:1, 0:0	<b>Futsal Cup</b>	<b>Nacional Zagreb</b>
<b>Europa League</b>	<b>Hajduk Split</b>	Main round, Group - 1st place:	
2nd round: Levski Sofija (BUL)	1:0, 2:1	Leo (ARM) 4:1; Liburni (KOS) 8:4; Garges	
3rd round: Brøndby (DEN)	0:0, 2:0	Djibson (FRA) 6:1	
Play-off: Everton (ENG)	0:2, 1:1	Elite round, Group - 3rd place:	
		Dina Moskva (RUS) 3:2; Sporting CP (POR) 1:3;	
		Halle-Gooik (BEL) 1:3	



# UEFA U-17 EURO

## FANTASTIC U-17 EURO: HNS MEETS BIGGEST ORGANIZATIONAL CHALLENGE

From 3 to 19 May 2017, Croatia hosted the U-17 European Championships, the biggest event Croatian Football Federation has organized since gaining independence.

*"Over 43,000 spectators, exciting matches, great atmosphere in the stands and very good organization - it was a tournament highly rated among all the participants. It was an immense pleasure for UEFA to organize this tournament in cooperation with Croatian Football Federation",* summarized UEFA general secretary Theodore Theodoridis following this fantastic event.

The best European youngsters have competed in Rijeka, Kostrena, Lučko, Velika Gorica, Sesvete, Zaprešić, and Varaždin, with HNS investing heavily in the renovation of the Varaždin Stadium, the venue for the final match.

In Varaždin, Spain celebrated winning the trophy after beating England on penalties following the interesting, tense 2:2 draw. Croatia U-17 team competed in Group A, losing by a single goal to Italy (0:1) and Turkey (1:4), then earning a point against the future champions (1:1) through a

spectacular Čolina goal.

Amine Gouri from France became the top goalscorer, and England, Turkey, Germany, and France - alongside champions Spain - secured FIFA U-17 World Cup berth. Later in India, interestingly, England met Spain in the final match once again, but turned the tide and claimed the title.

Throughout the tournament, Croatian Football Federation has been promoting fans' positive values among the young supporters. Their idols, Croatia's Vatreni, have supported the entire project.

Scenes from Croatia have been broadcasted all over Europe - and the world - via Eurosport and Croatian Football Television. Over 200 media applications have been received before the tournament.

*"I am proud that Croatia had the chance to host this European Championships. It was a wonderful experience. Croatia is my country, our country, and it was beautiful to prove we can accomplish such a mission, and make everybody happy",* concluded EURO U-17 football ambassador, Niko Kranjčar.





# CROATIA 2017



# INFRASTRUCTURE

## THREE STADIUM EXAMPLES: CROATIA EXPERIENCES ESKIŞEHİR, KYIV, AND PIRAEUS

During 2017, the Vatreni have visited three beautiful stadiums, presented in detail in HNS website series "Introducing European stadiums".

In the beginning of September, Croatia was playing a tough away qualifier against Turkey at Yeni Atatürk in Eskişehir, a new stadium for 35,000 people, built in accordance with a major Turkish government project, under the supervision of Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The Turkish government invested 140 million lira (34 million euros) in Eskişehir stadium, that has been completed in October 2016. The minister Akif Çagatay Kılıç highlighted the state's appreciation of the national sport:

*"Investing 750 million euros in 26 world-class stadiums will change the entire sports scene. The new stadiums present efficient, long-term solutions that will open the door for thousands of supporters and create a sporting atmosphere, and include whole families*

*and their friends. Together, we will develop football in Turkey. We build stadiums faster than other countries, and with less resources".*

Only a month later, Croatia secured World Cup play-offs berth with a memorable win over Ukraine in Kyiv, at the magnificent Olympic Stadium that was renovated for the EURO 2012.

The Ukrainian government funded the project costing 450 million euros, and Kyiv is now proud of the second largest stadium in Eastern Europe, trailing only Moscow's Luzhniki. The new Olimpiyskiy NSC was opened in October 2011.

The roof was built in full, covering every seating position, and alongside other construction works, the stadium retained the possibility of hosting both football and athletics competitions. A five-star hotel was opened beside the stadium, and Kyiv was also chosen for the elite Champions League final in 2018.

Finally, Croatia celebrated its FIFA World Cup ticket at Georgios Karaiskakis Stadium in Piraeus, that was built from scratch in 2003. The passionate Olympiakos supporters, not without reason, call it their temple.

As the owners, Hellenic Olympic Committee has enabled Olympiakos to use the stadium until 2052, through a contract passed in Greek parliament. Olympiakos has immediately invested 20 million euros, a third of the total cost (60 million euros). The remaining funds have been obtained through loans, and additional two million euros have been added in the closing stages. Moreover, Olympiakos is obliged to pay 15 percent of the stadium earnings to the state.

The New Karaiskakis has been built in just 428 days, in time for the Olympic Games in Athens, with the capacity of 32,115. UEFA has included it among 28 European five-star stadiums, and it can host the Europa League final.



Eskişehir Yeni Atatürk Stadyumu, Eskişehir, Turkey



# INFRASTRUCTURE

Olimpiyskiy National Sports Complex, Kyiv, Ukraine



Stadium Karaiskakis, Piraeus, Greece



# PROJECTS AND

## STADIUM IN GUNJA BUILT, PITCH RENOVATION PROJECT STARTS

After four football grounds in Eastern Slavonia villages were renovated in 2016, small stadium in Gunja was finished in 2017.

Luka Šokčević Šaljapin stadium is the first stadium in Croatia built by Croatian Football Federation, thanks to FIFA and UEFA funds that were secured by HNS after the catastrophic floods hit Eastern Slavonia in 2014.

Stadium in Gunja will be a perfect model for other small stadiums in the country thanks to its great architectural solutions which will make the stadium the central place of population gathering in Gunja. Architects took care of many different details in order to fit the stadium in its surroundings, even using the bricks from the flooded houses as a reminder for the natural disaster that hit the region in 2014.

Stadium in Gunja is just the beginning of HNS investment in football infrastructure. HNS Executive Committee made a decision to start with a project of pitch renovation at First Division stadiums.

HNS officials held a meeting with representatives from city

municipalities and First Division clubs in order to present them with a project whose goal is to decrease the number of injuries, prolong the summer break and shorten the winter break, adjust the competition calendar to most European leagues, provide footballers with better playing conditions and giving fans and TV viewers a better "product".

HNS hopes to finish with this project

before the start of a new club season 2018/19. Croatian Football Federation will donate 3,500,000 kunas from UEFA hat-trick programme to each club in order to build a new pitch with hybrid grass, install a new drainage and heating system, and finance the first year of maintenance. Clubs are expected to finance project documentation, while cities are expected to fund site-development work before the project.



