



CROATIAN  
FOOTBALL  
FEDERATION

HRVATSKI NOGOMETNI SAVEZ



# 2018

THE GREATEST YEAR  
IN CROATIAN FOOTBALL HISTORY

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“ We will remember the welcome that the team received in Zagreb, and in other cities around Croatia, where the public showed unparalleled love, pride, and passion towards the team. Football accomplished a beautiful feat – it united a nation and made Croatia the happiest place on Earth. That is the power of football; that is the strength of the Croatian national team! ”

**Davor Šuker**

President of the  
Croatian Football Federation

Dear friends of football,

Behind us is the most beautiful, most successful, and grandest year in the history of Croatian football!

For years, we had hoped and wished for our national team to repeat the unforgettable summer of 1998 and the bronze medal we had won at the World Cup in France. We believed in this generation, and we believed that they possess the knowledge, talent, and experience to stand their ground against the world's best teams.

However, even the biggest optimists among us could hardly imagine a more beautiful fairytale than the one we got to witness at the World Cup in Russia. It is my honest belief that playing in the World Cup final is the biggest success in the history of Croatian sports, but we will remember June and July of 2018 for more than just our incredible results on the pitch.

We will remember that the Croatian national team's football was more attractive and dynamic than that of any of our opponents – even in our loss in the final. We will remember the spectacular victory against Argentina, when we – along with the rest of the world – realized how far this team could go. We will remember the character, and the physical and mental strength that the team showed in the knock-out rounds of the tournament, coming out on top after early goals by their opponents in three consecutive matches. We will remember how Croatia overcame England in the semi-final of the World Cup.

We will remember the unprecedented sense of togetherness that this team first built in the locker room, then showed on the pitch and shared with the entire nation, where the euphoria rose with each win. We will remember that the Vatreni represented their country with joy, and that they won the hearts of the entire world and brought pride to Croats everywhere.

Finally, we will remember the welcome that the team received in Zagreb, and in other cities around Croatia, where the public showed unparalleled love, pride, and passion towards the team. Football accomplished a beautiful feat – it united a nation and made Croatia the happiest place on Earth. That is the power of football; that is the strength of the Croatian national team!

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the entire technical staff, with head coach Zlatko Dalić at their helm – he was met with a difficult challenge when we entrusted him with the role of the Croatia head coach, and he used his calmness, communication skills, and training experience to make Croatia the world vice-champions. As always, HNS also did everything on our part to ensure that the team had the best possible conditions, and I hereby thank the members of our delegation for the effort and work that they put in during the entire World Cup.

Of course, most deserving of praise are all of our brilliant players, for each and every one of them did his part to make this success a reality. We would be remiss not to mention team captain Luka Modrić, who marked this football season and deservedly won all possible major individual recognitions. The World Cup Golden Ball and the numerous awards which proclaimed him the world's best football player speak of his football prowess and are a testament to the continuous hard work that he has done over the course of his career, though his teammates in the Croatian national team and in Real Madrid certainly also contributed to his success. Luka and our team brought Croatia an unseen amount of worldwide attention, and the benefits of this would be nearly impossible to state in financial terms. Croatia as the home of the world's best football player? Yes, it's possible!

But, most importantly, this medal will have positive repercussions for years to come. As our generation's bronze medal served as inspiration for the current team, so will today's stars inspire thousands of young football players all over Croatia. And as the silver medalists dreamt of outdoing the bronze medalists, so should upcoming generations dream of eclipsing this year's success.

The World Cup may be the most glorious story of this year, but it is certainly not the only one. Our U-21 team placed at the EURO U-21 for the first time since 2004 and thus confirmed that the future of Croatian football will be a bright one – and that Croatia will continue to be a force to be reckoned with, even after today's stars have made their departure from the team. The U-17 and U-17 teams brought yet more good news by

reaching the Elite Rounds of their respective European competitions.

Croatian club football also soared in 2018. After 49 years, Dinamo Zagreb has returned to the knock-out stage of a European club competition, following a defeat-free run in the group stage of the Europa League. We can only wish for such results to continue in the coming years.

I am proud that our successes did not end on the pitch. In 2018, HNS completed its project of renovating the pitches of first-tier clubs in record time – the new hybrid pitches cleared the road for better football, more goals, less injuries, and a much more engaging experience for players and fans of the Croatian First Division alike.

The Annual Report that you have before you is testament to the breadth of HNS's activities, and the success of Croatian teams, and our many projects and activities – from our charity work to international affairs, licensing, finance, marketing, communications, education, our work with youth categories, and with football at the widest level.

Of course, we do not intend to stop at this – and we are fully devoted to continue with our success. If there is one wish for 2019 that we all collectively share, it is for the world vice-champions to receive a stadium worthy of their title. I believe that, after their result in Russia, we have witnessed the initiative and the desire needed for this project to come true.

I want to thank each person working in clubs, county football associations, our football centers, as well as HNS offices – without your skills, your energy and ambition, and the expertise and hard work that you contribute to Croatian football, our year would surely not have been this bright.

Let us maintain this tempo, so that we may have another year as excellent as this one.

Be Proud!

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

# A HISTORIC YEAR



# FOR CROATIA

ЧЕМПИОНАТ МИРА ПО ФУТБОЛУ ФИФА 2018 В РО









# (UN)REAL

After Croatia's debut at the World Cup in France in 1998, the whole of Croatia was quite certain that topping that historic bronze medal would be very, very difficult – perhaps even entirely impossible.

Zlatko Dalić and his Vatreni, however, begged to differ.

Only eight months after assuming his role as the head coach of the Croatian national team (who were at the time on the very verge of losing their ticket to Russia), head coach Zlatko Dalić led his players on a glorious adventure, which met its glorious end at the final match of the biggest football event on the planet, the FIFA World Cup.

The team's month-long stay in Russia saw Croatia become a symbol of togetherness, pride, and persistence. Not just for their fellow countrymen, but for football fans worldwide – with words of praise and congratulations coming from every corner of the world imaginable.

Naturally, there are no happy endings without the appropriate trials, and most importantly without the appropriate heroes: Modrić the Leader, Rebić and his uncompromising volleys, Subašić and his brave saves, the calm and collected Rakitić, the skilled Perišić, the unwavering Mandžukić, and the embodiment of team spirit in Ćorluka. There was also plenty of drama to be enjoyed – unexpected turnarounds, gripping chances in extended time, and penalty kicks galore. To even begin to name all of the moments which will undoubtedly

enter Croatian football lore seems an impossible feat.

*“This summer was incredible, especially after seeing what this result meant for the whole nation. The players did something historic for themselves, for their people, and for the entire country. It will take a few years before the real scope of this result settles in, and before we understand how difficult and how exceptional it is for a country of four million to win two world cup medals in the space of two decades,”* said Dalić.

Tiny Croatia showed how great it could be when it was united under a shared goal.

Croatia played the World Cup final, while Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, and numerous other great football nations had long boarded their flights back home. The world cheered on the boys in the checkered jerseys, while Messi, Ronaldo, and Neymar could but watch the final on television. When the Vatreni played Luzhniki Stadium for the World Cup final, Croatia was at shades away from becoming the home of the world champions.

The general public concurred that Croatia's football players had brought the country long-unseen amounts of optimism and enthusiasm, and had set an example that could be applied to many spheres of public life. For one month in the summer of 2018, Croatia was truly the happiest place on Earth.

Vatreni, thank you!



2018 FIFA WORLD CUP - GROUP D

**CROATIA**      **2**  
**NIGERIA**      **0**

” We played maturely, we played like a team, and that’s the most important thing. Each and every one of us gave our maximum, and that is the only way that we will reach a good result. Fighting and fighting alone is the only road to success. ”

**Luka Modrić**, Man of the Match

**Kaliningrad Stadium, Kaliningrad,**  
16.06.2018, **attendance:** 31136,  
**referees:** Sandro Ricci (BRA),  
Emerson De Carvalho (BRA), Marcelo Van Gasse (BRA),  
**fourth official:** Antonio Mateu (ESP)

### CROATIA

- 23 Danijel Subašić
- 9 Andrej Kramarić ▶60'
- 7 Ivan Rakitić ■30'
- 10 Luka Modrić ⚽P 71'
- 2 Šime Vrsaljko
- 6 Dejan Lovren
- 18 Ante Rebić ▶78'
- 4 Ivan Perišić
- 3 Ivan Strinić
- 17 Mario Mandžukić ▶86'
- 21 Domagoj Vida

### SUBSTITUTES

- 1 Dominik Livaković
- 12 Lovre Kalinić
- 14 Filip Bradarić
- 8 Mateo Kovačić ◀78'
- 5 Vedran Ćorluka
- 15 Duje Ćaleta-Car
- 13 Tin Jedvaj
- 20 Marko Pjaca ◀86'
- 22 Josip Pivarić
- 19 Milan Badelj
- 11 Marcelo Brozović ◀60' ■89'
- 16 Nikola Kalinić

### HEAD COACH

Zlatko Dalić

### NIGERIA

- 23 Francis Uzoho
- 2 Bryan Idowu
- 4 Wilfred Ndidi
- 5 William Ekong ■70'
- 6 Leon Balogun
- 8 Oghenekaro Etebo ⚽AG 32'
- 9 Odion Ighalo ▶72'
- 10 John Obi Mike ▶188'
- 11 Victor Moses
- 12 Abdullahi Shehu
- 18 Alex Iwobi ▶62'

### SUBSTITUTES

- 1 Ikechukwu Ezenwa
- 16 Daniel Akpeyi
- 3 Elderson Echiejile
- 7 Ahmed Musa ◀62'
- 13 Simeon Nwankwo ◀88'
- 14 Kelechi Iheanacho ◀72'
- 15 Joel Obi
- 17 Ogenyi Onazi
- 19 John Ogu
- 20 Chidozie Awaziem
- 21 Tyrone Ebuehi
- 22 Kenneth Omerou

### HEAD COACH

Gernot Rohr





2018 FIFA WORLD CUP - GROUP D

**ARGENTINA 0**  
**CROATIA 3**

” If I could do it all over again, I’d strike the same way, and then let fate take the wheel. We are all 100% in, and whoever the head coach puts into the game, he won’t be making the wrong choice. We all defend together and we have yet to concede a goal, and we’ve played against two excellent teams. Croatia is strong, but it is too early for any announcements. ”  
We have to take it step by step.

**Ante Rebić**, scorer of the opening goal

**Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, Nizhny Novgorod,**  
21.06.2018, **attendance:** 43319,  
**referees:** Ravshan Irmatov (UZB),  
Abdulkhamidullo Rasulov (UZB), Jakhongir Saidov (UZB),  
**fourth official:** Norbert Hauata (TAH)

### ARGENTINA

23 Wilfredo Caballero  
2 Gabriel Mercado ■ 51'  
3 Nicolas Tagliafico  
8 Marcos Acuna ■ 87'  
10 Lionel Messi  
13 Maximiliano Meza  
14 Javier Mascherano  
15 Enzo Perez ▶ 68'  
17 Nicolas Otamendi ■ 85'  
18 Eduardo Salvio ▶ 56'  
19 Sergio Aguero ▶ 54'

### SUBSTITUTES

1 Nahuel Guzman  
12 Franco Armani  
4 Cristian Ansaldi  
5 Lucas Biglia  
6 Federico Fazio  
7 Ever Banega  
9 Gonzalo Higuain ◀ 54'  
11 Angel Di Maria  
16 Marcos Rojo  
20 Giovanni Lo Celso  
21 Paulo Dybala ◀ 68'  
22 Cristian Pavon ◀ 56'

### HEAD COACH

Jorge Sampaoli

### CROATIA

23 Danijel Subašić  
7 Ivan Rakitić ⚽ 90'+1'  
10 Luka Modrić ⚽ 80'  
2 Šime Vrsaljko ■ 67'  
6 Dejan Lovren  
18 Ante Rebić ■ 39' ⚽ 53' ▶ 57'  
4 Ivan Perišić ▶ 82'  
3 Ivan Strinić  
17 Mario Mandžukić ■ 58' ▶ 90'+3'  
21 Domagoj Vida  
11 Marcelo Brozović ■ 90'+4'

### SUBSTITUTES

1 Dominik Livaković  
12 Lovre Kalinić  
14 Filip Bradarić  
9 Andrej Kramarić ◀ 57'  
8 Mateo Kovačić ◀ 82'  
5 Vedran Ćorluka ◀ 90'+3' ■ 90'+4'  
15 Duje Ćaleta-Car  
13 Tin Jedvaj  
20 Marko Pjaca  
22 Josip Pivarić  
19 Milan Badelj

### HEAD COACH

Zlatko Dalić



A photograph of Ivan Perišić, a Croatian footballer, in action during a match. He is wearing a black Croatia jersey with a red Nike logo and the Croatian national crest. He is captured in a dynamic pose, leaning forward with his right arm extended, as if he has just scored a goal or is celebrating. In the background, another player in a dark blue jersey with the number 22 is visible, and the stadium lights create a bright, slightly blurred background.

2018 FIFA WORLD CUP - GROUP D

**ICELAND 1**  
**CROATIA 2**

” We showed character and we got the job done. With three victories, we are going onwards. We work together, as a team, and it doesn't matter who scores the goals – what matters is that Croatia is winning. We respect everyone, but we are afraid of no one. Thank you to the fans – they make this all possible. ”

**Ivan Perišić**, scorer of the winning goal

**Rostov Arena, Rostov-on-Don,**  
26.06.2018, **attendance:** 43472,  
**referees:** Antonio Mateu (ESP),  
Pau Cebrian (ESP), Roberto Diaz (ESP),  
**fourth official:** John Pitti (PAN)

### ICELAND

- 1 Hannes Halldorsson
- 2 Blrkir Saevarsson ■ 84'
- 5 Sverrir Ingason
- 6 Ragnar Sigurdsson ▶ 70'
- 7 Johann Gudmundsson
- 8 Blrkir Bjarnason ▶ 90'
- 10 Gylfi Sigurdsson ⚽ 76'
- 11 Alfred Finnbogason ■ 64' ▶ 85'
- 17 Aron Gunnarsson
- 18 Hordur Magnusson
- 20 Emil Hallfredsson ■ 59'

### SUBSTITUTES

- 12 Frederik Schram
- 13 Runar Runarsson
- 3 Samuel Fridjonsson
- 4 Albert Gudmundsson ◀ 85'
- 9 Bjorn Sigurdarson ◀ 70'
- 14 Kari Arnason
- 15 Holmar Eyjolfsson
- 16 Olafur Skulason
- 19 Rurik Gislason
- 21 Arnor Traustason ◀ 90'
- 22 Jon Bodvarsson
- 23 Ari Skulason

### HEAD COACH

Heimir Hallgrimsson

### CROATIA

- 12 Lovre Kalinić
- 9 Andrej Kramarić
- 10 Luka Modrić ▶ 65'
- 8 Mateo Kovačić ▶ 81'
- 5 Vedran Ćorluka
- 15 Duje Ćaleta-Car
- 13 Tin Jedvaj ■ 83'
- 20 Marko Pjaca ■ 14' ▶ 70'
- 22 Josip Pivarić
- 4 Ivan Perišić ⚽ 90'
- 19 Milan Badelj ⚽ 53'

### SUBSTITUTES

- 1 Dominik Livaković
- 23 Danijel Subašić
- 14 Filip Bradarić ◀ 65'
- 7 Ivan Rakitić ◀ 81'
- 2 Šime Vrsaljko
- 6 Dejan Lovren ◀ 70'
- 18 Ante Rebić
- 3 Ivan Strinić
- 17 Mario Mandžukić
- 21 Domagoj Vida
- 11 Marcelo Brozović

### HEAD COACH

Zlatko Dalić





2018 FIFA WORLD CUP - ROUND OF 16

**CROATIA 4**  
**DENMARK 3**

” We deserved this award for our hard work. Penalties? There was a little bit of luck, a bit of experience, a bit of my rituals, and a bit of instinct. The most important thing is that we went through, that the Croatian people are happy – this is a victory for all of them. ”

**Danijel Subašić**, hero with three penalty saves



**Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, Nizhny Novgorod,**

01.07.2018, **attendance:** 40851,

**referees:** Nestor Pitana (ARG),

Henan Maidana (ARG), Juan Pablo Bellati (ARG),

**fourth official:** Enrique Caceres (PAR)

**CROATIA**

- 23 Danijel Subašić
- 7 Ivan Rakitić
- 10 Luka Modrić
- 2 Šime Vrsaljko
- 6 Dejan Lovren
- 18 Ante Rebić
- 4 Ivan Perišić ▶97'
- 3 Ivan Strinić ▶81'
- 17 Mario Mandžukić ⚽ 4' ▶108'
- 21 Domagoj Vida
- 11 Marcelo Brozović ▶71'

**SUBSTITUTES**

- 1 Dominik Livaković
- 12 Lovre Kalinić
- 14 Filip Bradarić
- 9 Andrej Kramarić ◀97'
- 8 Mateo Kovačić ◀71'
- 5 Vedran Ćorluka
- 15 Duje Ćaleta-Car
- 13 Tin Jedvaj
- 20 Marko Pjaca
- 22 Josip Pivarić ◀81'
- 19 Milan Badelj ◀108'

**HEAD COACH**

Zlatko Dalić

**DENMARK**

- 1 Kasper Schmeichel
- 4 Simon Kjaer
- 5 Jonas Knudsen
- 6 Andreas Christensen ▶46'
- 8 Thomas Delaney ⚽ 1' ▶98'
- 10 Christian Eriksen
- 11 Martin Braithwaite ▶106'
- 13 Mathias Jorgensen ■115'
- 14 Henrik Dalsgaard
- 20 Yussuf Yurary Poulsen
- 21 Andreas Cornelius ▶66'

**SUBSTITUTES**

- 16 Jonas Lossl
- 22 Frederik Ronnow
- 2 Michael Krohn-Dehli ◀98'
- 3 Jannik Vestergaard
- 7 William Kvist
- 9 Nicolai Jorgensen ◀66'
- 12 Kasper Dolberg
- 15 Viktor Fischer
- 17 Jens Stryger Larsen
- 18 Lukas Lerager
- 19 Lasse Schone ◀46'
- 23 Pione Sisto ◀106'

**HEAD COACH**

Age Hareide





2018 FIFA WORLD CUP - QUARTERFINALS

**RUSSIA** 5  
**CROATIA** 6

” I watched Rocky these days; we had a similar time against the Russians as he had against Ivan Drago. We worked so hard for so many days, we threw ourselves on our head... We're like a big family. We can play even better, but we must enjoy every moment of this World Cup. Let Croatia be full of fire, let everyone be with us. ”

Ivan Rakitić, scorer of the winning goal

**Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi,**  
07.07.2018, **attendance:** 44287,  
**referees:** Sandro Ricci (BRA),  
Emerson De Carvalho (BRA), Marcelo Van Gasse (BRA),  
**fourth official:** Janny Sikazwe (ZAM)

### RUSSIA

- 1 Igor Akinfeev
- 2 Mario Fernandes 🏠 115'
- 3 Ilya Kutepov
- 4 Sergey Ignashevich
- 6 Denis Cheryshev 🏠 31' ▶67'
- 7 Daler Kuziaev
- 11 Roman Zobnin
- 13 Fedor Kudriashov
- 17 Aleksandr Golovin ▶102'
- 19 Alexander Samedov ▶54'
- 22 Artem Dzyuba ▶79'

### SUBSTITUTES

- 12 Andrei Lunev
- 20 Vladimir Gabulov
- 5 Andrey Semenov
- 8 Iury Gazinsky ◀79' 🟡 109'
- 9 Alan Dzagoev ◀102'
- 10 Fedor Smolov ◀67'
- 14 Vladimir Granat
- 15 Alexey Miranchuk
- 16 Anton Miranchuk
- 18 Yury Zhirkov
- 21 Aleksandr Erokhin ◀54'
- 23 Igor Smolnikov

### HEAD COACH

Stanislav Cherchesov

### CROATIA

- 23 Danijel Subašić
- 9 Andrej Kramarić 🏠 39' ▶88'
- 7 Ivan Rakitić
- 10 Luka Modrić
- 2 Šime Vrsaljko ▶97'
- 6 Dejan Lovren 🟡 35'
- 18 Ante Rebić
- 4 Ivan Perišić ▶63'
- 3 Ivan Strinić 🟡 38' ▶74'
- 17 Mario Mandžukić
- 21 Domagoj Vida 🏠 101' 🟡 101'

### SUBSTITUTES

- 1 Dominik Livaković
- 12 Lovre Kalinić
- 14 Filip Bradarić
- 8 Mateo Kovačić ◀88'
- 5 Vedran Ćorluka ◀97'
- 15 Duje Ćaleta-Car
- 13 Tin Jedvaj
- 20 Marko Pjaca
- 22 Josip Pivarić ◀74' 🟡 114'
- 19 Milan Badelj
- 11 Marcelo Brozović ◀63'

### HEAD COACH

Zlatko Dalić



A photograph of Croatian football players celebrating a goal. In the foreground, a player with long hair (Luka Modrić) is embracing another player (Mario Mandžukić) who is shouting with his mouth wide open. A third player is visible in the background, also celebrating. They are wearing dark blue Croatia national team jerseys with red accents and the national crest. The background is a blurred stadium filled with spectators.

