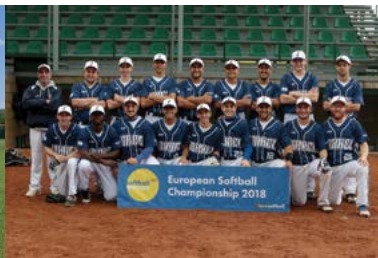




general progress report 2018

Championship Teams of 2018



Championship Teams of 2018



content >>>

national federations	2
executive council	3
president's report	4
special events	6
competitions	8
media & marketing	9
development	10

partners & sponsors >>>



congress buddies >>>



national federations >>>

AUSTRIA	
BELGIUM	
BULGARIA	
CROATIA	
CZECH REPUBLIC	
DENMARK	
FINLAND	
FRANCE	
GERMANY	
GREAT BRITAIN	
GREECE	
GUERNSEY	
HUNGARY	
IRELAND	
ISRAEL	
ITALY	
JERSEY	
LITHUANIA	
MALTA	
NETHERLANDS	
NORWAY	
POLAND	
ROMANIA	
RUSSIA	
SAN MARINO	
SERBIA	
SLOVAKIA	
SLOVENIA	
SPAIN	
SWEDEN	
SWITZERLAND	
TURKEY	
UKRAINE	

European Softball Federation

The European Softball Federation (ESF) is a non-profit sports organization that connects and represents all European National Softball Federations on a European-wide level. The ESF itself is a member of the WBSC Softball Division. The ESF is also known as Softball Europe (new brand since 2017).

The European Softball Federation was established in Rome, Italy in 1976 by the representatives of six European National Baseball and Softball Federations (Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain), with the objectives of promoting and developing softball in Europe. Today, there are 33 affiliated National Federations.

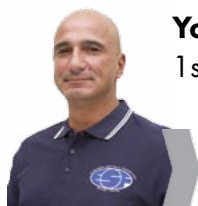
The ESF is recognized as the regional governing body for fastpitch and slowpitch softball for the whole of Europe in all age and gender categories. The two main interests of the ESF are competitions and development.

executive council What comes to your mind with the word „Olympics“ ?



Gabriel Waage
President

A dream of all players in every corner of our planet.



Youri Alkalay
1st Vice President

Peace, joy, sportsmanship, competition, friendship, new horizons, hope, challenge, pride, honor.



Eddy van Straelen
Treasurer

Great we are back in. Now let us ALL do ALL we can to stay there!



Ami Baran
Secretary General

Pride, achievement, and dreams.



Mette Nissen Jakobsen
Vice President Operations

The most proud and spectacular Global sportsevent. An experience of a lifetime for everyone involved.



Petra Arends
Vice President Top Sport

Performance under great pressure, beyond yourself prestations, desparation, dissapointment, strategy, luck, happiness, joy, and victory.



Daniela Castellani
Vice President Athletes

Dreams came true!



Kristian Pälviä
Vice President Development

The very definition of sports since ancient times, and of course of the leading sports event in the world.



John Austin
Vice President Marketing & Media

Finally! ...but also - Sushi!

president's report



Dear friends,

Let me welcome all of you, my friends, to the ESF Congress in Athens, a historical city and one of the milestones of European civilization. We are mid-way through the period of the present board and a very challenging year is behind us.

I would like to **thank all of you** for all your efforts in promoting, developing and making Softball a top priority in your Country. Your efforts are the most important factor for all of us, for the development of softball, for the recognition of softball in every corner of Europe, and finally for myself and the ESF board. Your initiatives make us stronger, because your enthusiasm and dedication in this hard work is a confirmation that we are headed in the right direction.

One of the key tools of my Presidency is **communication and information**, which is very important in our current world. You have received my four reports from this past year, which presented to you information and comments of the issues at hand. Your feedback was confirmation that all this was needed and helpful. You also received a lot of information from our Communications Director, Helena Novotna. The Minutes of the Executive Board Meetings are on the website. Information and transparency is one of the main pillars of our work.

Now I would like to point out some key issues from this past year.

Surely the most important issue is our legal status change with the establishment of **WBSC Europe** at the last Congress in Paris.

For this past year we have been finalizing the Statutes and all relevant consequences. During two sessions (on May 7 and September 23) we discussed the vision of WBSC Europe including the description of the roles of the main body and both divisions - Softball Europe and Baseball Europe. I would like also to emphasize that we must have a proper and real understanding of the role of our Regional Confederation within the global picture. We all need to realize that we are a part of a larger family. In the WBSC family, everyone has their own place, Regional Federations and National Federations. We are here to spread the knowledge of our sport to every corner of our continent. That's our goal. That's why we're here. That's why WBSC Europe was established.

In saying this, we have started the cooperation in common fields, such as the OTT Platform or the joint event Super 6. I am positive that the cooperation in common fields will improve as the legal points are finalized.