## CHANGES TO HNS STATUTES

Croatian Football Federation held two meetings of the General Assembly. During the meeting in March, Assembly members accepted financial statements and yearly report for 2016, while traditional "Trofej podmlatka" awards were given to Željko Huber and Stanislav Vugrinec.

In June, Croatian Football Federation aligned its Statutes with the position of Central State Office for Sport. In addition to County Football Associations representatives, General

Assembly will consist of the representatives from the First Division clubs, Second Division clubs, Third Division clubs, amateur clubs below 3rd Division, players' association, coaches' association and women's football.

*"Today we aligned our Statutes with the position of Central State Office for Sport because Croatian Football Federation always respects state institutions. However, we will also always fight for football and sports in*

*general, which includes legal solutions that help develop sport. Just like the rest of the Croatian sports family, HNS calls for the new and wide-ranging Sports Act that would be in the interest of all clubs, athletes, national associations and sports enthusiasts",* said HNS president Davor Šuker, while adding:

*"We will continue to fight for a better infrastructure, for better financing of sport and against every unlawful fan behaviour."*



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## CROATIA FACES ARGENTINA, ICELAND AND NIGERIA



Moscow hosted the 2018 FIFA World Cup Final Draw, revealing Croatia's opponents for the next summer. Croatia was drawn from Pot 2, into the Group D, alongside top-seed Argentina, Iceland, and Nigeria.

Croatia is to open its fifth World Cup appearance against Nigeria in Kaliningrad (16 June, 21:00 CET), then faces Argentina in Nizhny Novgorod

(21 June, 20:00 CET), and completes the group stage with Iceland in Rostov-on-Don (26 June, 20:00 CET).

Croatia head coach Zlatko Dalić offered his short analysis of the draw:

*"It is an immense pleasure and honour just to be among the 32 best teams in the world, but Croatia deserves this. We have nothing to lose*

*against Messi's Argentina, since they are one of the top teams and favourites to win the World Cup, and facing the best player in the world is a great challenge. Nigeria is young and strong, led by a German coach and undefeated in qualifiers. On the other hand, we know Iceland very well, and now we have the opportunity to respond regarding the recent Reykjavik defeat."*

Big challenge awaits Croatia, said HNS president Davor Šuker:

*"This is probably the toughest group at the World Cup, all teams are very much respectable. Moreover, what can we say about facing Lionel Messi, who can make a deciding move in any match. Nigeria remain a bit unknown, but for sure they have quality, considering their qualifying record. With Iceland we have certain qualifying experience and after the defeat in Reykjavik, maybe it's not bad to be drawn against them again."*

## CROATIA IN UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE TOP TIER

UEFA's new national team competition - Nations League - will start in September 2018, with Croatia among the elite teams in League A.

The UEFA Nations League is a new competition that aims to ensure the continued success of national team football by replacing most friendlies with competitive matches and by allowing all nations to play against equally ranked teams.

The first edition of Nations League, with all 55 UEFA associations participating, will be played from September to November 2018, following the World Cup in Russia. Croatia will compete in the top tier, League A, courtesy of UEFA coefficient upon the completion of European Qualifiers group stage.

Alongside Croatia, the League A consists of 11 remaining best European national teams: Germany,



Portugal, Belgium, Spain, France, England, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, Iceland and Netherlands. These teams will be drawn in four groups, on 24 January 2018.

The group winners will reach the Final Four tournament, to be played in

June 2019 and to determine the first Nations League champion, while the four third-placed teams will be relegated to League B. Likewise, last-placed teams in Leagues B and C will be relegated, while group winners in Leagues B, C and D will be promoted.



# PROJECTS AND

## UEFA PRESIDENT ALEKSANDER ČEFERIN VISITS CROATIA

European Football Federation president Aleksander Čeferin has visited Zagreb in the final days of 2016, as the guest of Croatian Football Federation.

Čeferin, who became UEFA president in autumn 2016, arrived to Croatia upon the invitation of HNS president and UEFA Executive Committee member, Davor Šuker.

UEFA president used the opportunity to visit Croatian Football Federation headquarters and later held a joint press-conference with president Šuker.

*"I am glad that one of my first official visits is to our dear neighbours of Croatia. Croatia is a football phenomenon, a miracle on the field of play", Čeferin emphasized.*



During his visit to Zagreb, the UEFA president was received by Croatian president Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović and prime minister Andrej Plenković, alongside state secretary for sport, Janica Kostelić.

Čeferin was also greeted by HNS executive director Damir Vrbanić and HNS vicepresidents Đuro Bukvić, Ante Kulušić, and Ante Vučemilović-Šimunović.

## JARNI TAKES OVER CROATIA U-19, KRPAN ASSUMES U-17 ROLE



Former Croatia internationals Robert Jarni and Petar Krpan embarked in June 2017 on their Croatia U-19 and Croatia U-17 campaigns.

Following the departure of Ferdo Milin to United Arab Emirates, Croatian Football Federation has appointed Robert Jarni as the new Croatia U-19 head coach.

Jarni is the member of the legendary Croatia generation that won bronze medal at the 1998 FIFA

World Cup in France, and his playing career included the likes of Hajduk Split, Torino, Juventus, Betis and Real Madrid - where he played alongside current HNS president Davor Šuker.

*"I am happy to have this opportunity to lead Croatia U-19 national team, since I have noticed many talented players here. This is an honour, and I seek notable success", said Jarni.*

Petar Krpan succeeds Dario Bašić at the Croatia U-17 helm, following the European Championships U-17 final



tournament in Croatia.

Among others, Krpan played for Osijek, Zagreb, Hajduk, and Rijeka in his homeland, and Sporting Lisbon, Uniao Leiria, and Jiangsu Sainty abroad. He was capped three times, and also won the '98 bronze, playing against Romania in the round of 16.

*"Of course, I am overjoyed. It is a great honour for any coach to take over any national team", said Krpan.*



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## USEFUL EXPERIENCE, NICE MEMORY, IVANUŠEC INTO HISTORY

In early January, Croatia national football team visited Nanning without superstars to play at the China Cup, facing South American champions Chile and host nation China. On both occasions, penalty shootout was needed to determine the winner.

In the semifinals, Chile took the lead through Pinares, with Franko Andrijašević scoring for Croatia on 77 minutes. Chilean goalkeeper Toselli later saved two Croatian penalties.

Third-place match brought success to China, with Luka Ivanušec breaking the deadlock, while Jingbin equalized (1:1) in the closing minutes. The woodwork and Chinese goalkeeper Xiaotian proved costly for Croatia penalty takers.

Ivanušec secured his place in his history books as the youngest ever Croatia's goalscorer. With 18 years



and less than two months, the Lokomotiva Zagreb midfielder did not hide his enthusiasm: "The feeling was difficult to describe. I am overjoyed".