2018 FIFA WORLD CUP - SEMIFINALS

**CROATIA 2**  
**ENGLAND 1**

” This truly cannot be described. I dedicate my goal to everyone cheering us on in Croatia. So far, this is my favorite goal in my career, but I don't think much about that subject – I am here to do whatever needs to be done for the team. I keep my head down, I work; the most important thing is that the team wins. We now remember all of our past moments, the matches played in front of empty stands, the trials, the suffering... but we never gave up, we came back, and now we are all together again. ”

**Mario Mandžukić**, scorer of the winning goal

**Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow,**  
11.07.2018, **attendance:** 78011,  
**referees:** Cuneyt Cakir (TUR),  
Bahattin Duran (TUR), Taik Ongun (TUR),  
**fourth official:** Bjorn Kuipers (NED)

### CROATIA

- 23 Danijel Subašić
- 7 Ivan Rakitić
- 10 Luka Modrić ▶119'
- 2 Šime Vrsaljko
- 6 Dejan Lovren
- 18 Ante Rebić ■96' ▶101'
- 4 Ivan Perišić ⚽ 68'
- 3 Ivan Strinić ▶95'
- 17 Mario Mandžukić ■48' ⚽ 109' ▶115'
- 21 Domagoj Vida
- 11 Marcelo Brozović

### SUBSTITUTES

- 1 Dominik Livaković
- 12 Lovre Kalinić
- 14 Filip Bradarić
- 9 Andrej Kramarić ◀101'
- 8 Mateo Kovačić
- 5 Vedran Ćorluka ◀115'
- 15 Duje Ćaleta-Car
- 13 Tin Jedvaj
- 20 Marko Pjaca
- 22 Josip Pivarić ◀95'
- 19 Milan Badelj ◀119'

### HEAD COACH

Zlatko Dalić

### ENGLAND

- 1 Jordan Pickford
- 2 Kyle Walker ■54' ▶112'
- 5 John Stones
- 6 Harry Maguire
- 7 Jesse Lingard
- 8 Jordan Henderson ▶97'
- 9 Harry Kane
- 10 Raheem Sterling ▶74'
- 12 Kieran Trippier ⚽ 5'
- 18 Ashley Young ▶91'
- 20 Dele Alli

### SUBSTITUTES

- 13 Jack Butland
- 23 Nick Pope
- 3 Danny Rose ◀91'
- 4 Eric Dier ◀97'
- 11 Jamie Vardy ◀112'
- 14 Danny Welbeck
- 15 Gary Cahill
- 16 Phil Jones
- 17 Fabian Delph
- 19 Marcus Rashford ◀74'
- 21 Ruben Loftus-Cheek
- 22 Trent Alexander-Arnold

### HEAD COACH

Gareth Southgate



A photograph of Zlatko Dalić, head coach of Croatia, clapping his hands. He is wearing a dark blue sweater over a white shirt and a dark tie. The background is a blurred stadium.

2018 FIFA WORLD CUP - FINAL

<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>CROATIA</b>	<b>2</b>

” Congratulations to France for their title of world champions. Congratulations to my players – this might have been our very best match. We might be sad, but we must be proud of what we have done. Croatia was excellent and I want to thank our players for all that they’ve accomplished. Our bus has a sign on it that says “small country, big dreams”, and that is a message for everyone. Hard work can help us achieve a good result, but we must believe in our own success, and a lot of pieces must fall into place. It takes a lot of dreaming and ambition. ”

**Zlatko Dalić**, head coach of the world vice-champions

**Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow,**  
15.07.2018, **attendance:** 78011,  
**referees:** Nestor Pitana (ARG),  
Hernan Maidana (ARG), Juan Pablo Belatti (ARG),  
**fourth official:** Bjorn Kuipers (NED)

### FRANCE

- 1 Hugo Lloris
- 2 Benjamin Pavard
- 4 Raphael Varane
- 5 Samuel Umtiti
- 6 Paul Pogba 🏠 59'
- 7 Antoine Griezmann 🏠P 38'
- 9 Olivier Giroud ▶81'
- 10 Kylian Mbappe 🏠 65'
- 13 N'Golo Kante ▶27' ▶55'
- 14 Blaise Matuidi ▶73'
- 21 Lucas Hernandez ▶41'

### SUBSTITUTES

- 16 Steve Mandanda
- 23 Alphonse Areola
- 3 Presnel Kimpembe
- 8 Thomas Lemar
- 11 Ousmane Dembele
- 12 Corentin Tolisso ◀73'
- 15 Steven Nzonzi ◀55'
- 17 Adil Rami
- 18 Nabil Fekir ◀81'
- 19 Djibril Sidibe
- 20 Florian Thauvin
- 22 Benjamin Mendy

### HEAD COACH

Didier Deschamps

### CROATIA

- 23 Danijel Subašić
- 7 Ivan Rakitić
- 10 Luka Modrić
- 2 Šime Vrsaljko ▶90'+2'
- 6 Dejan Lovren
- 18 Ante Rebić ▶71'
- 4 Ivan Perišić 🏠 28'
- 3 Ivan Strinić ▶81'
- 17 Mario Mandžukić 🏠AG 18' 🏠 69'
- 21 Domagoj Vida
- 11 Marcelo Brozović

### SUBSTITUTES

- 1 Dominik Livaković
- 12 Lovre Kalinić
- 14 Filip Bradarić
- 9 Andrej Kramarić ◀71'
- 8 Mateo Kovačić
- 5 Vedran Ćorluka
- 15 Duje Ćaleta-Car
- 13 Tin Jedvaj
- 20 Marko Pjaca ◀81'
- 22 Josip Pivarić
- 19 Milan Badelj

### HEAD COACH

Zlatko Dalić



# SILVER



- 1 **Dominik Livaković**
- 2 **Šime Vrsaljko**
- 3 **Ivan Strinić**
- 4 **Ivan Perišić**
- 5 **Vedran Ćorluka**
- 6 **Dejan Lovren**
- 7 **Ivan Rakitić**
- 8 **Mateo Kovačić**
- 9 **Andrej Kramarić**
- 10 **Luka Modrić**
- 11 **Marcelo Brozović**
- 12 **Lovre Kalinić**

- 13 **Tin Jedvaj**
- 14 **Filip Bradarić**
- 15 **Duje Ćaleta-Car**
- 16 **Nikola Kalinić**
- 17 **Mario Mandžukić**
- 18 **Ante Rebić**
- 19 **Milan Badelj**
- 20 **Marko Pjaca**
- 21 **Domagoj Vida**
- 22 **Josip Pivarić**
- 23 **Danijel Subašić**

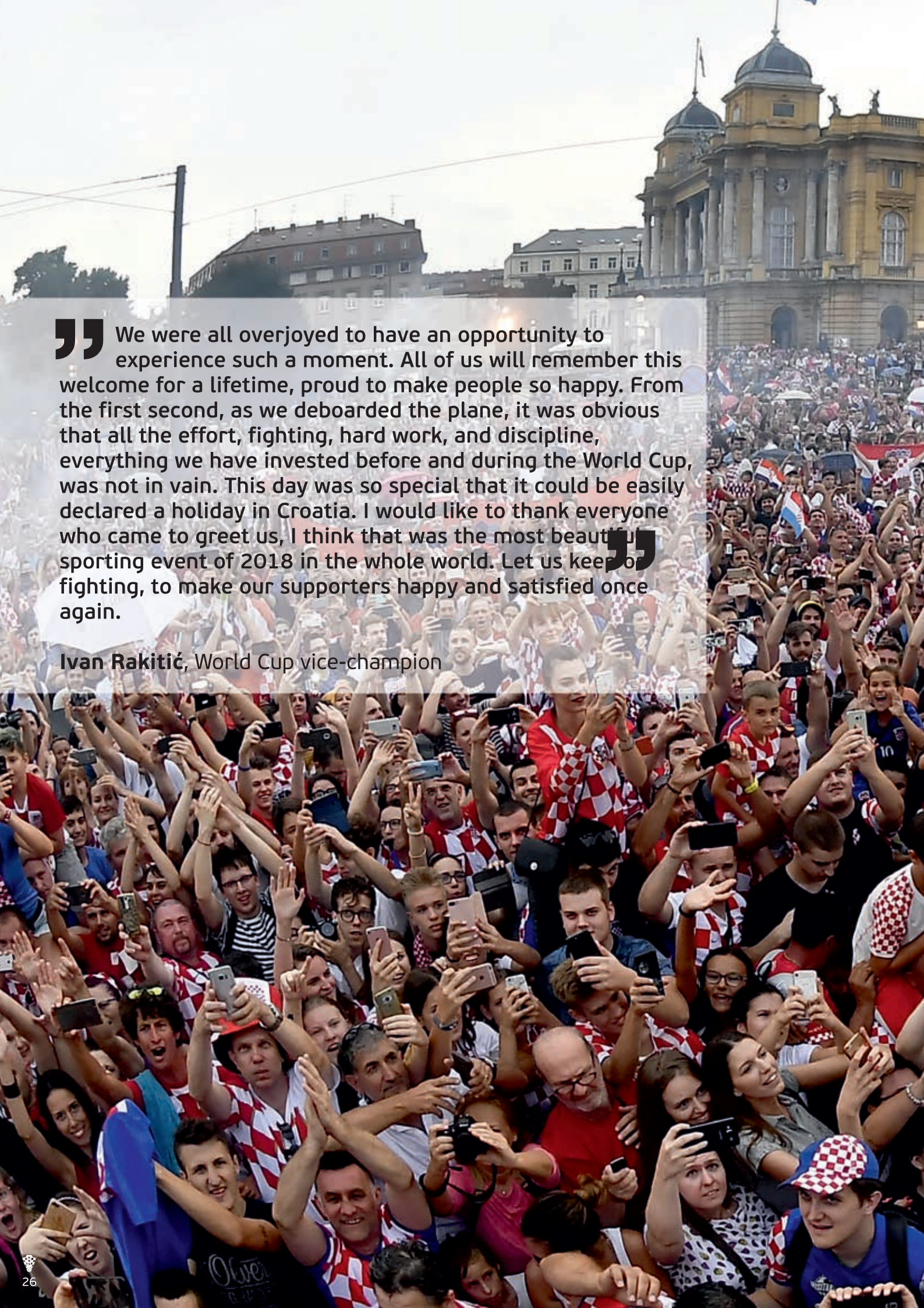


# MEDALIST



**Zlatko Dalić**, head coach  
**Dražen Ladić**, coach  
**Ivica Olić**, coach  
**Marjan Mrmić**, goalkeeping coach  
**Luka Milanović**, fitness coach  
**Marc Rochon**, video analyst  
**Iva Olivari**, team manager  
**Ognjen Vukojević**, scout  
**Nikola Jerkan**, scout  
**Boris Nemeč**, doctor  
**Zoran Bahtijarević**, doctor  
**Saša Janković**, doctor  
**Nenad Krošnjar**, physical therapist  
**Bojan Radanović**, physical therapist  
**Nderim Redžaj**, physical therapist  
**Mario Petrović**, physical therapist  
**Mladen Pilčić**, kit man  
**Goran Vincek**, kit man  
**Dennis Luka Lukančić**, kit man

**Davor Šuker**, president  
**Damir Vrbanović**, executive director  
**Marijan Kustić**, director of competitions and infrastructure  
**Ivančica Sudac**, head of international affairs and licensing  
**Zorislav Srebrić**, higher advisor to the president  
**Zoran Cvrk**, assistant to the executive director for event management  
**Tomislav Pacak**, spokesperson  
**Miroslav Marković**, security officer  
**Nikša Martinac**, ticketing officer  
**Helena Puškar**, event manager  
**Koraljka Petrinović**, marketing manager  
**Drago Sopta**, photographer  
**Nika Bahtijarević**, media officer  
**Tomica Đukić**, chef  
**Tihomir Maloča**, delegation member  
**Mislav Krznarić**, delegation member

A large crowd of people celebrating in a city square, with a large building in the background. The crowd is dense, and many people are holding up their phones to take photos or videos. The building in the background has a prominent dome and classical architectural features.

” We were all overjoyed to have an opportunity to experience such a moment. All of us will remember this welcome for a lifetime, proud to make people so happy. From the first second, as we deboarded the plane, it was obvious that all the effort, fighting, hard work, and discipline, everything we have invested before and during the World Cup, was not in vain. This day was so special that it could be easily declared a holiday in Croatia. I would like to thank everyone who came to greet us, I think that was the most beautiful sporting event of 2018 in the whole world. Let us keep fighting, to make our supporters happy and satisfied once again.”

Ivan Rakitić, World Cup vice-champion







## There are truly no words...

This is not a day that will go down in the history of Croatian football – this is a day that will go down in the history of Croatia, period. The nearly inconceivable number of people who lined the streets and the sheer joy and national pride which they displayed make the team's welcome in Zagreb one of the most memorable days in recent Croatian history.

The World Cup was over, and Croatia – tiny Croatia, with its four million inhabitants – had reached the very end of it. The ending of the tournament saw Croatia exhale after a month of gripping matches – but the momentary respite was followed by growing excitement. The Croatian team was to receive “an unseen welcome”. The news predicted “a full national square”. After witnessing the welcomes of the bronze medalists, of Janica Kostelić, and of Goran Ivanišević, this generation of football players would receive what they had always dreamed of – a welcome of their own.

Yet even in their wildest dreams, they could not have dreamt up the Welcome. They could not have possibly imagined – no one could have – what Croatia had prepared for its heroes.

Adorned with silver medals, an under-slept, worn group of fifty-something passengers on the Croatia Airlines flight from Moscow to Zagreb perked up when they were greeted by two MIG planes upon entering Croatian airspace. Text messages begin to trickle in, bearing photos of the Main Square and of the streets of Zagreb – but the real shock came when the team disembarked the airplane.

Could there really be this many people on the landing strip already? Could so many fans have really come to greet the team here in front of the airport? Is it really possible that a crowd of this unimaginable size had gathered in Buzin? With every coming turn and crossroads, the disbelief grew – had there always been so many people living here? As the bus left the airport, its could have been outpaced by a slug or a turtle – so slowly was the bus moving through the crowds that the players joked that “in four hours, we still won't be to the city center”. And they weren't – it took the team a total of six hours to reach the Main Square. The sheer ridiculousness of this can only be grasped when one realizes that the same route could be crossed on foot in three and half hours.

It was incredible to see the exchange of positive energy between the players and the people who had gathered on the streets to greet them. The mass of ecstatic fans shared their energy with their 22 heroes; the players thanked them with their songs and their joy as they celebrated on the bus. There is hardly an item that did not somehow make its way into the team bus as a present. The crowd threw flags, t-shirts, hats, and scarves; they also threw bras and assorted foods. The most coveted resource, however, was an external phone battery – everyone aboard the bus wanted to film these unbelievable scenes that the rest of the country hadn't yet witnessed, and that they themselves would surely not witness again in their lifetimes.

The eyes of the fans showed that the hours spent waiting for the bus to pass through their street had

been worth it, that they were happy to be part of this moment, that they were proud at what the team had done for their whole country, and that they wanted nothing more than to see in person the men whose efforts had brought them joy for the past month.

It's difficult to believe that grandmas in their seventies and eighties stood among the crowds and waved at the national team with tears in their eyes. People brought their month-old babies to greet the team; they climbed the traffic light and traffic signs; they walked for miles along with the bus, waved from rooftops and waited in the July heat for hours.

Each street brought yet more new, delirious faces. Somewhere around the University Library, it became unclear whether the bus would be able to turn into Vukovar Street. Then it was yet more unclear whether it would ever make its way to Savska Street – and could it possibly go through Savska Street and reach the Main Square? There were more people in front of the National Theatre than the previous day's news reports had estimated would come to the Main Square.

When the bus reached the Main Square, it was the icing on the cake of the entire trip from the airport. Hunger, thirst, the hours spent waiting for this moment – even the rain – could not ruin the brilliant, unforgettable atmosphere. The boys may have lost their voices, but the fans hadn't. With song and with cheering, the crowd celebrated the biggest success story in the history of Croatian sports – and an exceptional, unforgettable day came to an end.

# LUKA MODRIĆ SIMPLY THE BEST

The captain of Croatia's silver medalists and midfielder of reigning European champions Real Madrid is the undisputed star of the past football year.

Luka Modrić continued his streak of club successes as one of the key players to wear Real Madrid's jersey this season, and his impressive performances led the Vatreni to the very final of the World Cup, the most important match on the planet.

For his successes, he had received numerous individual recognitions, and he continues to receive them in the last weeks of 2018, with the crowning jewels of his collection being the impressive feat of winning a prestigious trio of awards: UEFA Men's Player of the Year, The Best FIFA Men's Player, and the Ballon d'Or. His list of achievements is rendered even more impressive when marketing viability is taken into consideration, as this only confirms how far ahead of his peers he was on the pitch.

**"It's unreal that the best player in the world comes from little Croatia, and that's why we should all be proud of our captain, who has shown us all that, with hard work and sacrifices, dreams can come true,"** said experienced defender Vedran Ćorluka.

**"This year it was a privilege to watch Modrić,"** said one of the world's best players of all time, iconic Brazilian Pele.

**"An incredible season of an incredible player,"** said Modrić's Real Madrid teammate Gareth Bale. Congratulations for Modrić arrived from all corners of the world – and members of the football family weren't the only ones impressed.

Special congratulations for winning the Ballon d'Or arrived from Croatia President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, and she was joined by the likes of Marin Čilić and Novak Đoković.

Reactions from Modrić's teammates in the national team and in Real Madrid were especially emotional, and his claim at all of this year's prestigious individual awards is given additional relevance by the fact that Modrić – who has travelled a long road from his beginnings as a child refugee to his star turn as an elite football – had ended a decade-long domination by Ronaldo and Messi on the awards circuit.

**"It was a fantastic year and all of Modrić's awards are well-deserved,"** said legendary Ronaldinho, and his compatriot Ronaldo sent additional words of praise.

**"All of Luka's awards are also a testament to his teammates and his coaches in the national team and in Real Madrid, and they are a point of pride for all of us in Croatian football – who can now pride ourselves on having produced the world's best player, in addition to many other excellent players. Luka's football style, his competitive spirit, humility, and work ethic make him a great inspiration for future generations. Let us hope that the next Luka is hiding among them, but for now – hats off to our captain, the best in the world!"** said HNS president **Davor Šuker**.

In the words of head coach **Zlatko Dalić**, **Luka Modrić** is *simply the best*.