Other than the common issues we also have the direct interests of Softball Europe on our Agenda. Taking into account one of our major roles of increasing the number of participants in our events, I believe we have taken the right course as we can see by the following numbers. In total **135 teams participated** in ESF events, a dramatic increasing from the last two years (112 participants in 2017 and 101 in 2016). Record numbers of participating teams were broken in almost all of our competitions. The growth of softball in Europe is undeniable. I must commend and thank all of our technical members, TCs, UICs, umpires, scorers, headed by Mike Jennings for successfully running all our competitions. Of course a big thanks goes to all of the organizers for hosting our events.

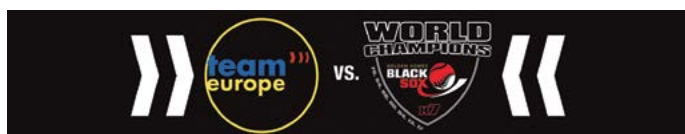
Let me briefly mention other activities which occurred last year which the ESF organized or sanctioned. These activities fall into four specific areas.

The first one is the promotion of our **top sport events** in Europe and to present softball at world level. Other than the Super 6 tournament for the top Europeans teams we also hosted the European Pro Softball Series. USSSA Pride played exhibition games against the National Teams of three European power houses: Italy, Czech Republic and the Netherlands. The tour ended in France, where the USSSA Pride conducted a clinic at the Softball Academy of France in Boulouris, Côte d'Azur.



We had an excellent opportunity to see the top men's fast pitch teams at Intercontinental Cup in Prague, which was a preparation tournament for the Men's World Championship 2019, which will be held in Europe for the first time ever.

In having the NZ Black Sox in Europe we took the opportunity to create Team Europe. Team Europe was made up of players from 12 countries and was the first time the ESF has taken on such an incredible mission. The team spent a whole day together in Prague and Havlickuv Brod before the exhibition game, and the players bonded as never before. The exhibition game was a great success and Team Europe were victorious.



For the players, it was a great honor, and for some of them, it was also the only chance to face the world famous Black Sox in their careers.

The second area is **regional tournaments or events**. Not only do our official ESF events help us reach our goals successfully but also other events under the ESF umbrella are making our sport known and accessible throughout the regions. Our Women's Euroleague project in central Europe, or the newly named Mike Stapleton Memorial for the boys, Triple Ball for Balkan countries or Baltic Open for Scandinavians. All regional events are important for our NFs. The main effort is to bring ESF sanctioned events into the regions and to enlarge our portfolio of options of events.

The third area is **developing our human resources**. We hosted the 2nd Blue Convention in Prague in March, where more than 70 umpires from all over Europe attended. The main topic of 2nd edition was Game Management. Other than experts from our sport like Bob Stanton, Raoul Machelet or Carolien Stadhouders, we invited an expert from another team sport, Ice Hockey Olympian referee Jan Hribik.

**blue 2018
convention**

The number of ESF licensed slowpitch umpires grew after the clinic in Riccione. In total 9 European umpires received their WBSC licence at the clinic in Forli.

The ESCA training camp in Diessen was very successful. In total 70 participants – 43 players, 27 coaches, 15 different European countries being represented. Including instructors from the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Mexico. This second ESCA training camp was a great opportunity to develop our sport through „high level“ instruction for all (coaches and players) and to promote the idea „GETTING BETTER TOGETHER“. Thanks to Craig Montvidas who has lead this project.



The last area that I would like to point out is **promotion and special projects**. I am not able to number all the projects realized mainly by Helena Novotna, and the team of people around her but most of these projects you may have noticed such as the live streaming. I would like to broaden your horizon and remind you the special project by Romy Marinus, which introduced all European countries via interview with local youth players.

The **WBSC Europe Congress** in Athens is just around the corner. Let me invite you to join us and share with us ideas and be part of the creation of our future. I am really looking forward to it with pride and strength. I feel we are on the right path, in the right direction. I know some countries, mainly single federations, are worried about the identity of our sport, of softball. I fully understand this concern. However, being together will make us stronger and we can achieve our goals better and move forward quicker. But we have to be strong enough and it depends on all of us. We are all Softball Europe and we have to know that every moment of our life. We are coming to this union, a marriage if you like, as a self-confident partner with pride in our sport. We have to do the best for our sport without any personal ambitions. This will be our strength.

My last words to you here are to believe me when I say, I was, I am and I will always be behind you on this journey.

Gabriel Waage
ESF President

European Pro Series >>>

April / May

USSSA Pride, one of the top teams of National Pro Fastpitch (NPF, the professional league of women's fastpitch softball in the USA), toured Europe thanks to a joint effort by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) and the United States Specialty Sport Association (USSSA).