Croatia head coach in Nanning, Ante Čačić, was very happy with the

approach of his players: "Everyone did their best in both matches, trying to be a part of the team. They have performed well, and I regret only the fact they were not rewarded with a win. However, this will be a nice memory and a useful experience for all".

## MEMORABLE CROATIA'S PREMIERE IN NORTH AMERICA



In late May, Croatia national football team has overcome Mexico 2:1 in a Los Angeles friendly international, turning one historic moment into a memorable success.

The first Croatia's match on North American soil after gaining independence was hosted by Memorial Coliseum, and Croatia

internationals marked the occasion with quality performance, investing maximum effort in the victory.

Hajduk Split right back Fran Tudor was selected as the MVP. On 36 minutes, he assisted captain Duje Čop for the opener, and only a minute later Tudor punished Mexico's defensive mistake to make it 2:0. Following the

Mile Škorić's red card, Mexico managed to reduce the gap in the closing minutes through Chicharito Hernandez.

In Los Angeles, Croatia enjoyed strong support from the stands, despite the majority of Mexico fans. Numerous Croatians in North America have seized this rare opportunity to cheer the national team, arriving to Memorial Coliseum from many different cities in USA and Canada.

"I am extremely proud of this match, since we have made a great number of Croatians very happy. I don't know how many people have told me during the previous days that this national team's visit means a world to them. It was beautiful to see players and fans celebrating together after the match. To our fans abroad, the national team is one of the strongest links with the homeland. Therefore, there was a lot of emotions in the stadium", said HNS president Davor Šuker.



#beproud







SKOPLJE

VIERNI  
MUGSBERG



JEK VJERNI



# PROJECTS AND

## DAVOR ŠUKER AND IVANČICA SUDAC IN FIFA COMMITTEES

In accordance with the reform package approved by the Extraordinary FIFA Congress in February 2016, the number of standing FIFA committees has been reduced from 26 to 9.

HNS president and UEFA Executive Committee member, Davor Šuker, has been appointed to Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions, led by UEFA president Aleksander Čeferin. All standing committee members have a term of office of four years and have passed a compulsory eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee.

During the first committee meeting, HNS president Davor Šuker was given an appropriate pin by FIFA president Gianni Infantino and UEFA president Aleksander Čeferin.



After a proposal by UEFA, HNS's Ivančica Sudac was appointed as a European representative in the Audit and Compliance Committee.

*"I would like to thank UEFA management, Croatian Football Federation, president Davor Šuker and former presidents, executive director*

*Damir Vrbanović and former general secretaries, my colleagues and coworkers at HNS and other colleagues in European and Croatian football family for their cooperation and support which enabled my professional development, thus making it possible for me to be elected to this body", said Ivančica Sudac after her election.*

## CROATIAN REPRESENTATIVES PROMOTED IN UEFA ORGANS AND BODIES

Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) confirmed the composition of its organs and bodies for the mandate 2015 - 2019.

Head of HNS International Affairs and Licensing department, Ivančica Sudac, was promoted to the position of the first Vice-Chairwoman of the Club Licensing Committee.

Boris Durlen was promoted to the position of the 3rd Vice-Chairman of the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee, while national team doctor Zoran Bahtijarević was named as the 3rd Vice-Chairman of the Medical Committee.

HNS president Davor Šuker is the UEFA Executive Committee member, president of the Football Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Marketing Advisory Committee.

Following officials remained at their positions: HNS executive director



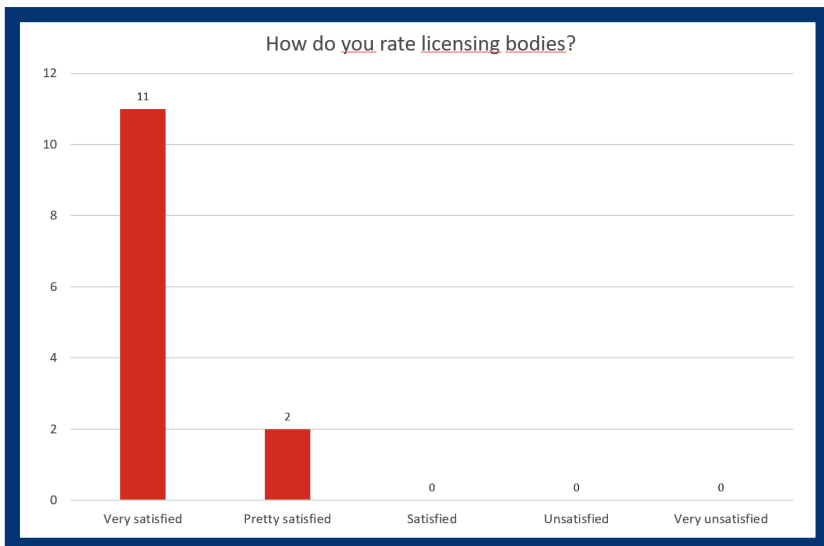
Damir Vrbanović (National Team Competitions Committee), Zoran Cvrk (Stadium and Security Committee), Vladimir Iveta (Legal Committee), Ante Vučemilović-Šimunović (Administrative Experts Panel),

Miljenko Sakoman (Stadium Construction and Management Panel), dr. Zoran Bahtijarević (Anti-doping panel) and dr. Romeo Jozak (Development and Technical Assistance Committee).