**”** I will remember this year for the rest of my life; if I could have planned it myself, I wouldn't have been able to come up with something this glorious. It's truly a great honor and a wonderful feeling to hold this trophy, and I want to thank everyone who has supported me along the way. My teammates from my club and from the Croatian national team played an important part in helping me get here. I am happy that Croatia has been recognised as a football superpower, now to an even greater extent than ever before. **”**

**Luka Modrić**, world's best footballer



# THE BEST

FIFA FOOTBALL AWARDS 2018



2018



*The Year of Luka*





# LUKA MODRIĆ SIMPLY THE BEST

## National team caps at major competitions:

2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany - group stage  
UEFA EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland - quarterfinal  
UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine - group stage  
2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil - group stage  
UEFA EURO 2016 in France - round of 16  
2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia - vice-champions

## Club accomplishments:

### *Dinamo Zagreb*

3x champions of Croatia: 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08  
2x winners of the Croatian Cup: 2006/07, 2007/08  
1x winners of the Croatian Supercup: 2006

### *Real Madrid*

1x champions of Spain: 2016/17  
1x winners of the Copa del Rey: 2013/14  
2x winners of the Spanish Supercup: 2012, 2017  
4x winners of the UEFA Champions League: 2013/14, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18  
3x winners of the UEFA Super Cup: 2014, 2016, 2017  
3x winners of the FIFA Club World Cup: 2014, 2016, 2017

## Personal recognitions:

### *Domestic awards*

Croatian Football Hope of the Year (Večernji list): 2004  
Best Player of the Croatian First Division (Tportal): 2007  
Best Player of the Croatian First Division (Slobodna Dalmacija): 2007  
Best Player of the Croatian First Division (SN Shirt of the Year): 2007/08  
6x Croatian Footballer of the Year (Večernji list): 2007, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2017  
6x Croatian Footballer of the Year (Football Union): 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Croatian Footballer of the Year (HNS): 2018

### *International awards*

Best Player of the Bosnian-Herzegovian First Division: 2003  
Member of European Championship Best 11: 2008  
Tottenham Hotspurs' Player of the Year: 2010/11  
4x member of the UCL Squad of the Season: 2013/14, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18  
2x La Liga Best Midfielder: 2013/14, 2015/16  
Member of the Second-Best Team (FIFA FIFPro World XI): 2014  
4x member of the World Best XI (FIFA FIFPro World XI): 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
La Liga Team of the Season: 2015/16  
La Liga Best Midfielder (Facebook Football Award): 2016  
FIFA Club World Cup Silver Ball: 2016  
FIFA Club World Cup Golden Ball: 2017  
2x Team of the Year member (UEFA): 2016, 2017  
2x Best Midfielder (ESPN): 2016, 2017  
2x UCL Midfielder of the Season (UEFA): 2016/17, 2017/18  
World Team member (IFFHS): 2017  
Third place in Best Playmaker voting (IFFHS): 2017  
First place in Best Playmaker voting (IFFHS): 2018  
FIFA World Cup Golden Ball (FIFA): 2018  
FIFA World Cup Best XI member (FIFA): 2018  
Best XI at the World Cup member (Fantasy McDonald's Overall XI): 2018  
Men's Player of the Year (UEFA): 2017/18  
Men's Player of the Year (The Best FIFA): 2018  
Men's Player of the Year (Ballon d'Or France Football): 2018

### *Awards outside of football*

Order of Duke Branimir with Neck Badge: 2018  
"Franjo Bučar" State Award for Sports: 2018  
Honorary Citizen of Zadar: 2018





# THE VATRENI RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SUCCESS

The Croatian national football team and its silver medalists were received by the President of the Republic of Croatia **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**. The Vatreni's work ethic, their unity, and the many matches they won in Russia thrilled the nation, and the President recognized this with a reception that was also attended by children from the Children's Home in Nazorova, the Children's Village in Lekenik, and from the Zagreb Archdiocese's chapter of Caritas International.

*"Surrounded by the greatest of footballers, you won the hearts of the entire world. Thank you for this historic success, but most of all, thank you for bringing joy back to Croatia. Thank you for making it known to the whole world that there is no greater happiness than that of being Croatian, and that wearing our checkered jersey is a great honor. You fought until the last moment and you confirmed that Croatia is a football superpower. Above all, thank you for setting an example of hard work for our children and youth. You brought back our faith in miracles,"* said **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**.

The President of the Republic of Croatia bestowed the Order of Duke Trpimir with Neck Badge and Morning Star on HNS president **Davor Šuker**, head coach **Zlatko Dalić**, and the Order of Duke Branimir with Neck Badge on **Luka Modrić**, **Milan Badelj**, **Filip Bradarić**, **Marcelo Brozović**, **Duje Ćaleta-Car**, **Vedran Ćorluka**, **Tin Jedvaj**, **Lovre Kalinić**, **Mateo Kovačić**, **Andrej Kramarić**, **Dominik Livaković**, **Dejan Lovren**, **Mario Mandžukić**, **Ivan Perišić**, **Josip Pivarić**, **Marko Pjaca**, **Ivan Rakitić**, **Ante Rebić**, **Danijel Subašić**, **Domagoj Vida**, and **Šime Vrsaljko**.

The President of the Republic of Croatia bestowed the Order of the Croatian Morning Star, the Order of the Croatian Trefoil, and the Order of the Croatian Interlace on the members of the coaching staff and delegation of the Croatian national team: **Nika Bahtijarević**, **Zoran Bahtijarević**, **Zoran Cvrk**, **Tomica Đukić**, **Saša Janković**, **Nikola Jerkan**, **Nenad Krošnjar**, **Mislav Krznarić**, **Marijan Kustić**, **Dražen Ladić**, **Dennis Luka Lukančić**, **Tihomir Maloča**, **Miroslav Marković**, **Nikša Martinac**, **Luka Milanović**, **Marjan Mrmić**, **Ivica Olić**, **Iva Olivari-Uliša**, **Tomislav Pacak**, **Koraljka Petrinović**, **Mario Petrović**, **Mladem Pilčić**, **Helena Puškar**, **Nderim Redžaj**, **Marc Alexander James Rochon**, **Drago Sopta**, **Zorislav Srebrić**, **Goran Vincek**, and **Ognjen Vukojević**.

The Charter of the Republic of Croatia was awarded to the Croatian Football Federation. *"Thank you for being with us in Russia and supporting us every step of the way. We showed great unity, love for our home country, bravery, humility, and faith – all of it brought us this great success. For one month, Croatia was the most beautiful and the happiest country in the world, and that is how it should always be. We will continue to do our best at every match, so that Croatia may continue to be proud of us,"* stated head coach **Zlatko Dalić** at the reception.

Along with presidential honours, the Croatian national team/HNS, head coach **Zlatko Dalić**, and team captain **Luka Modrić** received the State Award for Sports. The annual award – which bears the name of professor, writer, and father of Croatian Olympic sports Franjo Bučar

– was presented in the building of the Croatian Parliament, with Parliament president **Gordan Jandroković**, Government vice-president and defense minister **Damir Krstičević**, representative of the President **Tomislav Madžar**, and deputy of the secretary of the Central State Office for Sports **Krešimir Šamija** also present at the festivity.

The award for the Croatian Football Federation was received by infrastructure and competitions director **Marijan Kustić**, who was joined by counsellor to the president **Zorislav Srebrić**, secretary **Vladimir Iveta**, and counsellor/coordinator for the work of county football associations **Stjepan Merkaš**. Along with coach **Dalić**, the award for **Luka Modrić** was received by his parents.

The "Franjo Bučar" State Award for Sports is awarded by the Republic of Croatia for significant contribution to the development of Croatian sport, as a recognition of long-standing and successful activity in sports, for the achievement of winning an Olympic medal, and for outstanding achievement in the field of sports – with the national team's silver medal certainly worthy of that title.

In addition to the above-mentioned awards, the Vatreni were also honoured by the Croatian Olympic Board for their outstanding contribution to the promotion of Croatia in the world and for the most successful men's sports team, while **Luka Modrić** and **Zlatko Dalić** received awards for the most successful men's athlete and most successful men's coach respectively.



“ I couldn't have imagined – nor did I dare to dream – of the meaning that this jersey would hold for me, and of what I would get to experience wearing it. It has been a defining element not only of my career as a footballer, but also of my life as a whole. ”

**Vedran Ćorluka**



# #ThanksČarli

Less than a month after winning the silver medal at the FIFA World Cup in Russia, Vedran Ćorluka said his goodbyes to the national team and the checkered jersey in an emotional letter to fans.

Born on February 5, 1986 in Derventa and known for his excellent technical abilities, the diverse defender started his club career in Dinamo Zagreb (with a brief loan spell in Inter Zaprešić) and won four domestic trophies. In 2007, he moved to Manchester City and made his Premier League debut, before moving to Tottenham Hotspur, where he would remain for four seasons. His English days were followed by a short loan to Bayer Leverkusen, after which he departed for Lokomotiv Moscow.

With Lokomotiv, he won the title of Russian champions and two domestic cups, as well as becoming the team captain. His efforts were recognized through two important individual awards: Player of the Year (as chosen by Lokomotiv supporters), and the "Vatrena Krila" award, by fans of the Croatian national team.

Ćorluka started his international career in 2002, as "a 16-year-old-kid overjoyed to have the opportunity to defend Croatian colors at least this one time in the youth categories". His debut in the youth team, however, would be far from his last time playing for Croatia – he wore the checkered jersey a total of 145 times, with 103 of those matches being at the senior level. Ćorluka earned his first cap for the senior team in a

2006 friendly win against the newly-crowned world champions Italy. During his long national team career, he scored on four occasions: against Qatar, Turkey, Estonia, and Macedonia.

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*Croatia vice-captain Vedran Ćorluka retires from the national team with more than 100 caps and as one of Croatia's best defenders, leaving behind a legacy of persistence, perseverance, and team spirit.*

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Despite his youth, Ćorluka became a key element in Croatia's defense under head coach Slaven Bilić, and he made a major contribution to Croatia's memorable success in EURO 2008 qualifiers, when Croatia topped Russia and left England empty-handed at Wembley. Ćorluka was equally important at the final tournament in Austria/Switzerland, with Croatia winning all three group stage matches and then losing to Turkey in dramatic circumstances. "We all felt that match against Turkey deeply," Ćorluka said, remembering his tears after this disappointment.

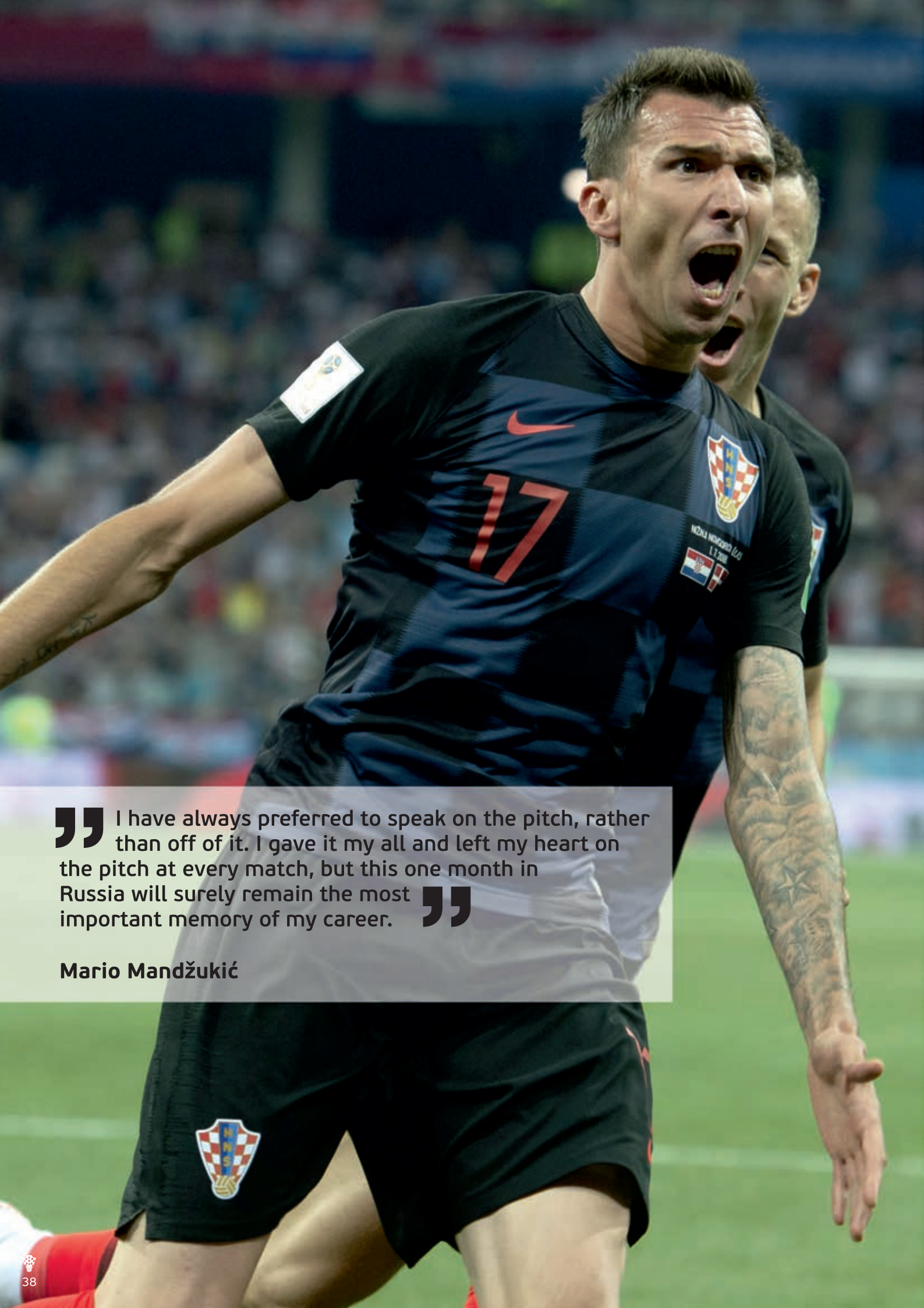
Another disappointment came when the team failed to reach the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. In the qualifiers and successful campaign at the EURO 2012 Poland/Ukraine, however,

Ćorluka was irreplaceable. He developed into a natural leader on the pitch and made vital contributions to Croatia's game at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, at EURO 2016 in France, and at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

His burning desire to see Croatia's potential fulfilled, after unfortunate losses to Spain, Mexico, and Portugal, has finally been realized this summer. "I had the privilege, luck, honor and the reward – I don't even know how to name it – to experience this summer in Russia." With a silver medal on his neck, and still on the tails of a one-month fairytale, he could close this chapter of his life with his head held high and his dreams a reality.

A leader both on the pitch and off of it, he will be remembered as one of the key members of the World Cup team that achieved the highest result in Croatia's football history. Ćorluka embodied team spirit with his humble approach, best seen as he celebrated his 100th cap by coming off of the bench in added time against Argentina. "Ćorluka set a standard with his example – no individual can be more important than the team," head coach Dalić said of Ćorluka.

And though he was the poster child for putting the team first, he also showed the impact that an individual can have, and as time passes, we are bound to see just how positive and lasting of an impression Vedran Ćorluka left on the team and on Croatia supporters.



“ I have always preferred to speak on the pitch, rather than off of it. I gave it my all and left my heart on the pitch at every match, but this one month in Russia will surely remain the most important memory of my career. ”

**Mario Mandžukić**



# #ThanksMandžo

Mario Mandžukić's career as a Croatia international has come to a close after 11 years, 89 appearances, and 33 goals – and the tireless forward from Slavonski Brod is sure to go down in Croatian football history as a symbol of relentless fighting, running stamina and determination.

He made his first football steps in Ditzingen, Germany; early senior-level performances at Marsonia and Zagreb secured him a place in Dinamo Zagreb's roster, where he won not only domestic trophies, but also awards for the best goal-scorer and the best player of the Croatian First Division.

In 2010, he moved to Wolfsburg to prove his quality at the Bundesliga level, and was quickly recognized by Bayern. In his first season in Munich, he won the treble, becoming the first Croatian player to score in the Champions League final.

Next he joined Atletico Madrid, and a year later he opted for a transfer to Juventus, winning three domestic doubles in a row, and playing in another Champions League final against Modrić and Kovačić's Real Madrid, where he scored UEFA's goal of the season – a beautiful overhead kick. "His running, technique, and tactical understanding are incredible. He is a top-class striker", explained Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri.

Following appearances in the youth categories, his senior debut came under the leadership of Slaven Bilić, in a 2007 friendly against Macedonia. He scored

his first goal in his second appearance in a 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifying match against England in Zagreb.

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*Mario Mandžukić bids his farewell to the Vatreni as the second-best goal-scorer in Croatian history – and as a symbol of always putting the success of the team first.*

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Mandžukić gave an important contribution to Croatia's successful EURO 2012 qualifying campaign, including a goal against Turkey in the play-offs. In Poland/Ukraine, he scored a brace against the Republic of Ireland and a goal against Italy, and became one of the highest goal-scorers of the entire tournament. He was also acknowledged as the Croatian Footballer of the Year, Sportsman of the Year, and was awarded the supporters' "Vatrena Krila" award. "He just flies on the pitch", summarized head coach Bilić.

Confirming his status as one of Croatia's key players, he was efficient in the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, scoring two valuable goals against Serbia, one against Wales and one against Iceland in the play-off return leg, when he was also sent off. In Brazil, he scored a brace in the group stage against Cameroon.

A special place in the fans' collective

memory of the EURO 2016 qualifiers is reserved for his goal against Italy; also memorable is his hat-trick in a 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier at Kosovo. A mere three days later, he scored the winning goal against Finland.

As Croatia went on to win the silver medal, Mandžukić was a clear first choice as a striker against Nigeria and Argentina in the group stage. Against Denmark in the Round of 16, he scored the equalizer, only to mark his final two matches for Croatia with more goals: an extra-time winner against England in the semifinals, and a goal in the World Cup final itself, against France.

However, not even the moments of greatest glory could distract him. "I'm here to do whatever it takes for the team, regardless of my position. I keep my head down, I work, and the most important thing for me is to emerge victorious. It doesn't matter if I score", Mandžukić was clear.

Still, he retires as the second-best all-time Croatia goal-scorer, behind Šuker (45), and ahead of Eduardo Alves da Silva (29). With a silver medal around his neck, he can look back with pleasure at matches played in his favorite jersey.

"We have made our dreams come true, achieved a historic success, and experienced unbelievable fan support. That month, including the welcomes in Zagreb, Slavonski Brod, and the rest of Croatia, will remain the single most important memory of my career", said Mandžukić upon closing his international chapter.



” All the club competitions in the world cannot compare to playing for the Croatian national team, and the feeling that comes with hearing the Croatian anthem ahead of each match. This love will never fade. ”

Danijel Subašić





# #ThanksSuba

Shortly after the announcements of Vedran Ćorluka and Mario Mandžukić's international retirements, 33-year-old Croatia goalkeeper Danijel Subašić also confirmed his withdrawal from the national team after two full campaigns – EURO 2016 and the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Subašić made his debut for the senior national team in November 2009, in a Vinkovci friendly against Lichtenstein. During Stipe Pletikosa's era, he earned several more caps in friendlies, and he finally made his competitive debut against Malta in September 2014, at the beginning of the team's road to France.

Conceding goals on only five occasions, Subašić joined in on the celebrations as Croatia secured final tournament berth, and proceeded to save a penalty by Sergio Ramos as the Vatreni managed to defeat the reigning champions Spain. He also contributed to a tough, but successful qualifying campaign for the World Cup in Russia, where he deservedly became one of the nation's heroes.

Subašić was capped in victories against Nigeria and Argentina in the group stage, and then saved three

attempts by Denmark in the decisive Round of 16 penalty shootout, repeating Ricardo's record-breaking effort from Germany 2006.

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*Danijel Subašić retires from international duty after 44 caps and with a World Cup silver medal around his neck.*

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However, this was not the end of Subašić's heroics. Several days later, in the quarterfinals stage, the Russian tournament hosts failed to score two more penalties as Croatia's goalie paved the road towards a magnificent clash with England in the semifinal. This time, his fantastic intervention denied Kane from scoring a second goal for England and allowed Croatia to come back and secure a place in the World Cup final.

In the end, France claimed the title – but Croatia brought home the historic silver, courtesy of Danijel Subašić and the rest of the Vatreni. Suba could therefore end his international career with his head held high.

"There is nothing to regret, we have to go home feeling proud. We managed to bring joy to people of Croatia, and they rarely have something to be happy about. It's not a small thing to be second best," he stated.

Suba – who will also be remembered for his energy, his charisma, and his contributions to keeping team spirit high – will continue his club career at Monaco, where he has already won the first and second division titles, alongside individual awards for the best goalkeeper in France. Though his usual role is to keep opponents at bay, he has also managed to score a goal for Monaco, from a free-kick against Boulogne.

Before departing to Monaco, Subašić played for Zadar and Hajduk, winning the Croatian Cup at Split. From his hometown and his youth, he preserved a friendship with tragically deceased Hrvoje Ćustić - Subašić wears a shirt with his name at every match.

"We can fully rely on Danijel Subašić," said former Croatia head coach Niko Kovač when Subašić took over from Stipe Pletikosa. Suba proved him right - and more.

# A YEAR OF GREAT OPPONENTS

The national team's historic year will go down in memory not only for the glorious silver medal, but also for a long line of matches against excellent teams – even outside of the World Cup.

The team's first challenge came on its US tour in March, when the Vatreni played ambitious Peru (0:2), who were especially hungry for victories ahead of their return to the World Cup. Four days later, Croatia internationals played another friendly – this time with the well-known Mexicans. Rakitić's penalty goal ensured a 1:0 victory for Croatia.

As part of the team's preparations for the World Cup, the Vatreni headed to Liverpool to meet the ultimate football nation – Brazil (0:2); their final test ahead of their flight to Russia came in a close win over Senegal at Gradski Vrt Stadium in Osijek (2:1), made possible by the goals of Perišić and Kramarić.

Autumn brought yet more exciting matches, starting with a friendly match against current European champions Portugal. Both teams left Faro without a win (1:1). The Nations League calendar left space for another friendly match, this time on home turf; goals by centre-backs Vida and Mitrović brought Croatia a win against Jordan (2:1).

The main spotlight was, of course, on the newly-established UEFA competitions, with the Vatreni competing in League A against England and Spain. Despite a rough start (a 0:6 loss in Elche), Croatia internationals managed to stay in the running for the top spot with a tie against the Three Lions (0:0) and a gripping win against Spain (3:2). The Maksimir spectacle against Spain proved to also be the perfect occasion for the Croatian audience to greet the world vice-champions in their first competitive home

game since the World Cup – and the Vatreni did their best to keep the audience entertained, with Croatia taking the lead twice (Kramarić, Jedvaj), Spain evening the score both times (Ceballos, Ramos), and unexpected hero Jedvaj bringing victory for the home team with a goal in extended-time. Three days later, Kramarić took the lead against England at Wembley, and Croatia seemed the winner of its group – but the English managed to get in two worthy goals and earn the top spot (1:2), which sent Croatia to League B.

The Vatreni's tumultuous time in the Nations League did not diminish their reputation on the world scene. The football world followed Croatia through its multiple matches against former world champions from South America (Brazil, Argentina) and other ambitious Latin teams (Peru, Mexico), against strong African football nations (Senegal, Nigeria), and against Asian representative Jordan. Croatia's list of European opponents is no less impressive, including former and current world champions in the biggest match on the planet (France), the reigning European champions (Portugal), the undisputed rulers of football in the 2008-2012 era (Spain), and three matches against the eternally special team from the very birthplace of football (England). No less exciting were tense matches against crowd-favorite Iceland, enduring Denmark, and enthusiastic Russia.

In 2018, fans of the Vatreni had the unique opportunity of watching their heroes play against some of the biggest names to ever enter the pitch – Messi, Neymar, Griezmann, Mbappe, Kane, Ramos, and many others. Through it all, Croatia made one thing clear – their place among the world's football elite is more than well-deserved.



“ It's not easy to spend a month and a half together without a single fight. This Croatian team is one big family. ”

**Vedran Ćorluka**

“ It's truly special to play for our country, for this jersey, for our parents, our people, and for everyone who loves Croatia. ”

**Šime Vrsaljko**

“ Thank you to the fans for their positivity and unity, from which all of this has sprung. Let Croatia celebrate and enjoy, and we'll jump headfirst for them. ”

**Danijel Subašić**

“ The special feelings that we have for Croatia make us carry ourselves differently as soon as we put on this holy jersey, no matter the sport we play. The Croatian people carry this pride in them. We have entered the hearts of the whole world. ”

**Ivan Rakitić**

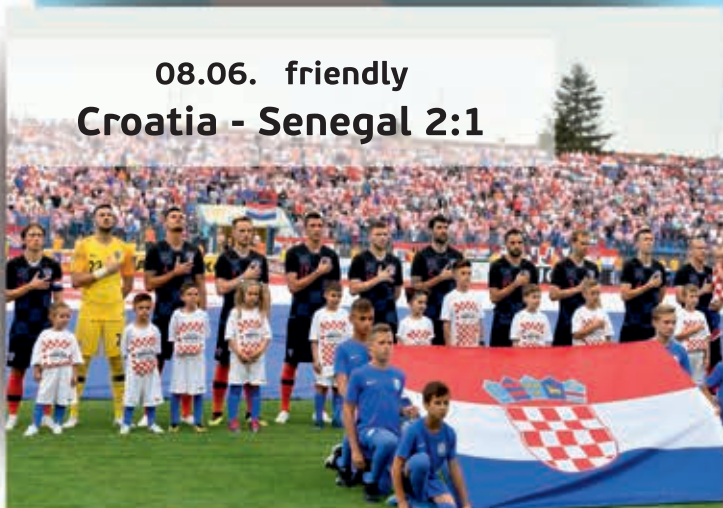


Croatia played 10 games with former or current World and European Champions in 2018 - three times against **England**, two times against **Spain** and once against **Brazil**, **Argentina**, **France**, **Portugal** and **Denmark**.



23.03. friendly  
**Peru - Croatia 2:0**

08.06. friendly  
**Croatia - Senegal 2:1**



In 2018, the Croatian national team set its new record for number of matches played in one year. In addition to seven games at the FIFA World Cup, Croatia played six friendly games and four games in UEFA Nations League.

Five players had their national team debuts in 2018:  
**Karlo Bartolec**, **Duje Ćaleta-Car**,  
**Josip Brekalo**,  
**Antonio Milić** and **Marko Livaja**.



11.09. UEFA Nations League  
**Spain - Croatia 6:0**



15.10. friendly  
**Croatia - Jordan 2:1**



15.11. UEFA Nations League  
**Croatia - Spain 3:2**



27.03. friendly  
**Mexico - Croatia 0:1**



03.06. friendly  
**Brazil - Croatia 2:0**



06.09. friendly  
**Portugal - Croatia 1:1**

With five goals to his name, **Ivan Perišić** was the top goalscorer for Croatia in 2018. **Andrej Kramarić** scored four goals, with **Mario Mandžukić** scoring all three of his goals at the World Cup.

**Domagoj Vida** played in 16 games for Croatia this year - he only missed a game against Iceland.  
**Luka Modrić**, **Andrej Kramarić** and **Ivan Perišić** each had 15 appearances.



12.10. UEFA Nations League  
**Croatia - England 0:0**



18.11. UEFA Nations League  
**England - Croatia 2:1**

35 internationals played for Croatia during 2018.  
**Vedran Ćorluka** and **Ivan Rakić** joined "Club 100".

# THE YOUNG VATRENI EARN THEIR TICKET TO THE EURO, GOOD NEWS ABOUND IN YOUTH CATEGORIES

For Croatia's U-21 team, 2018 was certainly a year to remember. After a 14-year wait, the team has managed to place at the final tournament of the UEFA European U-21 Championship. Head coach **Nenad Gračan** and his boys travelled a thorny road to the competition's final stage, which culminated in a key victory against

Greece in the penultimate round of the group stage in Pula (2:0) and a win against San Marino.

*"This success is historic, especially in light of how long we have waited and wished for this moment. I believe this talented generation has the chance to once again show the might of Croatian football, and that they will play a key role at the Tournament. They are an investment into our future*

*and we are so proud of them,"* said HNS president **Davor Šuker**.

The team's impressive performances were led by players who had already made their debut at the senior level – such as **Halilović, Vlašić, Brekalo, and Čaleta-Car**. Their group stage matches in San Marino, which are to be played in June 2019, promise to bring exciting football against Romania, France, and England.



*"We have reached our first key goal of placing at the EURO, and now it is time for us to prepare as best as we can. We must use this opportunity and we want to play the best football that we can; I think we have a team with a lot of potential. The expectations are great, and we want a good result, especially after our great run in the qualifiers,"* said head coach **Gračan**.

The Croatian senior women's team ended their road in the qualifiers for the FIFA Women's World Cup with their best score to date – a 1:1 draw against current European champions Denmark, with coach **Mate Prskalo's** women in the lead until extended time. This result comes as a bright end to the effort they have put in during the qualifying cycle, in which they achieved two more ties at way matches against Ukraine and Hungary.

Croatian men's U-17 team met with Sweden, Belgium and Cyprus in Elite Round during spring 2018 and did not manage to qualify for the final tournament, but had a successful autumn by qualifying for another Elite Round in a group with Armenia, Andorra and Italy. Croatia U-19 was likewise successful in earning their place in the Elite Round, thanks to a win against Luxemburg (2:1), and ties against Macedonia (1:1) and the Czech Republic (2:2) in November.

Nedelišće and Ludbreg hosted Group 1 in the qualifiers for the European Women's U-19 Championship, with Croatia meeting England, Slovakia, and Malta. Croatia U-17 (W) fought their way to the final of the Gallini Cup in Italy, and also hosted the qualifying tournament for Group 2 for the EC, winning against Israel (1:0).

With head coach **Jakov Ungarov** at the helm, Croatia's women's futsal team played a strong qualifying round for the EC – though they scored two wins against Slovenia and Sweden, they ultimately did not go through to the final tournament, due to a loss against group favorite Russia. The men's futsal team won an international tournament in Hungary with wins against Slovakia and the Czech Republic, as well as a draw against the tournament hosts.

**Dario Marinović** was named best player of the tournament, while **Žarko Luketin** took the award for the best goalkeeper. In September, head coach **Stanković** and his team met England in an away match, which was broadcast live on the BBC.



“ It is a huge honor to be a part of this team, and especially to be the team captain. I think these boys more than earned their place at the European Championship, which is what we have fought for from generation to generation. We have shown that we deserve a place among the best, and now it's time to prepare well for the summer. ”

**Alen Halilović,**  
Croatia U-21 captain



U-21



A



U-20



U-19



U-19



U-17



U-18



U-16



U-17



FUTSAL A



U-16



FUTSAL U-19



U-15



FUTSAL U-19



# HEAD COACHES



**ZLATKO DALIĆ**  
National team



**NENAD GRAČAN**  
U-21 national team



**ROBERT JARNI**  
U-20 national team



**IVAN GUĐELJ**  
U-19 national team



**PETAR KRPAN**  
U-17 national team



**TOMISLAV GRIČAR**  
U-15 national team



**SERGEJ MILIVOJEVIĆ**  
U-14 national team



**MATO STANKOVIĆ**  
Futsal national team



**MARINKO MAVROVIĆ**  
Futsal U-19 national team



**MATE PRSKALO**  
Women's national team



**HRVOJE MATIJEVIĆ**  
Women's U-19 national team



**MARIJA M. DAMJANOVIĆ**  
Women's U-17 and U-15 national teams



**JAKOV UNGAROV**  
Women's Futsal national team

## RESULTS IN 2018

**114 matches / 54 wins / 22 draws / 38 losses / goal difference 147:182**

### National team

23.03. friendly PER - CRO 2:0  
27.03. friendly MEX - CRO 0:1  
03.06. friendly BRA - CRO 2:0  
08.06. friendly CRO - SEN 2:1

16.06. WC CRO - NIG 2:0  
21.06. WC ARG - CRO 0:3  
26.06. WC ISL - CRO 1:2  
01.07. WC CRO - DEN 4:3 11m  
07.07. WC RUS - CRO 5:6 11m  
11.07. WC CRO - ENG 2:1 aet  
15.07. WC FRA - CRO 4:2

06.09. friendly POR - CRO 1:1  
11.09. UNL ESP - CRO 6:0  
12.10. UNL CRO - ENG 0:0  
15.10. friendly CRO - JOR 2:1  
15.11. UNL CRO - ESP 3:2  
18.11. UNL ENG - CRO 2:1

### U-21 national team

23.03. qual. CZE - CRO 2:1  
27.03. qual. CRO - MDA 4:0  
10.09. qual. BLR - CRO 0:4  
12.10. qual. CRO - GRE 2:0  
15.10. qual. SMR - CRO 0:4  
15.11. friendly FRA - CRO 2:2

### U-20 national team

25.04. friendly ITA - CRO 3:0  
05.09. friendly CRO - RUS 1:0  
07.09. friendly CRO - RUS 1:0  
14.11. friendly CRO - BLR 3:1  
16.11. friendly CRO - BLR 2:0

### U-19 national team

14.08. friendly ITA - CRO 3:2  
04.09. friendly CRO - IND 5:0  
06.09. friendly CRO - FRA 0:1  
08.09. friendly CRO - SVN 3:2  
09.10. friendly CRO - TUR 2:1  
11.10. friendly CRO - TUR 1:4  
14.11. qual. MKD - CRO 1:1  
17.11. qual. CRO - LUX 2:1  
20.11. qual. CRO - CZE 2:2

### U-18 national team

20.03. friendly CRO - WAL 3:0  
22.03. friendly CRO - WAL 2:1  
15.05. friendly CRO - BIH 2:0  
17.05. friendly BIH - CRO 0:1  
15.07. friendly JPN - CRO 3:0  
16.07. friendly MEX - CRO 2:0  
11.12. friendly CRO - MNE 1:3  
13.12. friendly CRO - BIH 1:2  
15.12. friendly CRO - TUR 0:0

### U-17 national team

20.02. friendly SRB - CRO 2:0  
22.02. friendly SRB - CRO 1:1  
09.03. qual. SWE - CRO 0:0  
12.03. qual. CRO - CYP 1:1  
15.03. qual. CRO - BEL 1:2  
03.08. friendly HUN - CRO 0:2  
05.08. friendly WAL - CRO 0:3  
07.08. friendly CZE - CRO 1:3  
25.09. friendly CRO - SVN 0:2  
27.09. friendly SVN - CRO 1:0  
27.10. qual. ARM - CRO 0:3  
30.10. qual. CRO - AND 3:0  
02.11. qual. CRO - ITA 0:3

### U-16 national team

11.04. friendly BIH - CRO 1:1  
13.04. friendly CRO - AZE 1:0  
15.04. friendly CRO - MKD 2:0  
22.07. friendly CRO - ENG 0:2  
24.07. friendly CRO - ENG 0:0  
30.11. friendly SVK - CRO 2:2  
02.12. friendly BLR - CRO 0:4  
04.12. friendly ISR - CRO 3:2

### U-15 national team

25.04. friendly MKD - CRO 1:1  
26.04. friendly ITA - CRO 2:0  
27.04. friendly SAD - CRO 2:0  
29.04. friendly RUS - CRO 0:2  
01.05. friendly CRO - CZE 2:4  
23.07. friendly CRO - ALB 1:0  
25.07. friendly CRO - ALB 3:1  
10.12. friendly CRO - SVN 1:1  
12.12. friendly CRO - SVN 1:1

### Women's national team

28.02. friendly CRO - MNE 4:0  
05.04. qual. CRO - UKR 0:3  
09.04. qual. CRO - HUN 1:3  
07.06. qual. SWE - CRO 4:0  
30.08. qual. DEN - CRO 1:1

### Women's U-19 national team

29.08. friendly CRO - SUI 1:5  
31.08. friendly CRO - SUI 0:0  
01.10. qual. CRO - SVK 0:6  
04.10. qual. ENG - CRO 8:0  
07.10. qual. MLT - CRO 0:0

### Women's U-17 national team

21.08. friendly HUN - CRO 2:0  
23.08. friendly CRO - HUN 2:3  
19.10. qual. CRO - RUS 0:1  
22.10. qual. NOR - CRO 4:0  
25.10. qual. ISR - CRO 0:1

### Women's U-16 national team

18.04. friendly BIH - CRO 2:1  
20.04. friendly CRO - AZE 1:1  
22.04. friendly CRO - MKD 3:1

### Futsal national team

22.01. friendly CRO - SVK 1:0  
23.01. friendly CZE - CRO 1:3  
24.01. friendly HUN - CRO 1:1  
22.06. friendly CRO - SMR 8:0  
23.06. friendly CRO - CZE 4:2  
25.06. friendly CRO - CZE 5:1  
22.09. friendly ENG - CRO 0:4  
23.09. friendly ENG - CRO 2:6  
28.10. friendly ISR - CRO 0:4  
29.10. friendly ISR - CRO 1:5

### Futsal U-19 national team

03.04. friendly CRO - MKD 3:2  
04.04. friendly CRO - MKD 6:5  
13.06. friendly SRB - CRO 0:1  
14.06. friendly CRO - POL 4:1  
14.06. friendly CRO - IRQ 2:5  
16.06. friendly CRO - SVN 1:1 (9:8)  
16.06. friendly IRQ - CRO 3:1

### Women's Futsal national team

12.09. qual. CRO - SVN 6:2  
13.09. qual. CRO - SWE 3:2  
15.09. qual. RUS - CRO 9:0



WORLD CUP  
RUSSIA 2018



**GNK Dinamo Zagreb**  
HT 1st Division winners



**ŽNK Osijek**  
1. HNLŽ winners



**MNK Novo vrijeme Makarska**  
1. HMNL winners



**GNK Dinamo Zagreb**  
Croatian Cup winners

## DINAMO ZAGREB RISES AGAIN

After a triumphant 2016/2017 season for Rijeka, Dinamo returned to previous form and once again claimed both the title of champions and the Croatian Cup. This is the Blues' 19th time coming out on top in the Croatian First Division, and their 15th time winning the Croatian Cup. Dinamo can also pride themselves on having the highest-scoring player of the championship in El Arabi Hilla Soudani, who scored 17 goals in First Division matches. With 73 points at the end of the season, Dinamo came out ahead of Rijeka (70) and Hajduk (66); in the Cup final, the Blues defeated their perennial rivals from Split (1:0). Ahead of this rendition of the Croatian Derby in Vinkovci, the local stadium underwent

considerable renovations, and the final match itself was a part of the inaugural Days of Croatian Football in Slavonia.

The manifestation also included the final matches of the Youth Cup, held in nearby Ivankovo. Dinamo U-15, Hajduk U-17, and Osijek U-19 triumphed, while the title of champions in the youth leagues was claimed by Dinamo for all three age groups.

The Blues' U-19 squad was successful in their first two rounds of the UEFA Youth League against

Romanian Vittorulo and Astana from Kazakhstan, and will continue with the competition in spring.

In the Second Croatian Division, the title of champions went to Gorica – who are also this year's

In 2018, the Blues returned to true form and brought both the Croatian Cup and the Trophy of the Croatian First Division back to Zagreb. This is Dinamo's 19<sup>th</sup> title in the Croatian league, and their 15<sup>th</sup> title in the cup competition. The Blues also won the youth championships in all three categories.

addition to the first-tier competition. Istra 1961 avoided relegation through a win against Varaždin.

The fact that Croatian football had truly found itself under a lucky star in 2018 was once again confirmed by Dinamo Zagreb, as the Blues managed to reach the knock-out stage of a European competition for the first time in 49 years. Dinamo successfully overcame Hapoel Beer Sheva and Astana, but their road to the Champions League was cut short by

After 49 years of waiting, Dinamo will play in the knock-out phase of a European club competition, thanks to excellent displays in the group stage of the Europa League. As part of Group D, Dinamo overcame Fenerbahce, Spartak Trnava, and Anderlecht.

The players of ŽNK Osijek won their 12th consecutive and 21st cumulative title of women's champions of Croatia.

Young Boys, which put them in Group D of the Europa League.

The Blues truly shone in the group stage and stood their ground against strong opponents; Fenerbahce, Anderlecht, and Spartak Trnava. The Croatian champions achieved four consecutive wins in the first four rounds and ensured that they would place first in their group with a tie in Istanbul – but the Zagreb boys have no plans of stopping there...

"I am certain that we will continue to do well in the remainder of the Europa League and that we will show that club football, like the national team, can also contribute to the excellent reputation of Croatian football in Europe and the rest of the world," said HNS president Davor Šuker.

Along with Dinamo, three more Croatian clubs tried their luck in the Europa League. Osijek eliminated

Moldavian Petrocub and was subsequently eliminated by Glasgow Rangers; Hajduk was successful against Slavia Sofia, but were unable to beat Romanian FCSB; Rijeka was stopped short by Norwegian Sarpsborg.

For the first time in history, Novo Vrijeme Apfel from Makarska won the title of Croatian futsal champions, thanks to a victory against Split Tommy in the final round (3:1). Their win ends a three-year domination by Nacional Zagreb, and was also the start of their successful European spell. The club hosted the Main Round and secured three victories against Kampuksen Dynamo, TBC Tbilisi, and Aktobe – thus placing among the 16 best teams on the continent. Further in the competition, they faced Benefica, Sporting, and Russian Sibirjak, which is sure to be a priceless experience for the club's further development.

Novo Vrijeme Apfel of Makarska won their first title of Croatian futsal champions and made a successful first run in European competitions by placing among the 16 best teams in the UEFA Futsal Champions League.