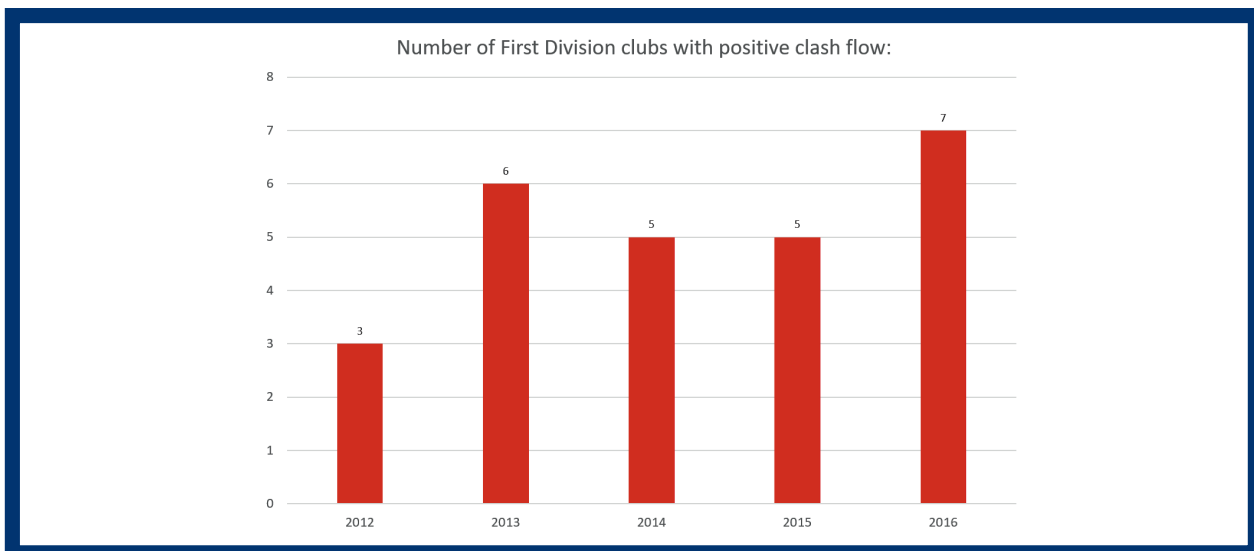


# ACHIEVEMENTS

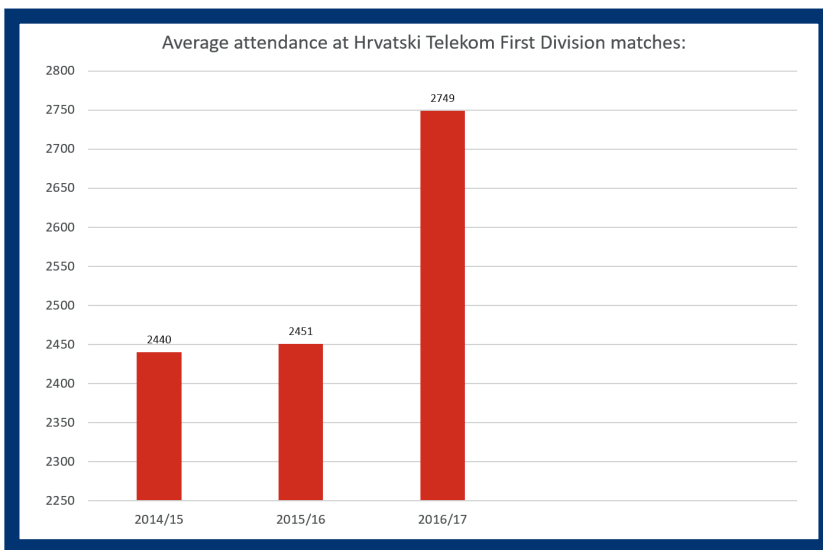
## CLUB LICENSING SYSTEM



**37**  
 granted licenses  
 for 2017/18



**397**  
 check-lists for  
 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division



# PROJECTS AND

CROATIAN FOOTBALL TELEVISION (HNTV) IN 2017

**164**

national teams  
and club matches  
broadcasted live

More than

**4000**

hours of programme

More than

**20**

million

minutes of content  
watched on  
YouTube channel

More than

**1500**

matches broadcasted  
on tape-delay

**HNTV**



HRVATSKA NOGOMETNA TELEVIZIJA

More than

**200**

special shows  
and features

**37**

HT First Division  
matches  
broadcasted live

**32**

Second Division  
matches  
broadcasted live

**10**

1. Futsal League  
matches  
broadcasted live

**30**

features about  
football schools

**7**

Europa League  
matches of  
NK Osijek  
broadcasted live



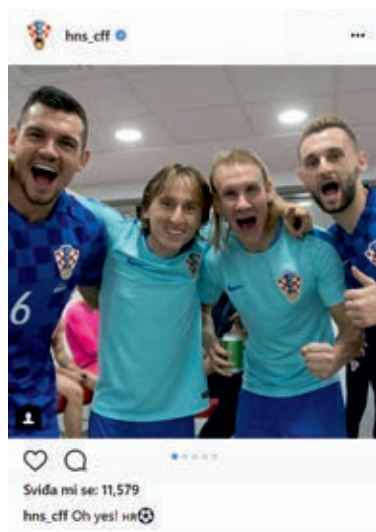
# ACHIEVEMENTS

## HNS REMAINS ONE OF THE LEADING DIGITAL MEMBERS OF THE UEFA

Comparison: Number of followers on social media channels of Croatian Football Federation, national associations from the region and associations of similar size in population.



Football Association	Population (milions)	f	Twitter	Instagram	Total
Croatia	4.2	489,444	132,156	137,983	759,583
Ireland	4.8	301,964	219,885	91,882	613,731
Greece	10.8	514,804	60,964	/	575,768
Sweden	9.9	250,831	/	108,159	358,990
Switzerland	8.4	167,330	119,998	63,546	350,874
Austria	8.8	249,088	40,863	60,713	350,664



Denmark	5.7	181,870	34,511	97,384	313,765
Romania	19.7	259,669	11,993	30,927	302,589
Czech Republic	10.6	173,257	49,888	23,292	246,437
Serbia	7.1	171,097	20,382	26,802	218,281
Hungary	9.8	136,848	21,938	32,554	191,340
Ukraine	45.0	110,552	8,832	48,421	167,805



Bulgaria	7.1	151,043	149	3,826	155,018
Slovenia	2.1	91,115	17,687	7,351	116,153
B&H	3.5	24,434	82,623	/	107,057
Slovakia	5.4	62,121	6,242	16,315	84,678



# A YEAR IN PICTURES



During FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia, Croatian team base camp will be Woodland Rhapsody Resort, located near Saint Petersburg. Team will train at a newly built stadium Roshchino Arena.

Croatian Football Federation and its president Davor Šuker were rewarded by Croatian Fair Play Committee for their contribution in promoting fair play in Croatia.



2017 marked a 70th anniversary of the first U-19 championship in Croatia. Mladost Zagreb won the title in 1947, while Lokomotiva Zagreb celebrated the championship in 2017, thus getting a chance to represent Croatia in UEFA Youth League.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES

Zlatko Dalić took over Croatia national team in October 2017 and he chose former Croatia international Ivica Olić to be a member of his technical staff.



Croatian Football Federation published a book "Old place, new fire", consisting of 13 most interesting stories and behind-the-scenes photos from Croatian appearance at the UEFA EURO 2016.

Ahead of European Qualifiers play-offs for the World Cup, HNS rewarded 11 most faithful supporters with personalized Croatian team shirts and tickets for the match against Greece.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES

Vedran Ćorluka was given a "Fiery Wings" award by the Fan Club "Uvijek vjerni" for the player of the year 2016, while Ante Ćorić was named as "Hope of the year".



Croatia national team captain Luka Modrić received gifts from UEFA and HNS before his 100th match for Vatreni.

Croatian Football Federation invested substantial financial resources in renovation of Varaždin stadium which hosted U-17 European Championship final and Croatian Cup final in May 2017.





# A YEAR IN PICTURES

Around 60 First and Second Division doctors and physios attended annual HNS Medical Symposium, an important part of education for medical staff in football.