## FIFA/COCA-COLA WORLD RANKING (TOP 50)

1	Belgium	1727
2	France	1726
3	Brazil	1676
<b>4</b>	<b>Croatia</b>	<b>1634</b>
5	England	1631
6	Portugal	1614
7	Uruguay	1609
8	Switzerland	1599
9	Spain	1591
10	Denmark	1589
11	Argentina	1582
12	Colombia	1575
13	Chile	1565
14	Sweden	1560
14	Netherlands	1560
16	Germany	1558
17	Mexico	1540
18	Italy	1539
19	Wales	1525
20	Poland	1518
20	Peru	1518
22	Austria	1509
23	Senegal	1505
24	Romania	1501
25	USA	1497
26	Tunisia	1493
27	Slovakia	1483
28	Ukraine	1482
29	Iran	1481
29	Serbia	1481
31	Venezuela	1478
32	Paraguay	1476
33	Rep. of Ireland	1474
34	BIH	1472
35	N. Ireland	1465
36	Costa Rica	1464
37	Island	1452
38	Scotland	1446
39	Turkey	1443
40	Morocco	1440
41	Australia	1436
42	Czech Republic	1435
43	Greece	1428
44	Nigeria	1427
44	Montenegro	1427
46	Bulgaria	1425
46	Norway	1425
48	Russia	1424
49	Congo	1420
50	Japan	1414

## UEFA RANKING FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS

1 Spain	97.569
2 England	75.605
3 Italy	72.154
4 Germany	69.784
5 France	57.165
6 Russia	49.716
7 Portugal	45.832
8 Belgium	39.300
9 Ukraine	38.100
10 Turkey	34.000
11 Netherlands	30.633
12 Austria	30.450
13 Greece	27.400
14 Denmark	27.025
15 Switzerland	26.900
16 Czech Republic	26.875
<b>17 Croatia</b>	<b>26.375</b>
18 Cyprus	24.925
19 Serbia	22.250
20 Scotland	22.125
21 Belarus	21.375
22 Sweden	20.900
23 Norway	20.200
24 Kazakhstan	19.250
25 Poland	19.250
26 Azerbaijan	19.000
27 Israel	18.625
28 Bulgaria	17.500
29 Romania	15.950
30 Slovakia	15.625
31 Slovenia	15.000
32 Liechtenstein	13.500
33 Hungary	10.500
34 Macedonia	8.000
35 Moldova	7.750
36 Albania	7.500
37 Rep. of Ireland	7.450
38 Finland	7.275
39 Island	7.250
40 BiH	7.125
41 Lithuania	6.750
42 Latvia	5.625
43 Luxembourg	5.500
44 Armenia	5.250
45 Malta	5.125
46 Estonia	5.000
47 Georgia	4.750
48 Wales	4.125
49 Montenegro	4.125
50 Faroe Islands	4.000
51 Gibraltar	4.000
52 Northern Ireland	3.875
53 Kosovo	2.500
54 Andorra	1.831
55 San Marino	0.666

## HNS COMPETITIONS WINNERS

MEN		WOMEN	
HT 1st Division	Dinamo Zagreb	1. HNLŽ	Osijek
II. HNL	Gorica	2. HNLŽ North-West	Dinamo Zagreb
III. HNL West	Vinogradar Mladina	2. HNLŽ South	Omla Dubrovnik
III. HNL East	Osijek II	Croatian Cup	Split
III. HNL South	Croatia Zmijavci	1. HMNLŽ	Alumnus SC Flegar Zagreb
I. HNL U-19	Dinamo Zagreb	HNLŽ U-17	Osijek
I. HNL U-17	Dinamo Zagreb	HNLŽ Center U-15	Agram Zagreb
I. HNL U-15	Dinamo Zagreb	HNLŽ South U15	Donat Zadar
Croatian Cup	Dinamo Zagreb	HNLŽ East U-15	Osijek
U-19 Cup	Osijek	<b>FUTSAL</b>	
U-17 Cup	Hajduk Split	I. HMNL	Novo Vrijeme Apfel Makarska
U-15 Cup	Dinamo Zagreb	II. HMNL	Universitas Split
<b>VETERANS</b>		Futsal Cup	Split Tommy
Outdoor	Zagorec Krapina	HMNL U-19	Split Tommy
Indoor	Neretva Metković	HMNL U-17	Brod 035 Slavonski Brod

## CROATIAN CLUBS IN EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS

<b>Champions League</b>	<b>Dinamo Zagreb</b>	<b>Youth League</b>	<b>Dinamo Zagreb</b>
2nd round: Hapoel Beer-Sheva (ISR)	5:0, 2:2	1st round: Viitorul (ROM)	1:0, 2:0
3rd round: Astana (KAZ)	2:0, 1:0	2nd round: Astana (KAZ)	1:1, 3:1
4th round: Young Boys (SUI)	1:1, 1:2		
<b>Europa League</b>	<b>Dinamo Zagreb</b>	<b>Women's Champions League</b>	<b>Osijek</b>
Group D - 1st place:		Group B - 3rd place:	
Fenerbahçe (TUR)	4:1, 0:0	Dragon (MKD)	13:0
Anderlecht (BEL)	2:0, 0:0	Sporting (POR)	0:3
Spartak Trnava (SVK)	2:1, 3:1	Avaldsnes (NOR)	2:2
<b>Europa League</b>	<b>Osijek</b>	<b>Futsal Cup</b>	<b>Novo Vrijeme Apfel Makarska</b>
1st round: Petrocub (MDA)	1:1, 2:1	Main Round, Group - 1st place:	
2nd round: Rangers (SCO)	0:1, 1:1	Kampuksen Dynamo (FIN)	6:1
<b>Europa League</b>	<b>Hajduk Split</b>	Tatishvili (GEO)	4:2
2nd round: Slavia Sofija (BUL)	1:0, 3:2	Aktobe (KAZ)	4:3
3rd round: FCSB (ROM)	0:0, 1:2	Elite Round, Group - 4th place:	
<b>Europa League</b>	<b>Rijeka</b>	Benfica (POR)	0:5
3rd round: Sarpsborg (NOR)	1:1, 0:1	Sporting CP (POR)	0:6
		Sibiriyak (RUS)	1:3





**Zagreb Stadium**



**Ivan Kušek Apaš Stadium  
Koprivnica**



**Aldo Drosina Stadium Pula**



**ŠRC Zaprešić Stadium**



Maksimir Stadium

4 105 068 €

Total investments into renovation and maintenance of pitches:

## HNS RENOVATES FIRST DIVISION PITCHES

While the Vatreni were making a splash on the pitches of Russia in the summer months of 2018, HNS was equally busy off the pitch, with the Croatian FA renovating the pitches of a number of first-tier clubs.

New pitches were built at the stadia of Inter Zaprešić, Istra 1961, Slaven Belupo, Dinamo, and at Kranjčevićeva Stadium, which is used jointly by Lokomotiva and Rudeš. Though initial planning also included Vinkovci Stadium, this part of the project was abandoned, as local club Cibalia was relegated to the third tier of Croatian football competitions.

This infrastructure project was initiated at the end of the last competitive season by HNS, as part of a joint effort with UEFA. All of the newly installed

pitches are hybrid pitches, which combine natural and artificial grass. In addition to this, Kranjčevićeva Stadium also received new seating and renovated sanitary facilities; the opening of the new areas was also attended by Zagreb mayor **Milan Bandić**.

*"I would like to thank HNS for their investments in football infrastructure, so that the next Modrić, Mandžukić, and Rakitić may train and play our beloved sport of football,"* said **Bandić**.

Construction of the pitches was done by Italian companies Rappo S.R.L. and Italgreen S.p.A., who were chosen at the end of an international search for suppliers. The positive repercussions of installing the new pitches have been visible in the first half-season already, especially as clubs neared the winter break.

*"This has been the biggest project of HNS since its independence. I want to thank everyone who has supported this endeavor – the pitches are beautiful, and*

*were also very much a necessity. We did a great job and I hope we will continue with our infrastructure investments in the future,"* said HNS director of competitions and infrastructure **Marijan Kustić**.

Ahead of the 90th anniversary of NK Jadran, HNS also formally opened the new Luka Sokčević Šaljapin Stadium in Gunja, which the Croatian FA had fully renovated in collaboration with UEFA and FIFA. The renovations were started four years ago, after the local football infrastructure suffered severe damage during the floods in Slavonia. The whole project has been nominated for the Croatian Architecture Chamber's Medal of Architecture.

Only four months passed from the beginning of construction in Zaprešić to the completion of the whole project in Kranjčevićeva

The Croatian Football Federation renovated five pitches

To build the stadium and the pitch in Gunja, and to install an automatic pitch irrigation system and the other necessary facilities, HNS spent

5 100 000 km



” I am happy to be the first winner of this award, and I hope this is the start of a long tradition. We have achieved incredible things as a club and I am happy to have given my maximum. Regarding the national team, I can promise everyone that we will give it our all in Russia. It is a great honour to play for Croatia. ”

**Luka Modrić,**  
Winner of the HNS Trophy  
for Best Croatian Footballer





## HNS PREMIERES DAYS OF CROATIAN FOOTBALL

Days before Croatia's final friendly match ahead of the World Cup, "Hrvatski Dom" Theatre in Vukovar hosted HNS's inaugural edition of the Formal Evening of Croatian Football, at which the season's most prominent individuals received the HNS Trophy. The event was also attended by mayors of Vukovar and Osijek **Ivan Penava** and **Ivica Vrkić**.

The title of Best Croatian Footballer went to national team captain and member of current European champions Real Madrid **Luka Modrić**, and the award was presented to him by HNS president **Davor Šuker**.

*"Thank you to everyone who voted for me – I am glad to be the first recipient of this award. I hope this will become a tradition for many years to come,"* said **Modrić**.

**Luka** was also honored by the Foundation of Women in the Croatian War, while HNS and its "Vatreno Srce" Foundation made a donation to **Josip Milković**, the son of a Croatian war

veteran who had suffered serious injuries during a military exercise in 2016 – and for whom the €160 000 donation would cover the purchase of several orthopedic aids. "We will always be available to those who need us," stressed HNS director of competitions and infrastructure **Marijan Kustić**.

Croatian generals presented head coach **Zlatko Dalić** with a replica of the Croatian flag that had flown on the Knin Fortress. *"We will do our best to do the Croatian people proud. We are ready, and we are capable of greatness,"* said **Dalić**.

*"In these moments, I can vividly remember 1998, when I played with the Vatreni in France – the most important thing was to wear the checkered jersey and hear the sounds of the Croatian anthem,"* said president **Šuker**.

The award for the best youth player went to **Lovro Majer** of Lokomotiva, while the title of best player in the Croatian First Division went to Dinamo's **El Arabi Hillal Soudani**.

**Dominik Livaković** was proclaimed the league's best goalkeeper, and Rijeka's **Matjaž Kek** took the title of best coach. **Domagoj Drožđek** of Varaždin was named the best player in the Croatian Second Division, the award for best female player went to **Iva Landeka**, and **Dario Marinović** was named best futsal player. The award for the best referee in the Croatian First Division went to **Ivan Bebek**.

HNS's television partner HNTV also organized crowd's choice awards for best goal and best save of the 2017/18 season – **Karlo Letica** of Hajduk and his save against Rijeka were named the best save of the season, while **Petar Bočkaj** took the crown for the best goal. The League's best 11 included **Dominik Livaković**, **Borna Barišić**, **Zoran Nižić**, **Dario Župarić**, **Josip Juranović**, **Arijan Ademi**, **Filip Bradarić**, **Lovro Majer**, **Hillal Soudani**, **Heber Araujo dos Santos** and **Mirko Ivanovski**.



” I am excited because we know how important continuity is in football. During our time on the pitch, we learned the fundamentals of team work. The past several years have been a successful time for Croatian football. This is the result of our joint efforts, and I believe it will form the basis for our activities over the next several years.

”

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



## ŠUKER CONFIRMED FOR ANOTHER TERM: HNS'S DAILY OBJECTIVE IS TO CARE FOR STATE OF CROATIAN FOOTBALL

At the very end of 2017, Zagreb's Sheraton Hotel housed an electoral meeting of the HNS Assembly, at which incumbent president **Davor Šuker** was confirmed for another tenure at the helm of the FA. Šuker is to remain president until 2021, and his second term was supported by 48 members of the Assembly.

*"I am excited because we know how important continuity is in football. During our time on the pitch, we learned the fundamentals of team work. The past several years have been a successful time for Croatian football. This is the result of our joint efforts, and I believe it will form the basis for our activities over the next several years,"* said Šuker after the vote.

Among guests at the Assembly were UEFA vice-president and president of the German Football Association **Reinhard Grindel**, UEFA's director of national associations **Zoran Laković**, representative of the Croatian Olympic

Committee **Siniša Krajač**, representative of the City of Zagreb **Ivica Lovrić**, and honorary HNS presidents **Branko Mikša** and **Mladen Vedriš**.

Congratulations for **Šuker** also arrived from FIFA president **Gianni Infantino**. *"I wish you and your team a lot of luck, strength, and success, so that you may handle all future challenges,"* wrote **Infantino**.

At the next meeting, held in April, the Assembly confirmed reports on the workings of the Executive Committee and other bodies in 2017, as well as confirming the final financial report and the auditor's report for the past year.

The HNS Youth Trophy was also awarded to four deserving individuals: **Stjepan Benić**, **Milan Đuričić**, **Jozo Pirić**, and **Rudolf Krznarić** (posthumous), while **Ante Pavlović** – who had served a near-continuous 62

years in the executive bodies of the Croatian FA – was named honorary general secretary.

*"The daily objective of HNS is to maintain Croatian football's place among the world's elite. This would not be possible without the excellent work of individuals in numerous bodies and sectors of the FA, such as licensing and finance. Of course, this also includes our football sector, all of our clubs, and county associations,"* said president **Šuker**.

*"I invite you to join me in working on the promotion and improvement of Croatian football. I believe that everything we do needs to be aimed at young football players, and at ensuring that they have the best possible conditions for growth and for participating in football,"* said UEFA representative **Ilker Ugur**, while also stressing that he considers Croatia to be one of the big success stories of European football.



**500 000 kn**

Though the full amount raised at the event is still being calculated, the Foundation estimates that 500 000 HRK were collected through the call-center, with an additional 300 000 HRK coming from donations.

**300 000 kn**

# FOOTBALL AS A FORCE FOR GOOD

In November, Zagreb's Westin Hotel hosted a formal benefit for the "Vatreno Srce" Foundation, at which significant means were raised for charity projects which benefit children.

The funds collected at the dinner will be used to buy equipment for Zagreb Children's Hospital and for the "Korak u život" (Step into Life) Foundation, which helps secure higher education scholarships for youths without parental care.

In addition to the charity dinner, funds were also raised through a call-center, with Croatia internationals and members of the coaching staff and delegation picking up the phones; the team was also joined by other celebrities from the world of film, music, and sports.

*"It's wonderful to see so many well-*

*known faces, and especially to see former national team coaches – they are all still very much a part of the Vatrenci. We want to continue spreading unity, both on the pitch and off of it. Let us all show how strongly our hearts beat, as we did on July 16,"* said coach **Dalić**.

*"In these years of the Foundation's activity, we have done our best to benefit the health and growth of children. I want to thank all of you for your contribution,"* declared **prof. dr. Josip Paladino**.

One of the members of the Foundation's Managing Board is the world's best footballer **Luka Modrić**, who announced his happiness at participating in the fundraiser: *"I am happy to continue the tradition of Niko Kovač and Darijo Srna in the Board. It is only fitting for the captain of the national team to be involved in the*

*working of the Foundation in this way, and I consider this my duty as captain. I am proud of the years we have spent helping children, as we are most touched by youngsters' plights."*

The benefit was also attended by HNS president **Davor Šuker**, with the dinner proving an opportunity for a reunion with his fellow bronze medalists, including coach **Miroslav Blažević** and **Igor Štimac**.

*"Let us use the power of football to ensure a better future for young generations, so that children who want to be the next Modrić have all the conditions that they need to achieve their dreams. The work that's being done by the Foundation tonight is incredibly important – when a man sees children in a hospital, it's easy to solve all other problems,"* said Šuker.





## HNS OFFICIALS ABOUND IN FIFA AND UEFA

In February of 2018, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary UEFA Congress met in Bratislava, and HNS's delegation at the event was led by president **Davor Šuker**, who also serves on the UEFA Executive Board.

HNS's Head of International Affairs and Licensing **Ivančica Sudac** also

represented the Croatian FA internationally when she was chosen as the first woman to serve as delegate at the final match of a UEFA men's competition. Her pioneering appointment came at the final of the Europa League in Lyon, when **Vrsaljko's**

Atletico Madrid confidently beat Olympique Marseille (3:0). **Sudac** is also the first Croatian national to serve as delegate at the final of a UEFA men's club competition.

*"This appointment is truly a big recognition of my work so far, and I am*





very grateful to my colleagues in UEFA and in HNS for supporting me through all these years. Serving as a delegate in the final match of a club competition is an exceptional honor for every football official, and for me this has additional and special worth, as I was entrusted with being the first woman to serve as a delegate at the final of a men's competition," said **Sudac**.

This success by a Croatian official comes as no coincidence, which is confirmed by the large number of Croatian officials working in various bodies within UEFA and FIFA.

Along with his position on the Executive Board, HNS president **Davor Šuker** also serves as chairman of the

UEFA Football Committee and deputy chairman of the UEFA Marketing Advisory Committee, as well as being a member of the Organizing Committee for FIFA Competitions. Executive director **Damir Vrbanović** is a member of the UEFA National Team Competitions Committee, while **Ivančica Sudac** is the first vice-chairwoman of the UEFA Club Licensing Committee and a member of the FIFA Audit and Compliance Committee.

Since July of 2018, **Sreten Ćuk** has also served on the UEFA Development and Technical Assistance Committee, while **Zoran Cvrk**, **Zoran Bahtijarević**, **Boris Durlen** and **Vladimir Iveta** have terms in UEFA committees until 2019.

**Zoran Bahtijarević**, **Ante Vučemilović-Šimunović** and **Miljenko Sakoman** also take part in the work of expert panels.

Croatia also has five representatives among UEFA football delegates, as well as four futsal delegates, seven referee observers, two doping control officers, security officer **Miroslav Marković** and technical instructor **Boris Kubla**.

In addition to this, **Ivan Novak** serves as the FIFA instructor for futsal refereeing, while **Lada Rojc** has the corresponding post for women's football – both are set to occupy these roles until 2021.

## UEFA

*Executive Committee*  
**Davor Šuker**, member

*Football Committee*

**Davor Šuker**, chairman

*Marketing Advisory Committee*

**Davor Šuker**, deputy chairman

*National Team Competitions Committee*

**Damir Vrbanović**, member

*Club Licensing Committee*

**Ivančica Sudac**, 1st vice-chairwoman

*Development and Technical Assistance Committee -*

**Sreten Ćuk**, member

*Stadium and Security Committee*

**Zoran Cvrk**, member

*Medical Committee*

**Zoran Bahtijarević**, 3rd vice-chairman

*Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee*

**Boris Durlen**, 3rd vice-chairman

*Legal Committee*

**Vladimir Iveta**, member

## UEFA

*Administrative Expert Panel*

**Ante Vučemilović-Šimunović**

*Stadium Construction and Management Panel*

**Miljenko Sakoman**

*Anti-doping Panel*

**Zoran Bahtijarević**

*Delegates*

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

*Futsal delegates*

**Mateo Beusan**, **Boris Durlen**, **Ivan Novak**, **Edi Šunjić**

*Referee observers*

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

## UEFA

*Doping control officers*

**Zoran Bahtijarević**, **Tomislav Vlahović**

*Security officer*

**Miroslav Marković**

*Technical instructor*

**Boris Kubla**

## FIFA

*Organizing Committee for FIFA Competitions*

**Davor Šuker**, member

*Audit and Compliance Committee*

**Ivančica Sudac**, member

*Instructor for futsal refereeing*

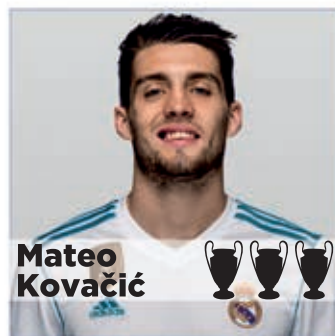
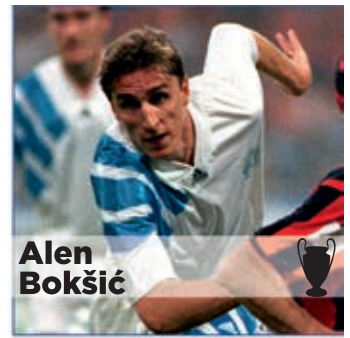
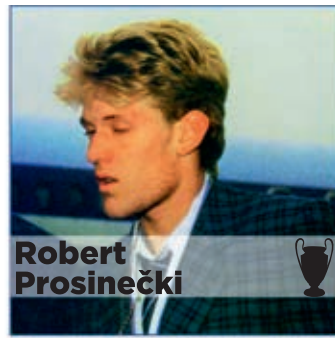
**Ivan Novak**

*Instructor for women's refereeing*

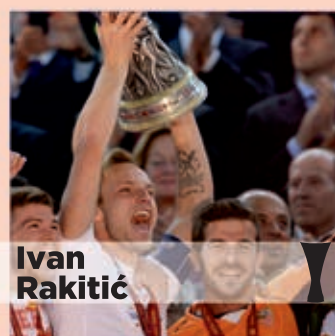
**Lada Rojc**



**CROATIAN  
WINNERS OF  
THE CHAMPIONS  
LEAGUE AND  
THE EUROPEAN  
CUP**



**CROATIAN  
WINNERS OF  
THE EUROPA  
LEAGUE AND  
THE UEFA CUP**







## ANOTHER TRIUMPHANT CLUB SEASON FOR CROATIA INTERNATIONALS

In 2018, Vatrene alumni had another successful run in the Champions League, with **Luka Modrić** and **Mateo Kovačić** achieving their third consecutive title with Real Madrid. Victory for the Spaniards came after a final match against **Dejan Lovren's** Liverpool in Kiev – goals for the victors were scored by **Benzema** and **Bale**, while **Lovren** assisted **Mane** in scoring Liverpool's only goal (3:1).