Third annual HNS Conference on Safety and Security at Football Matches was held in Sv. Martin na Muri, gathering 40 security experts from different fields and institutions.

Croatian Football Federation and Zagrebačka pivovara agreed on a new sponsorship contract, thus continuing 19-year-old partnership.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES



On behalf of UEFA Foundation for Children, HNS president Davor Šuker has delivered the EUR 50,000 cheque to Croatia's World Roma Organization president Toti Dedić, for numerous activities organized for boys and girls of Croatia's national minorities.

Karlovac and Osijek hosted new National Minorities Football Camps, with few hundred boys and girls of national minorities participating in different football exercises.



HNS celebrated FARE Action Weeks during 12th round of Hrvatski Telekom First Division, with Croatia national team players giving their support to the fight against racism and discrimination as well.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES



Croatian Football Federation and national team players gave their support in promoting World Heart Day, raising awareness about cardiovascular diseases and educating people about the benefits of active and healthy lifestyle.

During the match against Greece, Croatian Football Federation enabled blind and visually impaired supporters to follow the national team match through audio description for the first time. This was another important step towards total inclusion in football - the objective of UEFA #EqualGame campaign.



Croatian Football Federation produced a special video to say thanks to all the volunteers who were involved in match organisation during the qualifying cycle for the FIFA World Cup.



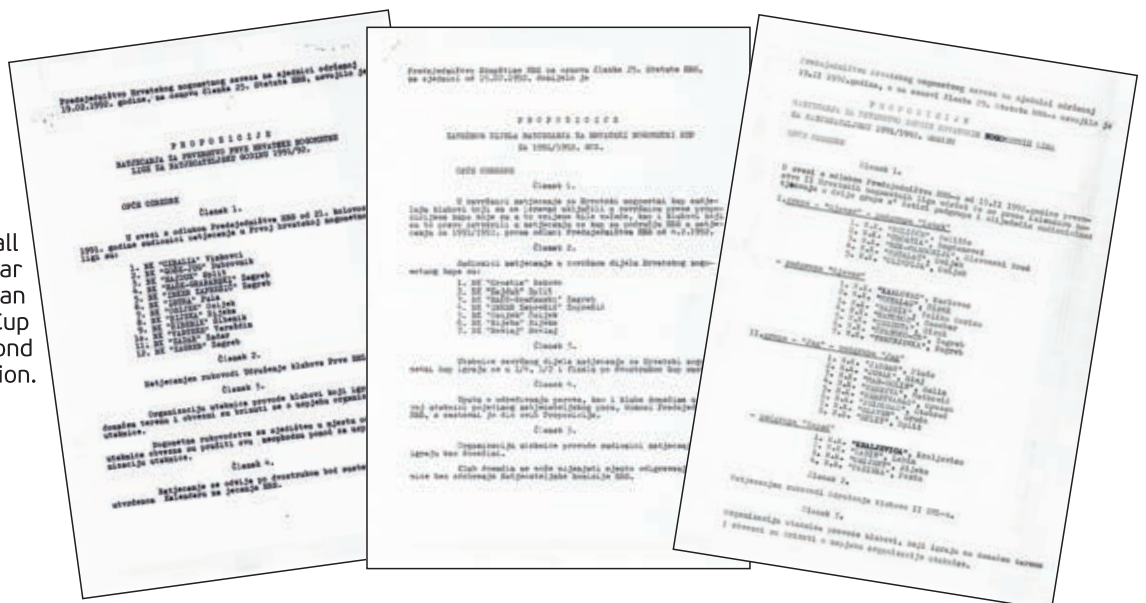
# A YEAR IN PICTURES

HNS organised the 5th European competition for Croatian national minorities, with Serbia defeating Hungary in the final match.



Autoklub Siget-HD Zagreb won the title at 18th Veteran's Championship, while Autocesta Ri-Zg won the 15th Indoor Veteran's Championship.

In 2017, Croatian Football Federation marked 25-year anniversary of Croatian First Division, Croatian Cup and Croatian Second Division.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES

Archrivals Dinamo and Hajduk played against each other in all three Cup finals for youth categories. Hajduk won U-19 and U-15 finals, while Dinamo won the U-17 final match.



Croatian U-15 team had a great experience of playing at South American U-16 championships, as one of the two teams invited from Europe.

Dinamo Zagreb's U-14 team won 2017 edition of Nike Premier Cup, thus becoming unofficial European champions for the second time in club history.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES



Former HNS and NK Osijek president Željko Huber and long-time Region North technical instructor Stanislav Vugrinec were presented with "Trofej podmlatka", highest award given by the Federation.



Dinamo Zagreb U-14 team won the 15th edition of the annual tournament in Vukovar. Vukovar's Veterans Memorial is one of the many youth tournaments supported by HNS, such as Kvarnerska rivijera, Mladen Ramljak, Branko Čavlović - Čavlek and others.



Croatian Football Federation organised traditional winter and summer football camps for boys and girls, while also continuing with the project of national development camps across the country.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES



In 2017, GNK Dinamo Zagreb celebrated 50 years since winning Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, recognised as the predecessor to the UEFA Cup, which is the only European trophy won by a Croatian club.

NK Osijek celebrated its 70th "birthday" at a ceremony held in Croatian National Theater in Osijek, with many former great players and coaches in attendance, including HNS president Davor Šuker who started his playing career in his hometown of Osijek. Šuker also praised current ownership and management for the great success in a short period of running the club.



NK Slaven celebrated 110th anniversary with a friendly match between veterans of Croatia national team and Slaven team that won the promotion to the First Division 20 years ago, for the first time in club history.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES



Saša Tomić



Sanja Rođak-Karšić



Lada Rojc

Croatian referees took part in two UEFA finals this year. Saša Tomić was chosen for the UEFA Futsal Cup final in Kazakhstan, while Sanja Rođak-Karšić was an assistant referee at the UEFA Women's EURO final in Netherlands. Lada Rojc was named as a FIFA instructor, becoming one of just 14 European instructors for male and female referees.

## HNS INTERNATIONAL REFEREES LIST

### REFEREES

Ivan BEBEK  
Fran JOVIĆ  
Mario ZEBEC  
Tihomir PEJIN  
Duje STRUKAN  
Igor PAJAČ

### ASSISTANT REFEREES

Tomislav PETROVIĆ  
Miro GRGIĆ  
Ivica MODRIĆ  
Igor KRMAR  
Goran PATAKI  
Goran PERICA  
Jerko CRNČIĆ  
Bojan ZOBENICA  
Borut KRIŽARIĆ  
Hrvoje RADIĆ

### REFEREES (W)

Vesna BUDIMIR  
Ivana MARTINČIĆ  
Sabina BOLIĆ  
Ivana PEJKOVIĆ

### ASSISTANT REFERRES (W)

Sanja ROĐAK-KARŠIĆ  
Barbara VIDOVIĆ VOLENIK  
Gordana KATUŠIĆ  
Maja PETRAVIĆ

### FUTSAL REFEREES

Sasa TOMIĆ  
Nikola JELIĆ  
Vedran BABIĆ  
Andrej TOPIĆ





# A YEAR IN PICTURES

Referee committee continued with its numerous activities, including workshops for referees and referee advisors in HT First Division.