**Modrić** played the full 90 minutes for Real Madrid, with **Kovačić** among the reserves. The duo have continued Croatia's lucky run of having at least one player in the team winning the UCL every year since 2013, starting with **Mario Mandžukić's** claim at the title with Bayern – next were **Modrić** and

Real in 2014, a short interjection by **Rakitić** and Barcelona in 2015, and three consecutive wins by Real Madrid.

*"Winning the title of champions is special each time, but this third title in a row has special meaning to it. We are happy and grateful for our fans' support – we have written history,"* said Vatrene captain **Luka Modrić** in one of the most unforgettable moments of his career.

Right-back **Šime Vrsaljko** also won the first major European title of his career with his Atletico Madrid, whose win over Olympique Marseille brought them the Europa League trophy. **Vrsaljko's** Atleti beat the French team through two goals by **Griezmann** and a goal by **Gabi** (3:0). Vrsaljko started for

Atleti and played the first half of the match. In addition to this European trophy, he has also won four domestic Croatian championships and claimed two Cup titles, all with Dinamo Zagreb.

*"I will always remember this feeling and I hope that this will not be my last experience of this kind,"* said **Vrsaljko** after this match. Winning this title proved to be the perfect way for **Šime** to say goodbye to Madrid, as he signed for Italian Inter in the summer.

Though **Šime** was not in Madrid to play the UEFA Super Cup, Croatia can still boast of having a player with the title – recent Atleti signee **Nikola Kalinić**. Atletico beat their city rivals Real Madrid in a 4:2 win in Tallinn.



DIGITAL STRATEGY

#Family



A comparison of HNS's 2018 growth rates on social media with the growth rates of the three teams which had also placed in the World Cup semi-final:

	Facebook	Instagram	Twitter	YouTube
Belgium	↑ 10,6%	↑ 80,1%	↑ 12,7%	/
Croatia	↑ 21,3%	↑ 188,4%	↑ 46,4%	↑ 116,8%
England	↑ 2,1%	↑ 55%	↑ 11,4%	↑ 62,3%
France	↑ 9,6%	↑ 80%	↑ 12,9%	↑ 68,9%

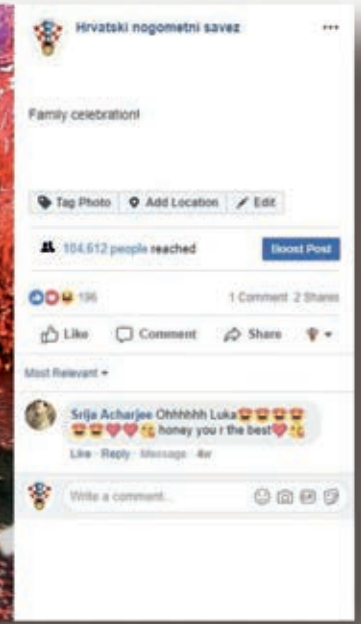
100 000 new followers since the beginning of the year  
→ **595 000 followers**

The most popular Twitter account in Croatia  
→ **202 000 followers**

Posts on Google  
→ **3.44 million average views per post**

**425 000 followers**  
(↑ 201% since January of 2018)





**3 400 000 000**

Total number of persons who had followed this year's World Cup = 45% of the world's population



**400 000**

During the World Cup, a total of 1.1 million articles were written about Croatia, with this figure showing the number of articles written after the victory against England alone



**107 000 000**

Estimated number of European viewers for the final of the World Cup (worldwide numbers are still not available)



**150 000**

The number of social media mentions of Croatia after the match against Russia is bigger than the number of mentions in the last three years combined

## #Family HNS GROWS ITS DIGITAL

With its second UEFA GROW award for Best Engagement Campaign, the Croatian Football Federation once again confirmed its top spot among European FAs in the field of digital communications.

*"These awards are like 'Oscars' for the development of football in Europe. The excellent projects shown here are a testament to how far we have come in growing football, and I want to congratulate the winners for their creativity, passion and effort,"* said UEFA's director for national associations **Zoran Laković**.

Among 106 projects from 44 FAs, UEFA selected three projects per category to be presented at the UEFA GROW conference in Riga. HNS's digital strategy (#Family), which had guided the Croatian FA's coverage of the national team in Russia, was presented by project authors **Tomislav Pacak** and

**Nika Bahtijarević**. The project also received the support of team captain **Luka Modrić** via a video message in the presentation.

Based on the application materials and the presentation, an independent jury of academic and professional experts awarded the Croatian project as the best in its category.

*"HNS's authentic campaign is excellently thought-out and does a great job of connecting football and family, while also telling the stories of the national team players and their families and creating a positive atmosphere around the team,"* explained jury member **Nikki Symmons**.

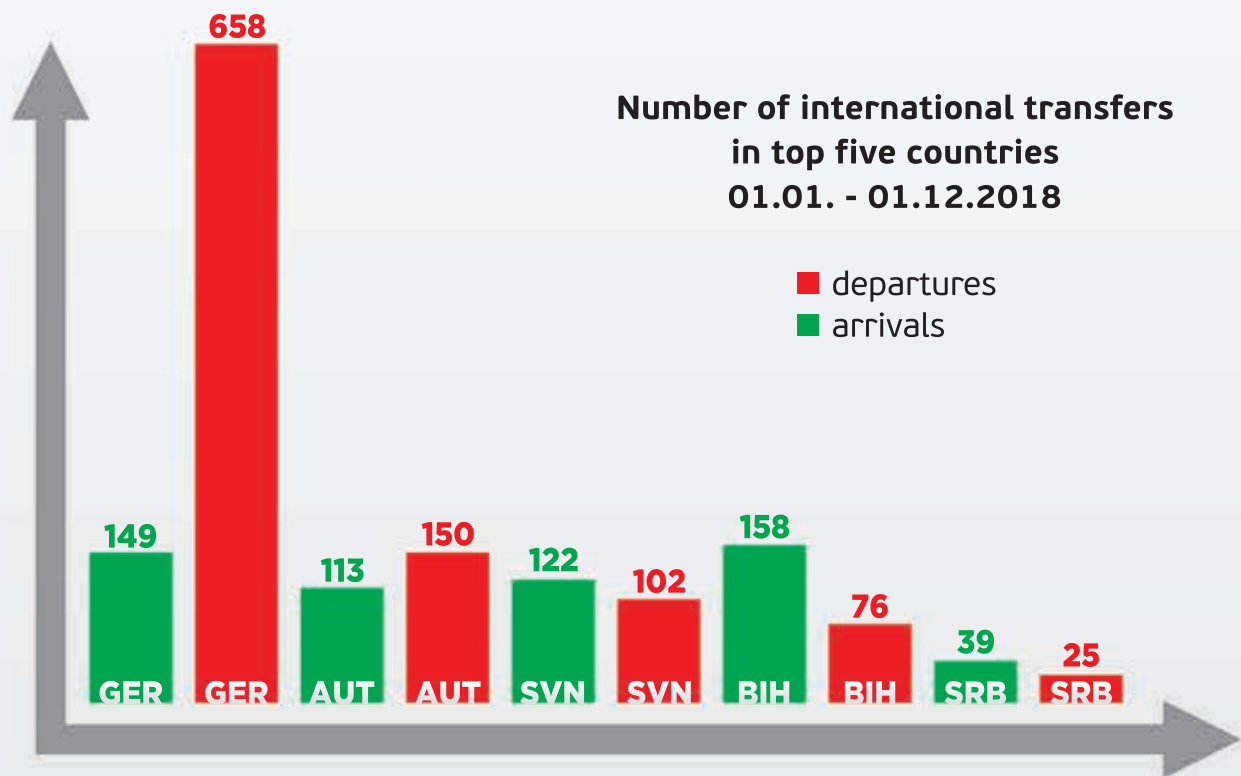
The digital campaign was implemented without the help of external agencies. Along with the project leader, spokesperson **Tomislav Pacak**, and co-author **Nika Bahtijarević**, the project was also

executed by journalist **Borna Rupnik**, photographer **Drago Sopta**, and graphic designer **Nikša Martinac**.

#Family served as the guiding thought for all of HNS's digital activities. The FA focused on publishing content and statements which stressed the importance of family values, such as unity, trust, friendship, closeness, and cooperation.

Thanks to excellent collaboration with and input from the national team, who showed their willingness to connect with the general public and their good sense of humor since the first day of team preparations, the great atmosphere from the locker room was shared with the public and the media. This helped create the unforgettable atmosphere that – along with the team's undisputed quality – carried the Vatreni to the very final of the World Cup.

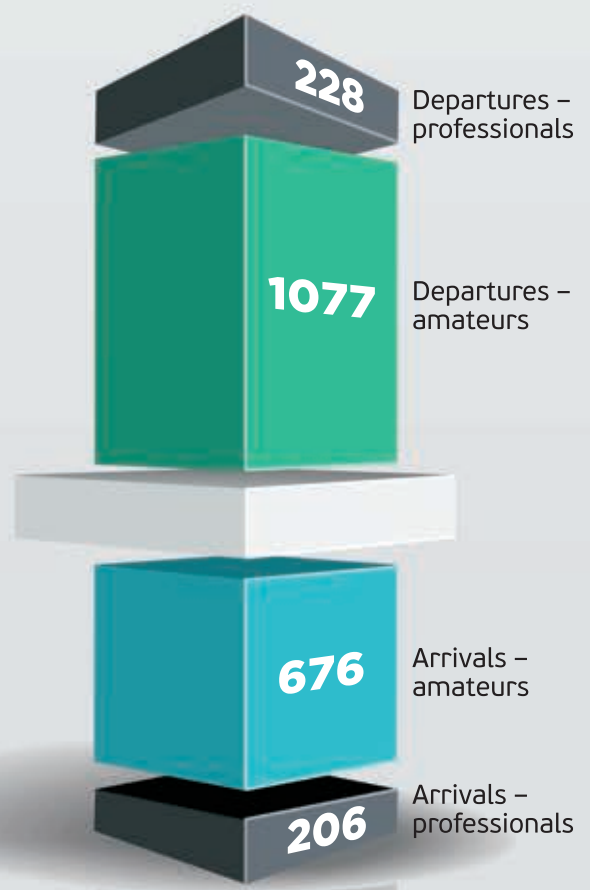
# INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT



**Number of authorized international club matches and tournaments 01.01. - 01.12.2018**

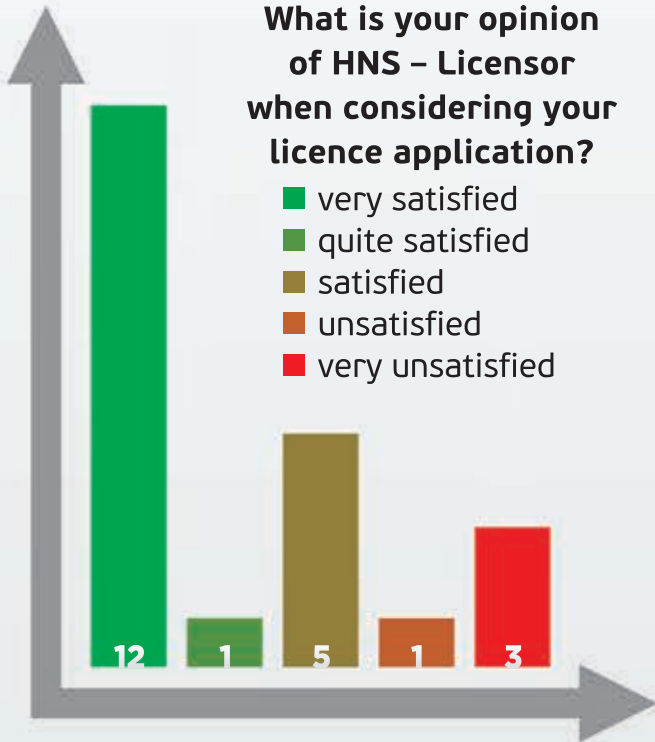


**Number of players' transfers 01.01. - 01.12.2018**



# CLUB LICENSING

**What is your opinion of HNS – Licensor when considering your licence application?**



**Clubs' feedback gathered in Club licensing survey:**

we consider that clubs which are not stadium owners have increased costs due to the investments in assets that are not owned by the clubs

in general, we are satisfied with the application of the club licensing system

Leagues are uninteresting even to local sponsors, which don't see any interest in club financing, and sporting wish to advance to higher level of competition leads only to higher costs for the club without any increase in profit, which is supposed to come with higher level competition. Being that most clubs in Croatia are amateur clubs, HNS should stimulate such sporting success.

Club licensing is not in harmony with the conditions and state in which we operate. The process is more suited for Austria or Switzerland.

Everything is more or less clear, the only problem is in the fulfilment of the criteria without the HNS support.

**Do you consider that the club licensing system, serving as a system which is suppose to increase the quality of Croatian clubs, justifies invested resources and efforts by your club?**



Number of clubs that participated in the club licensing process since 2004-05

# 85

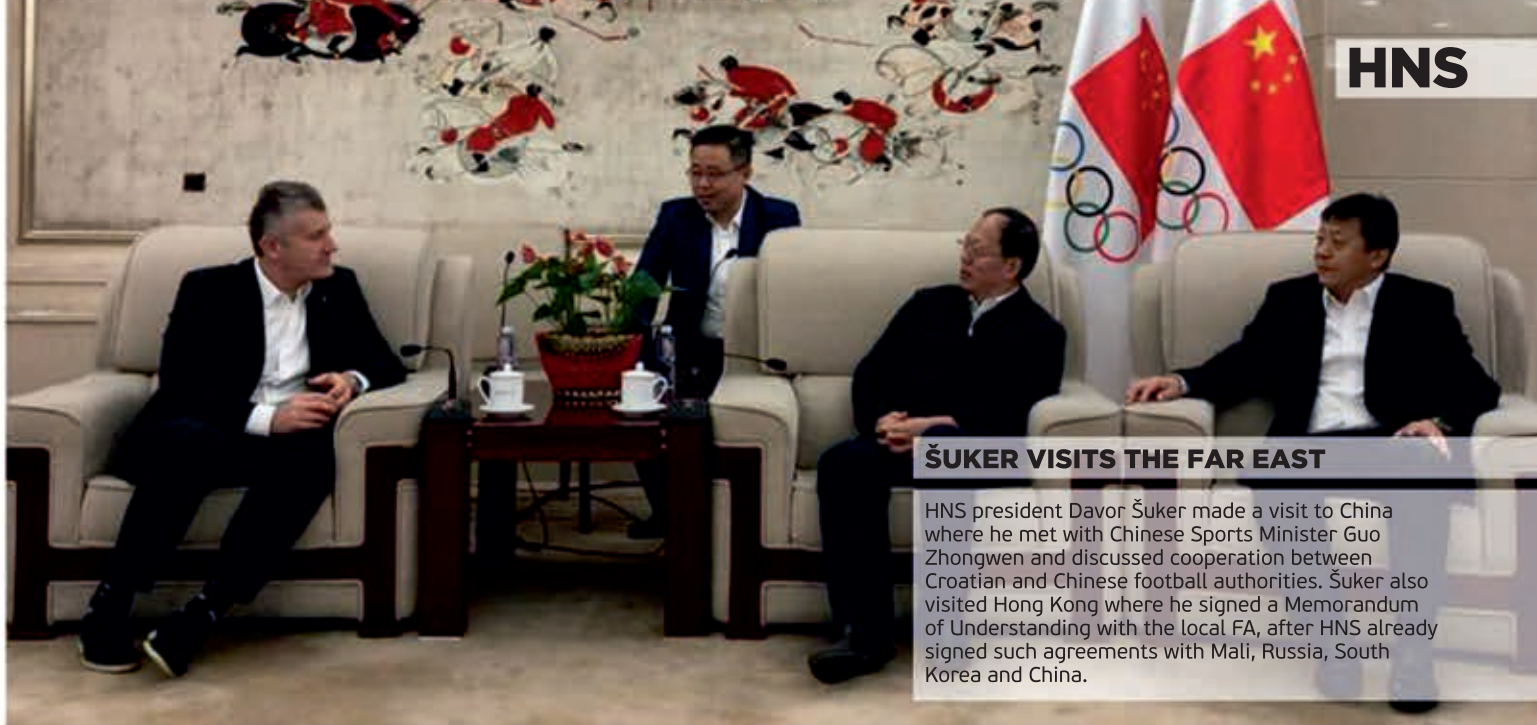
# 6 793 067.62 €

Total amount of receivables from players' transfers, training compensations and solidarity contributions which Croatian clubs collected with the help of the club licensing system, and thanks to the efficient interventions of the Club licensing department of HNS.



“ This year’s World Cup was an unforgettable celebration of football, and the excellent matches played by the Croatian national team played an important role in this. I want to congratulate you on this great success for Croatian football, and I hope that you will pass on my congratulations to all those who contributed to this success: the players, coach Dalić, the technical and medical staff, and, of course, the fans. This success no doubt has its roots in hard work, expertise, and attention to detail, as well as in love and passion for the game. ”

**Gianni Infantino**, FIFA president



**ŠUKER VISITS THE FAR EAST**

HNS president Davor Šuker made a visit to China where he met with Chinese Sports Minister Guo Zhongwen and discussed cooperation between Croatian and Chinese football authorities. Šuker also visited Hong Kong where he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the local FA, after HNS already signed such agreements with Mali, Russia, South Korea and China.



**ANTE PAVLOVIĆ NAMED HNS HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY**

HNS Assembly named Ante Pavlović the first Honorary General Secretary of the Croatian Football Federation. An exceptional football executive, Pavlović was one of the key figures in establishing Croatian Football Federation independent from Yugoslavia FA and played a major role in the organization of the historic match between Croatia and the USA in 1990.



**YOUTH TROPHY**

HNS Assembly awarded four outstanding football professionals with Youth Trophy, HNS's highest individual recognition. For their efforts in youth development, awards were given to Stjepan Benić, Jozo Pirić, Milan Đuričić and posthumously to Rudolf Krznarić.



### SECURITY AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

HNS's 4th Security and Safety Conference was held in Sisak in February. Around 50 prominent security and justice experts discussed how to promote fair behaviour at football stadiums and how to improve safety and security at football matches.



### PYROTECHNICS MASTERCLASS

The Croatian Football Federation and UEFA organised a two-day conference "Pyrotechnics Masterclass" in Opatija, where prominent experts discussed the usage of pyrotechnics at the football matches.



### NEW HEAD COACHES

Ivan Gudelj had a successful start as the new head coach of Croatia U-19, having qualified for the Elite Round of the European Championships qualifiers. Robert Jarni was named as the head coach of Croatia U-20, while Tomislav Gričar (U-15) and Sergej Milivojević (U-14) took over the youngest Croatian teams. In women's football, Mate Prskalo is the new head coach of the senior team, while Marija Margareta Damjanović took over the U-17 and U-15 teams.





### CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

For Christmas 2017, the Croatian Football Federation gave food baskets to families in need through all county associations, regardless of their relation to football.



### NEW ROLES

In January 2018, Marijan Kustić was named as Competitions and Infrastructure Director at HNS, as a part of organisational changes implemented by the Executive Committee. Ivan Meštrović was named as a Special Advisor to HNS President Davor Šuker, while Alan Klakočer took over the role of Disciplinary Arbiter for First and Second Division. In december, former World Cup bronze medalist Petar Krpan was named as the HNS Head Instructor, where he succeeded Sreten Ćuk.



### CELEBRATION IN SISAČ

HNS delegation and numerous football officials from the Sisak-Moslavina county attended the ceremony of opening the new headquarters for the County FA which takes care of more than 70 clubs in the region.



## VATRENI IN BJELOVAR

The Croatian national team played a friendly match in Bjelovar to commemorate 110 years of the local club. Vatreni won 15:1 in front of more than 4000 fans, with Andrej Kramarić scoring five goals.





## FOOTBALL FESTIVAL IN VINKOVCI

The Croatian Football Federation invested significant resources in preparing the City Stadium in Vinkovci for the Croatian Cup Final. In a great atmosphere, Dinamo Zagreb won the game against rival Hajduk Split, thus adding the Cup trophy to the previously won championship. HNS Executive Committee decided that 2019 Cup Final will be played in Pula at Aldo Drosina Stadium.



# COMPETITIONS



## FOOTBALL DAY IN OPATIJA

As a part of the Football Day at the ISPAS Conference in Opatija, Croatia head coach Zlatko Dalić and U-21 coach Nenad Gračan were participants at a round table, where they talked about the importance of developing young players. Croatia national team doctor Zoran Bahtijarević talked about antidoping measures in football, while national team fitness coach Luka Milanović held a presentation about conditioning in football. A grassroots workshop was also held during the conference.