Organized by HNS Football Academy, annual coaching seminar gathered more than 400 participants, including First and Second Division coaches, their assistants, sports directors and football schools managers.

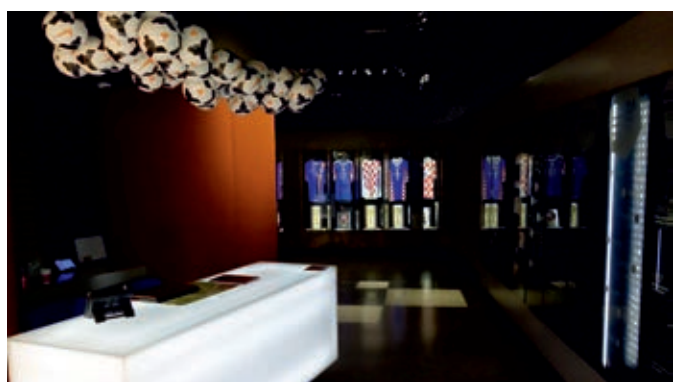
At the end of 2016, HNS Football Academy handed out diplomas and licences to coaches who successfully attended UEFA A, PRO and UEFA PRO levels of coaching education.



# A YEAR IN PICTURES

Two years of Croatian Football Federation's  
Multimedia - Information Center "Be Proud"

more than 50,000 visitors



# A YEAR IN PICTURES

CROATIAN  
PLAYERS  
WINNERS  
OF THE



UEFA  
CHAMPIONS  
LEAGUE®



**ALEN BOKŠIĆ**

1992/1993  
OLYMPIQUE - MILAN 1:0



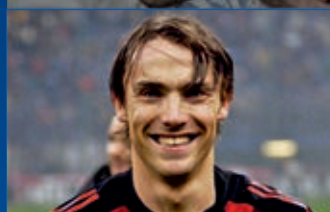
**ZVONIMIR BOBAN**

1993/1994  
MILAN - BARCELONA 4:0



**DAVOR ŠUKER**

1997/1998  
REAL MADRID - JUVENTUS 1:0



**DARIO ŠIMIĆ**

2002/2003  
MILAN - JUVENTUS 0:0 (3:2 P)



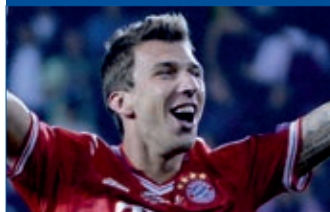
**IGOR BIŠĆAN**

2004/2005  
LIVERPOOL - MILAN 3:3 (6:5 P)



**DARIO ŠIMIĆ**

2006/2007  
MILAN - LIVERPOOL 2:1



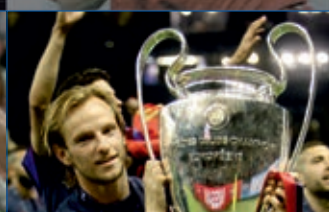
**MARIO MANDŽUKIĆ**  
(GOL - 60')

2012/2013  
BAYERN - BORUSSIA 2:1



**LUKA MODRIĆ**

2013/2014  
REAL MADRID - ATLETICO 4:1



**IVAN RAKITIĆ**  
(GOL - 4')

2014/2015  
BARCELONA - JUVENTUS 3:1



**MATEO KOVAČIĆ I  
LUKA MODRIĆ**

2015/2016  
REAL MADRID - ATLETICO 1:1 (5:3 P)



**MATEO KOVAČIĆ & LUKA MODRIĆ**

2016/2017  
JUVENTUS - REAL MADRID 1:4



## CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Founded: **13.06.1912**

FIFA affiliation: **17.07.1941/03.07.1992**

UEFA affiliation: **17.06.1993**

Registered clubs: **1,577**

Registered players: **124,776**

FIFA World Ranking (11/2017): **17**

National team all time score:

**295** matches;

**157** wins, **80** draws, **58** losses;

goal difference: **518:282**

Most caps (60+):

<b>134</b>	Darijo Srna
114	Stipe Pletikosa
105	Josip Šimić
104	Ivica Olić
103	Luka Modrić
100	Dario Šimić
95	Vedran Ćorluka
88	Ivan Rakitić
84	Robert Kovač
83	Niko Kovač
81	Robert Jarni, Niko Kranjčar
80	Mario Mandžukić
69	Davor Šuker
64	Eduardo da Silva
63	Ivan Perišić
62	Aljoša Asanović
61	Zvonimir Soldo

Top scorers (10+):

<b>45</b>	Davor Šuker
30	Mario Mandžukić
29	Eduardo da Silva
22	Darijo Srna
20	Ivica Olić
17	Ivan Perišić
16	Niko Kranjčar
15	Nikola Kalinić, Goran Vlaović
14	Niko Kovač
13	Mladen Petrić, Franjo Wöfl, Ivan Rakitić
12	Zvonimir Boban, Ivan Klasnić, Luka Modrić
10	Boško Balaban, Alen Bokšić, Robert Prosinečki

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**1996** Hassan II Trophy: Winners

**1998** FIFA World Cup, France: **Bronze medal**

1998 Highest FIFA World Ranking (3rd place)

**1998** UEFA U-18 EURO Cyprus: **Bronze medal**

1999 Highest FIFA World Ranking (3rd place)

**1999** Korea cup: Winners

**2001** UEFA U-16 EURO England: **Bronze medal**

### AWARDS

**1992** Croatian Olympic Committee award "Matija Ljubek"

**1994** FIFA Best Mover of the Year

**1997** Team of the Year (Croatian daily "Sportske novosti")

**1998** FIFA Best Mover of the Year

**1998** State award for sport "Franjo Bučar"

**1998** Team of the Year (Croatian daily "Sportske novosti")

**2001** Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)

**2001** Team of the Year (Croatian daily "Sportske novosti")

**2006** Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)

**2007** Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)

**2008** Team of the Year (Croatian daily "Sportske novosti")

**2008** Blue flower - Croatian National Tourist Board award

**2014** Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)

**2015** Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)

### WORLD CUPS AND EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

**1996** UEFA EURO England: Quarter finals

**1998** FIFA WC France: **3rd place**

**2002** FIFA WC Korea/Japan: Group stage

**2004** UEFA EURO Portugal: Group stage

**2006** FIFA WC Germany: Group stage

**2008** UEFA EURO Austria/Switzerland: Quarter finals

**2012** UEFA EURO Poland/Ukraine: Group stage

**2014** FIFA WC Brazil: Group stage

**2016** UEFA EURO France: Round of 16

**2018** FIFA WC Russia: Qualified

### Youth teams

**1996** UEFA U-16 EURO Austria: Quarter finals

**1998** UEFA U-16 EURO Scotland: Quarter finals

**1998** UEFA U-18 EURO Cyprus: **3rd place**

**1999** FIFA U-20 WC Nigeria: Round of 16

**1999** UEFA U-16 EURO Czech Republic: Group stage

**2000** UEFA U-21 EURO Slovakia: Group stage

**2000** UEFA U-18 EURO Germany: Group stage

**2001** UEFA U-16 EURO England: **3rd place**

**2001** FIFA U-17 WC Trinidad and Tobago: Group stage

**2004** UEFA U-21 EURO Germany: Group stage

**2005** UEFA U-17 EURO Italy: Semi finals

**2010** UEFA U-19 EURO France: Semi finals

**2011** FIFA U-20 WC Colombia: Group stage

**2012** UEFA U-19 EURO Estonia: Group stage

**2013** UEFA U-17 EURO Slovakia: Group stage

**2013** FIFA U-20 WC Turkey: Round of 16

**2013** FIFA U-17 WC UAE: Group stage

**2015** UEFA U-17 EURO Bulgaria: 5th/6th place

**2015** FIFA U-17 WC Chile: Quarter finals

**2016** UEFA U-19 EURO Germany: Group stage

**2017** UEFA U-17 EURO Croatia: Host/Group

### Futsal

**1999** UEFA EURO Spain: Group stage

**2000** FIFA WC Guatemala: Group stage

**2001** UEFA EURO Russia: Group stage

**2008** UEFA U-21 EURO Russia: Group stage

**2012** UEFA EURO Croatia: Semi finals

**2014** UEFA EURO Belgium: Quarter finals

**2016** UEFA EURO Serbia: Group stage



# HNS

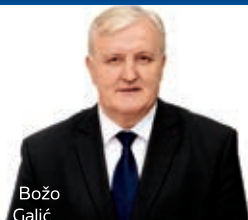
## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION 2014. - 2017.



Davor  
Šuker



Đuro  
Bukvić



Božo  
Galić



Dubravko  
Galović



Nenad  
Horvatić



Davor  
Ivić



Ante  
Kulušić



Marijan  
Kustić



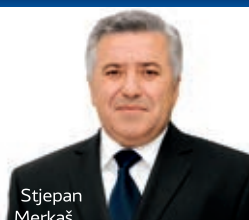
Drago  
Lucić



Zdravko  
Mamić



Robert  
Markulin



Stjepan  
Merkaš



Damir  
Mišković



Slavko  
Priščan



Korado  
Soldatić



Alojzije  
Šupraha



Ante  
Vučemilović  
Šimunović

## HNS officials in international organizations

### UEFA:

Executive Committee  
Football Committee  
Marketing Advisory Committee  
National Team Competitions Committee  
Club Licensing Committee  
Development and Technical Assistance Committee  
Stadium and Security Committee  
Medical Committee  
Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee  
Legal Committee  
Administrative Experts Panel  
Stadium Construction and Management Panel  
Anti-doping Panel

### FIFA:

Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions  
Audit and Compliance Committee  
Referee instructor - futsal  
Referee instructor - women's football

**Davor Šuker** - Member  
**Davor Šuker** - President  
**Davor Šuker** - Deputy Chairman  
**Damir Vrbanović** - Member  
**Ivančica Sudac** - 1st Vice-Chairwoman  
**Romeo Jozak** - Member  
**Zoran Cvrk** - Member  
**Zoran Bahtijarević** - 3rd Vice-Chairman  
**Boris Durlen** - 3rd Vice-Chairman  
**Vladimir Iveta** - Member  
**Ante Vučemilović-Šimunović**  
**Miljenko Sakoman**  
**Zoran Bahtijarević**

**Davor Šuker**  
**Ivančica Sudac**  
**Ivan Novak**  
**Lada Rojc**

### UEFA Match Commissioners:

Zoran Cvrk, Alojzije Šupraha, Duško Grabovac, Ivančica Sudac, Iva Olivari Uliša

### UEFA Futsal Match Commissioners:

Mateo Beusan, Boris Durlen, Ivan Novak, Edi Šunjić

### UEFA Referee Observers:

Snježana Fočić, Blaženka Logarušić, Dragutin Karlo Poljak, Igor Pristovnik, Vlado Svilokos, Miroslav Vitković, Draženko Kovačić

### UEFA Doping Control liaison officers:

Zoran Bahtijarević, Tomislav Vlahović

### UEFA Security Commissioner:

Miroslav Marković

### UEFA Expert instructors:

Romeo Jozak, Boris Kubla



**Davor Šuker**  
President

**Damir Vrbanović**  
Executive director

**Vladimir Iveta**  
Secretary

#### PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

**Zorislav Srebrić**  
Senior advisor to the President  
**Stjepan Merkaš**  
County associations coordinator  
**Drago Sopta**  
Expert assistant for photo  
and video documentation

**Zoran Cvrk**  
Executive director  
assistant - match manager

**Miroslav Marković**  
Security commissioner

**Tomislav Pacak**  
Media officer

**Koraljka Petrinović**  
Marketing manager  
**Iva Vilenica**  
Marketing assistant

**Nikša Martinac**  
Ticketing manager

#### INFORMATION - MULTIMEDIA CENTER "BE PROUD"

**Boris Durlen**  
Head of IMC  
**Katarina Kolak**  
**Kristina Momirović Dedić**  
Hostesses

#### FOOTBALL DIVISION

#### NATIONAL TEAMS DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT

**Neven Šprajcer**  
Competitions coordinator  
and Grassroots manager  
**Helena Puškar**  
Event manager  
**Antonija Burazer**  
Expert assistant

#### TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS SECTION

**Iva Olivari**  
National team manager  
**Josip Tomaško**  
**Denis Lukša**  
Youth teams secretaries  
**Josip Brezni**  
1. HNL commissioner  
**Andrea Brezni**  
1. HNL administrator  
**Željko Mesić**  
**Mladen Pilčić**  
**Dennis Luka Lukančić**  
**Livijo Cvrk**  
Kit men  
**Nenad Krošnjar**  
Physiotherapist

#### FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SECTION

**Ivan Bedi**  
Head instructor  
**Hrvoje Matijević**  
Women's football head instructor  
**Marija Margareta Damjanović**  
Women's football instructor