## ZAGREB WON'T DEFEND EUROPEAN TITLE

Football Center Zagreb won the Croatian edition of the UEFA Regions' Cup, after winning against NS Osijek in the final. However, NS Zagreb will not have a chance to defend its European crown after the French team Ligue de Normandie won the qualifying tournament held in Croatia.

# COMPETITIONS



## NEW CELEBRATION FOR PAJDE MÖHLIN

The Croatian Football Federation organised the 6th European Championships for Croatian clubs established abroad. Among eight teams, NK Pajde Möhlin defended its title by winning the final match against Croatians from Vojvodina.



## MODRIĆ WINS "THE FOOTBALLER"

Luka Modrić won the trophy "The Footballer", given yearly by the Croatian Footballers' Union to the best Croatian player. Danijel Subašić was named the best goalkeeper, while Lovro Majer was named the best young player. When it comes to the HT First Division, Hissal Soudani was pronounced the best player, Matjaž Kek the best coach and Bruno Marić the best referee.



## #RAKETA100

Vice-captain of the Croatia national team, Ivan Rakitić, earned his 100th cap during the UEFA Nations League match against Spain in Elche, in September. Ahead of the game, Rakitić was rewarded with national team jersey and UEFA cap and medal, given to him by HNS senior advisor Zorislav Srebrić. Rakitić made his debut for Croatia in September 2007 against Estonia and he scored his first goal already in the next match against Andorra. 11 years later, he became a member of the exclusive "100" club.



## #ČARLI100

During the unforgettable win against Argentina at the FIFA World Cup, Vedran Ćorluka earned his 100th cap for Croatia. HNS Senior Advisor Zorislav Srebrić presented Ćorluka with Croatian national team jersey and UEFA gifts, cap and medal. Ćorluka made his debut for Croatia in a friendly game against Italy in 2006 and he retired from the national team after the World Cup with 103 caps for Vatreni, and silver medal around his neck.



## ŽIGIĆ AMONG THE BEST

Croatian national team player Sandra Žigić was included on the list of 55 candidates for FIFA FIFPro World XI. Candidates were named according to the vote of more than 4000 female players in 45 countries.



## CAPTAIN DURING THE MOST DIFFICULT TIME

Milan Badelj was given a huge responsibility after the tragic death of Fiorentina captain Davide Astori. Croatian national team player gave a moving eulogy on behalf of the squad during the funeral and was named as Fiorentina captain in subsequent matches.



### IMPORTANT TITLES FOR CROATIAN COACHES

Croatian managers had a very successful year across the world. Former national team captain and head coach, Niko Kovač, won the DFB Cup with Eintracht Frankfurt against Bayern, with him taking over the Bavarian giants later that summer. Branko Ivanković won the Iranian championships with Persepolis and later guided the club to the Asian Champions League final. Ivan Leko won the Belgium First Division, Igor Bišćan won the championship in Slovenia, while Zoran Mamić (Al Ain, UAE) and Dean Klafurić (Legia Warsaw) won both domestic league and cup titles.



## CROATIA

### DALIĆ AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD

Croatia head coach Zlatko Dalić was chosen by FIFA as one of the three best coaches in 2018. At the FIFA Best ceremony held in London, French head coach Didier Deschamps was given the award for the best coach of the year, with Dalić in attendance. Together with technical director Sreten Ćuk, Dalić participated at the FIFA conference that gathered coaches and technical directors from 200 national associations.



### CROATIAN CHAMPIONS ACROSS EUROPE

Croatian footballers played important roles in their clubs during their Championship and Cup wins across Europe. Ivan Rakitić won the Spanish Double with Barcelona, while Mario Mandžukić did the same in Italy with Juventus. Ante Rebić played a key role in Eintracht's DFB Cup win against Bayern. Vedran Ćorluka won the Russian League with Lokomotiv, Duje Ćaleta-Car and Marin Pongračić won in Austria with RB Salzburg, while Marko Livaja won Greek League with AEK. Matej Mitrović and Ivan Tomečak (Club Brugge) won the championship in Belgium, while Domagoj Antolić and Eduardo won the Double in Poland. Marko Radaš also won the Double in Albania, while numerous Croatians gave their contribution to the titles of Zrinjski (BiH), Sheriff (Moldova) and Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia).





### ROAD TO UEFA EURO 2020

Croatia was drawn to Group E with Wales, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan at the European Qualifiers Draw held in Dublin. European Qualifiers for EURO 2020 will start in March and finish in November 2019.

*"Our goal is to qualify for the EURO, regardless of the opponents. It is not an easy group, nor is it too difficult. We can't underestimate anybody, but we have to believe in ourselves and we have to be at our best during this short qualifying cycle",* said Croatia head coach Zlatko Dalić.



## YOUTH

### WOMEN'S WINTER CAMP

Winter football camp for women's U-17 and U-19 teams was held in Medulin during February. In addition to coaches and their technical staff, regional technical instructors also joined training sessions. On behalf of HNS management, Competitions and Infrastructure Director Marijan Kustić, Competitions Coordinator and Grassroots Manager Neven Šprajc and Senior Advisor Zorislav Srebrić were on site to give their support to this activity.



### SUMMER CAMP IN KARLOVAC

HNS organized a summer football camp for U-15 and U-16 teams, with those selections playing two games each against England U-16 and Albania U-15. Young talents were overseen by coaches Tomislav Gričar (U-15) and Petar Krpan (U-16).



### ACTIVITIES IN FOOTBALL CENTERS

The Croatian Football Federation organized a number of activities at football center level, including selection tournaments and meetings with regional instructors and county football associations secretaries, in order to coordinate activities and discuss current issues in county associations.



## DINAMO WINS FIFA YOUTH CUP

Dinamo Zagreb U-19 team, led by coach Tomislav Rukavina, won the 80th edition of the prestigious FIFA Youth Cup, played in Zürich. Dinamo Zagreb and Croatia U-19 forward Antonio Marin was named as the best player of the tournament, while Marko Živković took the award for the best goalkeeper. Marco van Basten was on site to present the trophy to the best team.



## YOUTH TOURNAMENTS

The Croatian Football Federation contributed to the organization of many traditional and important youth tournaments across the country. Vukovar Veterans Memorial gathered U-14 teams, U-15 teams participated at Mijo Etlinger tournament, Branko Čavlović Čavlek tournament gathered U-16 teams while U-17 teams played at Kvarner Riviera. U-19 teams were involved at Mladen Ramljak tournament, and Velika Gorica hosted a U-19 tournament as well. Čakovec was the host for women's U-13 and U-15 teams, with HNS contributing to 20 more tournaments across the country.



## 20 YEARS OF MEDIMUREC TOURNAMENT

One of the traditional youth tournaments that are supported by HNS is "Medimurec", which was organized for the 20th time. World Cup silver medalists Ivan Perišić, Mateo Kovačić, Andrej Kramarić, Marko Pjaca, Ivan Strinić, Tin Jedvaj, Lovre Kalinić, Josip Pivarić and Filip Bradarić participated at the Medimurec when they were 12 years old.

# REFEREES



## WORKSHOPS FOR REFEREES

The Football Referees' Committee organized several activities for referees during the year, including the traditional workshops for referees and referee observers ahead of the spring (in Medulin) and autumn (in St. Martin on Mura) parts of the football season.



## KEY ROLES FOR CROATIAN REFEREES

Saša Tomić sudio je u dvije najvažnije utakmice u futsalu ove godine - finalnu utakmicu Eura u Sloveniji te finalnu utakmicu Futsal Cupa u Španjolskoj. Pomoćna sutkinja Sanja Rođak-Karšić sudila je u finalu ženske Lige prvakinja (Wolfsburg - Lyon) te je pozvana na Svjetsko prvenstvo koje će biti održano u Francuskoj 2019. godine. Ivana Martinčić sudila je u finalu ženskog U-19 Europskog prvenstva održanog u Švicarskoj.

# INTERNATIONAL-LEVEL REFEREES AND REFEREE OBSERVERS

### Referees (men's football)

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

### Referees (women's football)

Vesna BUDIMIR  
Ivana MARTINČIĆ  
Sabina BOLIĆ  
Jelena PEJKOVIĆ

### Assistant referees (men's football)

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

### Assistant referees (women's football)

Sanja ROĐAK KARŠIĆ  
Barbara VIDOVIĆ VOLENIK  
Gordana KATUŠIĆ  
Maja PETRAVIĆ

### Referees (futsal)

Saša TOMIĆ  
Nikola JELIĆ  
Vedran BABIĆ  
Andrej TOPIĆ

### Referee observers

Draženko KOVAČIĆ  
Dragutin Karlo POLJAK  
Igor PRISTOVNIK  
Vlado SVILOKOS  
Miroslav VITKOVIĆ



### THE ENDLESS DAY

The Croatian Football Federation published a photo monograph titled "The Endless Day" which covers a the spectacular welcome in Zagreb after the Croatia national team won the silver medal at the FIFA World Cup in Russia. Photos taken by HNS official photographer Drago Sopta show how special, emotional and unforgettable that day was, with some of the most memorable images in the history of Croatian football.



### HNS WINS UEFA GROW AWARD

At the UEFA GROW Awards ceremony held in Latvian capital Riga, HNS won the first prize in the fan engagement category with its digital strategy "Family", ahead of 20 other nominated associations. HNS spokesman Tomislav Pacak and project co-author Nika Bahtijarević presented the project to the jury and other UEFA national associations.



### SHIRTS FOR YOUNG THAI FOOTBALLERS

12 young footballers were trapped by a flood in a cave in Thailand during June, and had to wait for two weeks to be saved. HNS sent 12 Croatia national team jerseys to the boys, while the national team expressed support for them during the World Cup.

# GRASSROOTS



## VETERANS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Zagorec Krapina won the first place at the 19th Veterans' Championships organized by HNS. Zagorec beat Sava Strmec with a score 1:0 in the final match. Ivica Antolić was named as the player of the tournament, Josip Preučil was the best goalscorer, while Ervin Horvatinec took the title of the best goalkeeper.



## NERETVA CELEBRATES

The veteran team of NK Neretva won the first place at the 16th Indoor Veterans' Championships. The Metković team won the trophy for the first time in style, beating VNK Lokomotiva Fimatosport by 7:0 in the final. GOŠK-Jug Veteran 79 won the third place by defeating Jadran Poreč.



## NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES FOR THE VETERANS

HNS veterans had a series of friendly matches this year, including the game against HNK Vukovar. In Austrian Zeltweg, veterans won the Legendencup by defeating legends of Leoben and Sturm.



## GRASSROOTS WEEK

HNS organized three activities to promote grassroots football during the UEFA Grassroots Week. Football festival was held in Opatija with more than 100 kids who had a chance to meet Croatia head coach Zlatko Dalić. In Slavonski Brod, kids took part in the fair-play programme, while in Sibenje, one hundred kids played football to celebrate World Heart Day.



## FARE ACTION WEEKS

During the 12th round of the HT First Division, HNS celebrated FARE Action weeks with the slogan "Football People". HNS thus joined the fight against racism and discrimination because football brings together people of different races, religious beliefs and nationalities. Therefore, football stadiums should be places of tolerance and respect.

**#FootballPeople**



## WORLD HEART DAY

HNS was once again one of the most active UEFA associations in celebrating the World Heart Day, whose purpose is to educate the public about the prevention of CVDs. In cooperation with Specialty Hospital St. Catherine, HNS employees had their blood pressure measured and got expert counseling about their heart health. HT First Division clubs also joined this initiative.

# GRASSROOTS



## CAFE ACTION WEEK

In cooperation with the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE), HNS called for fans with disabilities to share their photographs that show their view at football matches and to share their views on the importance of football in their lives.



## BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED FANS

HNS provided the blind and visually impaired fans with a chance to follow a great UNL match between Croatia and Spain live at Maksimir Stadium. HNS organized tickets, headphones and narrators who described a fantastic Croatian win to these fans.



## SUCCESS FOR THE DEAF FOOTBALL TEAM

Croatian deaf national team qualified for the European Championships by defeating Czech Republic in the play-offs. Croatia won 4:2 and deservedly qualified for the final tournament that will take place in Greece in 2019. Futsal Deaf team won the 5th place at the European Championship.

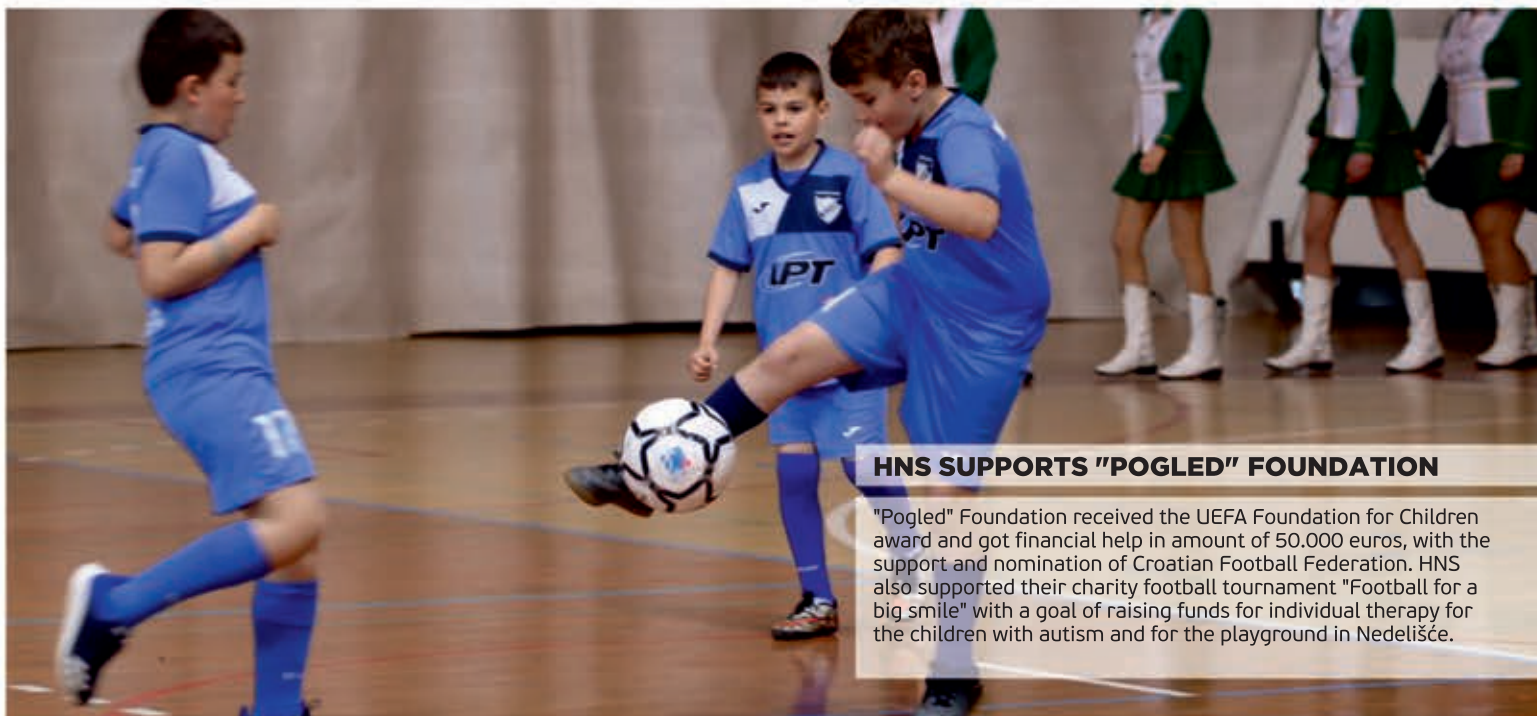




## GRASSROOTS

### NATIONAL MINORITIES FOOTBALL CAMPS

HNS and World Roma Organization in Croatia organized three more football camps for national minorities. In April, more than 250 boys and girls participated at the camp in Pula, while the 10th camp was organized in Dubrovnik in May with more than 150 young athletes attending. Finally, Varaždin hosted more than 150 participants in October. First Division clubs joined HNS and World Roma Organization in Croatia to celebrate World Roma Day on 8 April.



### HNS SUPPORTS "POGLED" FOUNDATION

"Pogled" Foundation received the UEFA Foundation for Children award and got financial help in amount of 50.000 euros, with the support and nomination of Croatian Football Federation. HNS also supported their charity football tournament "Football for a big smile" with a goal of raising funds for individual therapy for the children with autism and for the playground in Nedelišće.



### SPECIAL POWER LEAGUE

Zagreb hosted the first football tournament for kids with physical disabilities. The tournament did not have a competitive character, but was rather played with the aim of promoting physical activity among kids that usually don't have a fair chance of playing sports. Therefore, this tournament was a good way of integrating them into society through physical activity.



## SPONSORS ENJOY CROATIAN RUN IN RUSSIA

Croatian Football Federation's partners and sponsors gave their support to the national team during the unforgettable FIFA World Cup. For instance, employees of Zagrebačka pivovara, Generali Insurance, Croatian Telekom and St. Catherine Specialty Hospital published their photographs in the national team apparel and gear. Meanwhile, representatives of all sponsors were on-site at the stadiums in Russia to give their support to Vatreni during their run to the World Cup final.

## NEW SHIRTS

HNS and its technical partner NIKE unveiled the new shirts of the Croatian national team in March. The widely-recognised red-and-white checkered jersey was once again among the most beautiful team kits in Russia, while the new second shirt, with black-and-dark-blue checkers was a real hit among Croatian supporters, with Croatia celebrating some of its biggest wins at the World Cup in those colors, including the semi-final game against England.





## 20 YEARS OF A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

HNS representatives and employees joined the management and employees of Zagrebačka pivovara in celebrating 20 years of successful cooperation between Ožujsko Beer and HNS. With its television commercials - sometimes funny, sometimes emotional - Croatia's most popular beer brand has been contributing to the positive atmosphere around the team ahead of every major tournament.



## FAN ZONE IN MOSCOW

Croatian Football Federation organized a Fan Zone in Moscow during the FIFA World Cup. Fan Zone was open by the HNS president Davor Šuker and Croatian Ambassador in Russian Federation Tonči Staničić. More than 100.000 people passed through the fan zone, including Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković and Croatian Parliament Speaker Gordan Jandroković.



## CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. CATHERINE HOSPITAL

HNS signed new partnership agreement with the Specialty Hospital St. Catherine in June in Opatija. During the contract signing ceremony, Croatian national team and head coach Zlatko Dalić were presented with appropriate gifts from the St. Catherine Hospital management and returned the favor with signed national team shirts.



## NEW PARTNERS: CROATIA AIRLINES AND HYUNDAI

In September, HNS signed a business contract with Croatia Airlines, which made Croatia national flag carrier an Official Airline Partner of the Croatian national team for the next two years. National team flew back from Russia with a ceremonial Croatia Airlines flight, with the aircraft being branded with a sign "Bravo Vatreni". In October, HNS signed a partnership agreement with Hyundai Croatia, making Hyundai an Official Automotive Partner of HNS through FIFA World Cup in Qatar.



USPJEH HRVATSKE  
NA FIFA SVJETSKOM  
PRVENSTVU U  
NOGOMETU  
RUSIJA 2018.



**HRVATSKI  
NOGOMETNI  
SAVEZ**  
CRGARAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



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**SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMP**

In cooperation with HNS, Croatian Post produced an appropriate special postage stamp "Croatian success at the FIFA World Cup in Russia 2018". HNS photographer Drago Sopta provided the photograph used for the design.



**HNS ACTIVE AT THE NIGHT OF MUSEUMS**

This year's Night of Museums theme was "Museums and Sports", which was a great chance to showcase the history of Croatian football at three different locations in Zagreb. HNS cooperated with Croatian Natural History Museum for the exhibit "Eternal Game". Football memorabilia could be found at Zagreb Fair as a part of the interactive exhibit "Zagreb Sport Stories", while HNS' Information-Multimedia center "Be Proud" was open to the visitors until midnight.

## SOPTA'S PHOTOGRAPH AMONG THE BEST IN 2018

Official HNS photographer Drago Sopta received a valuable recognition by AIPS - his photograph was chosen as one of the Top 5 sports photos in 2018. During the FIFA World Cup in Russia, Sopta caught a beautiful moment showing Croatian player Šime Vrsaljko laying on a Croatian flag after a magnificent win against England. Winner will be announced on 21 January 2019 in Lausanne.