#### DEPARTMENT OF FOOTBALL REFEREES

**Ivan Košutić**  
Head of department  
**Igor Pristovnik**  
National coordinator for refereeing  
**Zora Hunjadi**  
Department administrator

#### HNS FOOTBALL ACADEMY

**Vatroslav Mihačić**, Head of Academy / **Boris Kubla**, Head of Education / **Ksenija Fuštin**, Administrator

#### DIVISION OF GENERAL AFFAIRS

#### DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LICENSING

**Ivančica Sudac**  
Head of department  
**Vlatka Jandžel**  
International affairs assistant  
**Maja Nikolić**  
Club licensing assistant  
**Tanja Peraković**  
Expert assistant for international  
affairs and licensing

**Robert Urojić**  
Clubs and players registrations

#### DEPARTMENT FOR LEGAL AND COMMON AFFAIRS

**LEGAL SECTION**  
**Matija Puhak**  
Legal advisor  
**Mia Škrljac**  
Administrator of the department  
and Court of arbitration

#### GENERAL AFFAIRS SECTION

**Jurica Bodrožić**  
General affairs assistant  
**Nikolina Barabaš**  
**Marta Sokolić**  
Receptionists  
**Mira Perković**  
Hostess  
**Hrvoje Čendo**  
Expert on Safety at Work

#### ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

**Ružica Bajrić**  
Head of department  
**Milka Močilac**  
Independent accountant  
**Nikolina Ivanović**  
**Gordana Janton**  
**Nives Knežević**  
**Željka Zuanović**  
Financial assistants

## CONTACTS

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SECURITY sigurnost@hns-cff.hr  
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CLUB LICENSING licenciranje@hns-cff.hr

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VETERANS FOOTBAL veterani@hns-cff.hr

# HNS

## FOOTBALL CENTERS

FOOTBALL CENTER OSIJEK	FOOTBALL CENTER RIJEKA	FOOTBALL CENTER NORTH	FOOTBALL CENTER SPLIT	FOOTBALL CENTER ZAGREB
Secretary: Željko Bel	Secretary / Commissioner: Branko Kajfeš	Secretary: Ivan Novak	Secretary: Ante Plazibat	Secretary: Damir Stipković
Regional instructor: Petar Krpan	Regional instructor: Mladen Ivančić	Regional instructor: Sergej Milivojević	Regional instructor: Ivan Gudelj	Regional instructor: Tomislav Gričar
Regional instructor for women's football: Branka Juhas	Youth development coordinator: Miroslav Uljan			

## COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS

P: President / S: Secretary / C: Registered clubs / RP: Registered players

### **BJELOVAR- -BILOGORA**

P: Slavko Priščan  
S: Tomislav Barić  
C: 62 / RP: 4057

### **SLAVONSKI BROS- -POSAVINA**

P: Dubravko Galović  
S: Vinko Bartolović  
C: 103 / RP: 6621

### **DUBROVNIK- -NERETVA**

P: Blaž Pezo  
S: Srđan Vrtikapa  
C: 63 / RP: 3441

### **ISTRA**

P: Igor Žiković  
S: Branko Ivetić  
C: 70 / RP: 6647

### **KARLOVAC**

P: Dario Mrzljak  
S: Tomislav Kuzman  
C: 32 / RP: 3284

### **KOPRIVNICA- -KRIŽEVCI**

P: Robert Markulin  
S: Danijel Lončar  
C: 64 / RP: 4485

### **KRAPINA- -ZAGORJE**

P: Stjepan Merkaš  
S: Juraj Sirovec  
C: 35 / RP: 4156

### **LIKA-SENJ**

P: Marijan Kustić  
S: Vladimir Romić  
C: 12 / RP: 964

### **MEDIMURJE**

P: Mato Kljajić  
S: Darko Jambrović  
C: 78 / RP: 5615

### **OSIJEK-BARANJA**

P: Ante Vučemilović Šimunović  
S: Željko Bel  
C: 215 / RP: 10455

### **POŽEGA- -SLAVONIA**

P: Drago Lucić  
S: Damir Bognar  
C: 59 / RP: 3125

### **PRIMORJE- -GORSKI KOTAR**

P: Damir Mišković  
S: Ivan Peraić  
C: 56 / RP: 5524

### **SISAK- -MOSLAVINA**

P: Davor Ivić  
S: Damir Nogić  
C: 72 / RP: 5918

### **SPLIT-DALMATIA**

P: Marko Erceg  
S: Dino Knezović  
C: 88 / RP: 9096

### **ŠIBENIK-KNIN**

P: Željko Dulibić  
S: Hrvoje Kulušić  
C: 35 / RP: 2173

### **VARAŽDIN**

P: Nenad Horvatić  
S: Ivan Novak  
C: 72 / RP: 5800

### **VIROVITICA-PODRAVINA**

P: Đuro Bukvić  
S: Krunoslav Moslavac  
C: 71 / RP: 3994

### **VUKOVAR-SRIJEM**

P: Josip Kuterovac  
S: Ivica Sabljaković  
C: 83 / RP: 6420

### **ZADAR**

P: Reno Sinovčić  
S: Miroslav Knežević  
C: 35 / RP: 3917

### **ZAGREB COUNTY**

P: Nenad Črnko  
S: Mladen Žugec  
C: 139 / RP: 12355

### **CITY OF ZAGREB FA**

P: Damir Vrbanović  
S: Darko Cvitković  
C: 133 / RP: 16734

## IN MEMORIAM ...

Miroslav Abramović  
Nikola Bebić Sinkola  
Oto Bobek  
Dragutin Cah  
Zvezdan Cvjetković  
Branimir Crnčec  
Franjo Dušić  
Miroslav Ferić  
Dragutin Furač  
Andrija Gašparov  
Josip Pino Glažar  
Dragutin Havaić  
Milivoj Jamnik  
Ivica Janković  
Miljenko Javorović  
Srećko Juričan  
Antonio Jurjević

Zdenko Kafka  
Lajoš Kovač  
Rudolf Krznarić  
Bruno Kurolt  
Josip Lapis  
Josip Lastavica  
Tomo Matković  
Ivan Mihaljec  
Željko Milosavljević  
Tomislav Mušković  
Andrija Perčić  
Josip Piskač  
Vlado Premuž  
Josip Prugovečki  
Josip Puljić  
Martin Roža  
Jožef Ruf

Vladimir Sivilotti  
Predrag Smolčić  
Martin Spajić  
Ivan Šitum  
Đula Špigel  
Marijan Štajcer  
Stanko Šundalić  
Stjepan Tkalec  
Livio Velenik  
Ante Vetma  
Zlatko Vlahović  
Dean Vrbanić  
Ivica Vučemilović-Stipanović  
Josip Weber  
Vjekoslav Zdelar  
Veljko Zgrablić  
Tomislav Židak  
Žarko Žigić





#BEPROUD



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