## AWARDS



## AWARDS FOR DALIĆ

After a historic success in Russia, Croatia head coach Zlatko Dalić received a number of well-deserved recognitions. In addition to the Presidential medal and the "Franjo Bučar" state award, Dalić received AEFCA's award for the best coach in Europe. The City of Varaždin gave Dalić a lifetime achievement award, and he got an award for the best coach in the region at the international conference Simposar in Sarajevo. IFFHS considered Dalić as the 2nd best coach in the world in 2018. Dalić also published a book titled "Russia of our dreams" where he shared his thoughts on the unbelievable World Cup.



## GENERALS' SUPPORT

Representatives of the Croatian Generals Union paid a visit to the Croatia national team and gave plaques to head coach Zlatko Dalić, HNS president Davor Šuker and members of the silver-winning Croatia World Cup team in order to congratulate them on a historic achievement in Russia, and the fight and patriotism they showed during their run to the final.

**IGRAJ KAO ŠAMPION!  
ZAJEDNO IGRAMO, ZAJEDNO POBJEĐUJEMO!**



**AWARDS FOR HNS AND THE PLAYERS**

After a brilliant performance at the FIFA World Cup, the Croatian Football Federation and the national team received a number of impressive awards. At the Simposar sports symposium in Sarajevo, HNS received a special award for the silver medal that Croatia won in Russia and the award for the best national association in the region. HNS president Davor Šuker received an award "Memory", as a way to commemorate the Golden Boot he received at the FIFA World Cup 1998 in France.

**PARDONNA FOR IVA OLIVARI**

Croatia team manager, Iva Olivari, received a PARDonna award as an example of a successful businesswomen. PARDonna is given by the Business School PAR as a part of celebrating Women Entrepreneurs Day.



**AWARD FOR THE CHEF**

Croatia national team and Hotel Osijek Chef, Tomica Đukić, received a recognition for the best catering professional in Croatia, as chosen by the Croatian Tourist Board, Croatian Economic Chamber and Ministry of Tourism. Đukić has been working for the Croatian team as a chef for a number of years, including at UEFA EURO 2016 in France and FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia.

# EDUCATIONS



## FOOTBALL ACADEMY

HNS Football Academy had a number of activities during 2018, including conducting education courses for UEFA B, UEFA A and UEFA PRO categories. 11 former internationals are among the participants in the current 9th UEFA PRO generation, including one former women's team international. During the education, participants had a chance to partake in the student exchange programme in Nyon, Switzerland. The Academy also organized an UEFA Study Group Scheme in Croatia, with participants coming from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France and Gibraltar.



## VATRENI LEARN ABOUT CPR

During the training camp for the FIFA World Cup, Croatian players found time for a medical education with the topic of CPR. The very informative course was delivered by Boban Dangubić, HNK Rijeka and Croatia U-21 doctor, with the assistance of KBC Rijeka anesthesiologists Anja Wolfand, Zorica Uzelac and Marko Milošević.



## INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE

NK Lokomotiva Executive Director Dennis Gudasić became the first Croatian football professional who successfully finished the prestigious MESGO academic programme. HNS event manager Helena Puškar successfully completed UEFA's Certificate in Football Management with an Order of Merit.







Presented on the occasion  
of the visit of  
The FA Chairman  
February 2018



“ You have to respect Croatian football. You had and you have great footballers, such as your president Davor Šuker. It was very beneficial for me to talk with Davor, as he is a real football man, competent and well-informed. While he played in England, he shared some thoughts and predictions that turned out to be very precise and English football will experience some changes according to those words. ”

Greg Clarke, The FA Chairman



## THE CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION'S MULTIMEDIA - INFORMATION CENTER "BE PROUD"

The museum had its highest daily visitor count (**761** visitors) on **July 14**, the day before the World Cup final.

On January 26, the Center stayed open until midnight in honor of the **Night of Museums**, with **652** visits on that day.

During the **World Cup**, the Center received an average of **450** visits daily.

Between July 15, 2017 and July 15, 2018, more than **33620** individuals visited the Center.

# IN MEMORIAM



MATE  
ČULJAK



KORADO  
VUJNOVIĆ



BRUNO  
BOBAN



VINKO  
BARTOLOVIĆ



DALIBOR  
BRDAR



MATIJA  
CAPAR



OSKAR  
KADRINKA



JOSIP JOŽA  
STRMEČKI



ZVONKO  
BEGO



ZLATKO  
ŠTULAC



BRANKO  
PERKOVIĆ



ZVONIMIR  
AMIGO MAGDIĆ

BORIS ŠPIRANEC

MATEJ ZAGORAC

BRUNO BORONDIĆ

PERO JERKOVIĆ

IVAN GALINEC

DARKO GRAHOVAC

MARIO MIJANDRUŠIĆ

ZLATKO SIROVICA

IVAN ŽIGA ŽIGNIĆ

MARIJAN MARKOVINOVIĆ

VLADIMIR HLEBEC

BRANKA DOBRILU

ZLATKO ŠABANAGIĆ



**RECORD-BREAKING VIEWERSHIP**  
CUP SEMIFINALS 2017./2018.

**DINAMO VS RIJEKA : 220.000 VIEWERS**  
**LOKOMOTIVA VS HAJDUK : 200.000 VIEWERS**



## **"VATRENI INFO" IN RUSSIA**

- 20 SPECIAL SHOWS DURING THE FIFA WORLD CUP IN RUSSIA

## **3 DOCUMENTARY FILMS**

GENERATION '98., ZEBEC AND BLAZING SILVER -



## **CROATIAN FOOTBALL DAYS**

- PROJECT DESIGN
- EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION
- LIVE BROADCAST FROM VUKOVAR

## **40 LIVE BROADCASTS HT 1 LEAGUE**



## **26 LIVE BROADCASTS 2 LEAGUE**

+ QUALIFIERS



## **4 LIVE BROADCASTS OF WOMEN FOOTBALL**

HISTORIC FIRST LIVE BROADCAST OF FUTSAL NATIONAL TEAM -



## **CROATIAN FOOTBALL CUP IN 2018**

- 16 LIVE BROADCASTS IN TWO SEASONS
- COMPLETE TELEVISION COVERAGE



## "VATRENI INFO" IN RUSSIA

QUALIFIERS EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE -  
4 LIVE BROADCASTS -



## FUTSAL

- 26 "4PLUS1" SHOWS  
- 10 LIVE BROADCASTS

- 
- |     |               |
|-----|---------------|
| 1.  | FUTSAL M...   |
| 2.  | SPLIT TOMI... |
| 3.  | NOVO VRIJE... |
| 4.  | VRGORAC       |
| 5.  | CRNICA        |
| 6.  | ALUMNUS       |
| 7.  | NACIONAL      |
| 8.  | OSIJEK KELME  |
| 9.  | SQUARE        |
| 10. | BROD O35      |
| 11. | USPINJACA     |
| 12. | ALBO...       |

## CLUB PREPARATION GAMES

- 17 LIVE BROADCASTS



## 34 "THIRD HALFTIME" SHOWS



## 28 "HNTV 16-TERAC" SHOWS

- MORE THAN 350 2nd LEAGUE, 3rd LEAGUE AND  
YOUTH LEAGUE GAME REPORTS



## 30 "SMALL FOOTBALL TALKS" SHOWS



## 600.000 VIEWS OF VIDEOS FROM RUSSIA

- FACEBOOK
- INSTAGRAM
- YOUTUBE
- WWW.HNTV.HR



**HNTV**

CROATIAN FOOTBALL TELEVISION - 2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR OF BROADCAST

**IN THE SERVICE OF CROATIAN FOOTBALL**

# CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Founded: **13.06.1912**

FIFA affiliation: **17.07.1941/03.07.1992**

UEFA affiliation: **17.06.1993**

Registered clubs: **1,573**

Registered players: **113,405**

FIFA World Ranking (11/2018): **4**

National team all time score:

**312** matches; **165** wins, **84** draws, **63** losses;  
goal difference: **542:308**

Most caps (60+):

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

Top scorers (10+):

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

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<b>1996</b>	Hassan II Trophy:	Winners
<b>1998</b>	FIFA World Cup, France:	<b>Bronze medal</b>
1998	Highest FIFA World Ranking	(3rd place)
<b>1998</b>	UEFA U-18 EURO Cyprus:	<b>Bronze medal</b>
1999	Highest FIFA World Ranking	(3rd place)
<b>1999</b>	Korea cup:	Winners
<b>2001</b>	UEFA U-16 EURO England:	<b>Bronze medal</b>
<b>2018</b>	FIFA World Cup, Russia:	<b>Silver medal</b>

## AWARDS

<b>1992</b>	Croatian Olympic Committee award "Matija Ljubek"
<b>1994</b>	FIFA Best Mover of the Year
<b>1997</b>	Team of the Year (Croatian daily "Sportske novosti")
<b>1998</b>	FIFA Best Mover of the Year
<b>1998</b>	State award for sport "Franjo Bučar"
<b>1998</b>	Team of the Year (Croatian daily "Sportske novosti")
<b>2001</b>	Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)
<b>2001</b>	Team of the Year (Croatian daily "Sportske novosti")
<b>2006</b>	Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)
<b>2007</b>	Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)
<b>2008</b>	Team of the Year (Croatian daily "Sportske novosti")
<b>2008</b>	Blue flower - Croatian National Tourist Board award
<b>2014</b>	Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)
<b>2015</b>	Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)
<b>2018</b>	State award for sport "Franjo Bučar"
<b>2018</b>	Charter of Republic of Croatia
<b>2018</b>	Best promoter of Croatia (Croatian Olympic Committee)
<b>2018</b>	Team of the Year (Croatian Olympic Committee)

## WORLD CUPS AND EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

<b>1996</b>	UEFA EURO England:	Quarter finals
<b>1998</b>	FIFA WC France:	<b>3rd place</b>
<b>2002</b>	FIFA WC Korea/Japan:	Group stage
<b>2004</b>	UEFA EURO Portugal:	Group stage
<b>2006</b>	FIFA WC Germany:	Group stage
<b>2008</b>	UEFA EURO Austria/Switzerland:	Quarter finals
<b>2012</b>	UEFA EURO Poland/Ukraine:	Group stage
<b>2014</b>	FIFA WC Brazil:	Group stage
<b>2016</b>	UEFA EURO France:	Round of 16
<b>2018</b>	FIFA WC Russia:	<b>2nd place</b>

## Youth teams

<b>1996</b>	UEFA U-16 EURO Austria:	Quarter finals
<b>1998</b>	UEFA U-16 EURO Scotland:	Quarter finals
<b>1998</b>	UEFA U-18 EURO Cyprus:	<b>3rd place</b>
<b>1999</b>	FIFA U-20 WC Nigeria:	Round of 16
<b>1999</b>	UEFA U-16 EURO Czech Republic:	Group stage
<b>2000</b>	UEFA U-21 EURO Slovakia:	Group stage
<b>2000</b>	UEFA U-18 EURO Germany:	Group stage
<b>2001</b>	UEFA U-16 EURO England:	<b>3rd place</b>
<b>2001</b>	FIFA U-17 WC Trinidad and Tobago:	Group stage
<b>2004</b>	UEFA U-21 EURO Germany:	Group stage
<b>2005</b>	UEFA U-17 EURO Italy:	Semi finals
<b>2010</b>	UEFA U-19 EURO France:	Semi finals
<b>2011</b>	FIFA U-20 WC Colombia:	Group stage
<b>2012</b>	UEFA U-19 EURO Estonia:	Group stage
<b>2013</b>	UEFA U-17 EURO Slovakia:	Group stage
<b>2013</b>	FIFA U-20 WC Turkey:	Round of 16
<b>2013</b>	FIFA U-17 WC UAE:	Group stage
<b>2015</b>	UEFA U-17 EURO Bulgaria:	5th/6th place
<b>2015</b>	FIFA U-17 WC Chile:	Quarter finals
<b>2016</b>	UEFA U-19 EURO Germany:	Group stage
<b>2017</b>	UEFA U-17 EURO Croatia:	Host/Group
<b>2019</b>	UEFA U-21 EURO Italy/San Marino:	Qualified

## Futsal

<b>1999</b>	UEFA EURO Spain:	Group stage
<b>2000</b>	FIFA WC Guatemala:	Group stage
<b>2001</b>	UEFA EURO Russia:	Group stage
<b>2008</b>	UEFA U-21 EURO Russia:	Group stage
<b>2012</b>	UEFA EURO Croatia:	Semi finals
<b>2014</b>	UEFA EURO Belgium:	Quarter finals
<b>2016</b>	UEFA EURO Serbia:	Group stage



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



Davor Šuker  
president



Ante Vučemišević-Šimunović  
first vice-president



Ante Kulušić  
vice-president



Robert Markulin  
vice-president



Damir Mišković  
vice-president



Tomislav Svetina  
vice-president



Željko Biondić  
ExCo member



Nenad Črnko  
ExCo member



Dubravko Galović  
ExCo member



Davor Ivić  
ExCo member



Mato Kljajić  
ExCo member



Josip Kuterovac  
ExCo member



Drago Lucić  
ExCo member



Ili Topuzović  
ExCo member



Đuro Bukvić  
ExCo Council member



Nenad Horvatić  
ExCo Council member



Slavko Priščan  
ExCo Council member

# COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS

## **BJELOVAR-BILOGORA**

President: Slavko Prišćan  
Secretary: Tomislav Barić  
Instructor: Igor Blagojević  
Registered clubs: 61  
Registered players: 3738

## **SLAVONSKI BROD-POSAVINA**

President: Dubravko Galović  
Secretary: Mario Filipović  
Instructor: Marjan Zovko  
Registered clubs: 103  
Registered players: 6130

## **DUBROVNIK-NERETVA**

President: Blaž Pezo  
Secretary: Srđan Vrtikapa  
Instructor: Jozo Bebić  
Registered clubs: 64  
Registered players: 3233

## **ISTRIA**

President: Igor Žiković  
Secretary: Branko Ivetić  
Instructor: Ecio Krizmanić  
Registered clubs: 71  
Registered players: 5838

## **KARLOVAC**

President: Dario Mrzljak  
Secretary: Tomislav Kuzman  
Instructor: Miro Pribanić  
Registered clubs: 33  
Registered players: 2980

## **KOPRIVNICA-KRIŽEVCI**

President: Robert Markulin  
Secretary: Danijel Lončar  
Instructor: Vedran Medenjak  
Registered clubs: 62  
Registered players: 4014

## **KRAPINA-ZAGORJE**

President: Stjepan Merkaš  
Secretary: Juraj Sirovec  
Instructor: Franjo Kučko  
Registered clubs: 31  
Registered players: 3934

## **LIKA-SENJ**

President: Marijan Kustić  
Secretary: Vladimir Romić  
Instructor: Ivan Kolak  
Registered clubs: 12  
Registered players: 860

## **MEDIMURJE**

President: Mato Kljajić  
Secretary: Darko Jambrović  
Instructor: Dragutin Narađa  
Registered clubs: 79  
Registered players: 5100

## **OSIJEK-BARANJA**

President: Ante Vučemilović-Šimunović  
Secretary: Željko Bel  
Instructor: Marko Babić  
Registered clubs: 212  
Registered players: 9886

## **POŽEGA-SLAVONIA**

President: Drago Lucić  
Secretary and Instructor: Damir Bognar  
Registered clubs: 61  
Registered players: 2915

## **PRIMORJE-GORSKI KOTAR**

President: Damir Mišković  
Secretary: Ivan Peraić  
Instructor: Elvis Brajković  
Registered clubs: 55  
Registered players: 4469

## **SISAK-MOSLAVINA**

President: Davor Ivić  
Secretary: Damir Nogić  
Instructor: Mile Buinac  
Registered clubs: 71  
Registered players: 5398

## **SPLIT-DALMATIA**

President: Marko Erceg  
Secretary: Dino Knezović  
Instructor: Zdravko Marić  
Registered clubs: 94  
Registered players: 8761

## **ŠIBENIK-KNIN**

President: Željko Dulibić  
Secretary: Hrvoje Kulušić  
Instructor: Nikica Cukrov  
Registered clubs: 37  
Registered players: 2042

## **VARAŽDIN**

President: Nenad Horvatić  
Secretary: Ivan Novak  
Instructor: Nikica Bunić  
Registered clubs: 69  
Registered players: 5249

## **VIROVITICA-PODRAVINA**

President: Đuro Bukvić  
Secretary: Krunoslav Moslavac  
Instructor: Tomislav Filipović  
Registered clubs: 71  
Registered players: 3670

## **VUKOVAR-SRIJEM**

President: Josip Kuterovac  
Secretary: Ivica Sabljaković  
Instructor: Goran Meštrović  
Registered clubs: 84  
Registered players: 5747

## **ZADAR**

President: Reno Sinovčić  
Secretary: Miroslav Knežević  
Instructor: Zdravko Zurak  
Registered clubs: 35  
Registered players: 3668

## **ZAGREB COUNTY**

President: Nenad Črnko  
Secretary: Mladen Žugec  
Instructor: Stjepan Bašić  
Registered clubs: 135  
Registered players: 11255

## **CITY OF ZAGREB**

President: Damir Vrbanović  
Secretary: Darko Cvitković  
Instructor: Goran Lacković  
Registered clubs: 133  
Registered players: 14518



# CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION OFFICE

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**Davor Šuker**  
president

**Damir Vrbanić**  
executive director

**Marijan Kustić**  
director of competitions  
and infrastructure

**Vladimir Iveta**  
secretary

## PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

**Iva Vilenica**  
head of office  
**Zorislav Srebrić**  
senior advisor to the president  
**Stjepan Merkaš**  
county associations coordinator

## ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

**Ružica Bajrić**  
head of department  
**Milka Močilac**  
independent accountant  
**Nikolina Ivanović**  
**Gordana Janton**  
**Nives Knežević**  
**Željka Zuanović**  
accounting associates

## COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

**Tomislav Pacak**  
spokesman  
**Drago Sopta**  
photo and video  
documentation associate  
**Dražen Patarčić**  
web site editor  
**Nika Bahtijarević**  
communications and  
marketing associate

## INFORMATION - MULTIMEDIA CENTER "BE PROUD"

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

## DEPARTMENT FOR COMPETITIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

**Neven Šprajcer**  
competitions coordinator

**Antonija Burazer**  
associate

## MATCH ORGANIZATION AND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

**Zoran Cvrk**  
assistant to the executive  
director - match manager  
**Helena Puškar**  
event manager  
**Nikša Martinac**  
ticketing manager  
**Miroslav Marković**  
security commissioner  
**Vlado Dominić**  
security officer  
**Marko Svilić**  
security officer

## NATIONAL TEAMS SECTION

**Iva Olivari**  
national team manager  
**Josip Tomaško**  
**Denis Lukša**  
**Hrvoje Hrkač**  
youth teams secretaries  
**Željko Mesić**  
**Mladen Pilčić**  
**Dennis Luka Lukančić**  
**Livijo Cvrk**  
kit men  
**Nenad Krošnjar**  
physio

## COMPETITIONS SECTION

**Josip Brezni**  
1. HNL commissioner  
**Andrea Brezni**  
1. HNL administrator  
**Željko Bel**  
**Branko Kajfeš**  
**Ivan Novak**  
**Ante Plazibat**  
**Damir Stipković**  
regional FA secretaries

## FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SECTION

**Antonio Grahovac**  
grassroots manager

## INSTRUCTORS

**Petar Krpan**  
**Sreten Ćuk**  
**Tomislav Gričar**  
**Ivan Gudelj**  
**Mladen Ivančić**  
**Sergej Milivojević**  
**Branka Juhas**  
**Hrvoje Matijević**  
**Marija Margareta Damjanović**

## INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

**Andrea Dokuš**  
head of department

## DEPARTMENT OF FOOTBALL REFEREES

**Igor Pristovnik**  
head of department  
**Ante Vučemilović-Šimunović**  
national coordinator for  
refereeing  
**Ivan Košutić**  
advisor  
**Zora Hunjadi**  
department administrator

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LICENSING

**Ivančica Sudac**  
head of department  
**Tanja Peraković**  
international affairs and  
licensing associate  
**Vlatka Jandel**  
international affairs assistant  
**Maja Nikolić**  
club licensing assistant  
**Snježana Drkulec**  
club licensing assistant

## DEPARTMENT FOR LEGAL AND COMMON AFFAIRS

**LEGAL SECTION**  
**Matija Puhak**  
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**Mia Škrlić**  
administrator of the department  
and court of arbitration

**Robert Uroić**  
clubs and players registrations

## GENERAL AFFAIRS SECTION

**Jurica Bodrožić**  
general affairs assistant  
**Nikolina Barabaš**  
**Marta Sokolić**  
receptionists  
**Mira Perković**  
hostess  
**Hrvoje Ćendo**  
expert on safety at work

## HNS FOOTBALL ACADEMY

**Vatroslav Mihačić**  
head of academy  
**Boris Kubla**  
head of education  
**Ksenija Fuštin**  
administrator



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