The tour was named **USSSA European Pro Series presented by WBSC** and saw USSSA Pride play exhibition games against the National Teams of three European powerhouses: Czech Republic, Italy and Netherlands. The tour ended in France, where the USSSA Pride held a clinic at the Softball Academy of France in Boulouris, Côte d'Azur. The goal of the USSSA European Pro Series presented by WBSC was to promote women's softball internationally. Baseball and Softball aim to be on Paris 2024 Olympics program, and WBSC is mindful of the need to raise awareness of the sport in France.



The seven-game series in Europe attracted thousands of fans across host venues in the Czech Republic, Italy and the Netherlands, and generated over 300,000 live-stream views from online audiences across 148 countries and territories worldwide, while surpassing 1 million impressions on social media.

Super 6 >>>

September 18 - 22

The inaugural WBSC Europe event - the Super 6 - was a unique tournament. For the first time in the history of baseball and softball in Europe, both sports were represented in one tournament on a continental level.

The best six teams from the Women's Softball European Championship 2017 competed for five days in Hoofddorp, the Netherlands. A baseball tournament of the same format took place in the same ballpark at the same time. WBSC Europe organized the Super 6 as its first event, as a joint effort of the two disciplines, and it was the Czech Republic who took the first Super 6 Softball title, while the Netherlands won in Baseball.

Final standings of the tournament:

Softball

1. Czech Republic
2. Italy
3. Great Britain
4. Netherlands
5. Greece
6. Russia

Baseball

1. Netherlands
2. Italy
3. Spain
4. Belgium
5. Germany
6. Czech Republic



The Dutch host faced a great challenge; a top event deserves a top organization; and they made it happen. There was everything to this event. Live-streaming, beautiful ballpark with parking, food-zone and fan-zone, warm clubhouse, mascot, extensive media coverage, branding and merchandise, service for the teams and officials, and much more than what a visitor can notice. The organizing team deserves an applause.



Intercontinental Cup >>>

August 28 – September 1

Battle of Continents. Each continent chose its representative to compete at the Intercontinental Cup which took place in Prague, the Czech Republic.

The tournament consisted of six teams:

New Zealand (no.1) – representative of Oceania
 Japan (no.3) – representative of Asia
 Argentina (no.4) – representative of South America
 USA (no.6) – representative of North America
 The Czech Republic (no.7) – host
 Denmark (no.11) – representative of Europe
 Botswana (no.12) – representative of Africa - DNS



The Intercontinental Cup was held in Prague, the Czech Republic at the same place where the WBSC Men's World Championship is going to be played in 2019. *"This event was a great opportunity for us as the future organizers of the Worlds to make sure that everything works as we expect it to. At the same time, the Intercontinental Cup was an important part of the promotional campaign leading towards the Worlds in 2019,"* said Gabriel Waage, president of Czech Softball.

The final standings were:

1. New Zealand
2. Japan
3. Argentina
4. Czech Republic
5. Denmark
6. USA

There has never been an event like this in softball. Six continents, five days, one venue, thousands of fans. The aim now is to make this a regular event.



Team Europe >>>

September 2



Every country, who participated in the 2016 Men's European Championship had the right to nominate their player for Team Europe. In addition, Spain, and France were offered a spot since their clubs regularly take part in the Men's European Super Cup.

Team Europe roster: Kim Hansen (DEN), Kyle Linton (GBR), Michael Holobrádek (CZE), David Mertl (CZE), Fabio Origlia (ITA), Václav Svoboda (CZE), Frederik Terkelsen (DEN), Eldrick Dijkhof (NED), Emeron Lourens (NED), Bar Shrim (ISR), Valdemar Terkelsen (DEN), Wout Cnops (BEL), Hrvoje Jerbic (CRO), Patrik Kolkus (CZE), Daniel Julenon (DEN), Ryan Martin (GBR), Felix Schwan (GER), Anthony Cros (FRA), Tomas Orlando Diaz Barrera (ESP), Kalle Hjelm (SWE)
Staff: Tomáš Kusý (CZE), Ben Ten Pas (NED), Kevin Stockford (GBR), Jesper Panduro (DEN), Jaroslav Korčák (CZE)

"I'm overwhelmed that I'm given the chance to play on a team with players that have that much experience and skill in softball. To me, it's a big reward for everything I have invested in the sport that I love over the last years." said Felix Schwan from Germany.



The Team played a 10-inning exhibition game against the World Champion - New Zealand Black Sox. Thanks to adjusted rules every player on the roster got the chance to step on the field and face the best softball players in the World. In addition, Team Europe defeated the Black Sox by one run 6:5.

European Championships

Men's Slowpitch European Championship

Choceň, Czech Republic

	Great Britain	
	Germany	
	Netherlands	
This was the first-ever European Championship of Men's Slowpitch. Seven teams participated.		

Men's Fastpitch European Championship

Havlíčkův Brod, Czech Republic

	Czech Republic	
	Netherlands	
	Denmark	
Participation record was stepped up again from 10 to 12 teams. Lithuania premiered and Slovakia came back after 8 years.		



U-19 Women's European Championship

Staranzano, Italy

	Italy	
	Ireland	
	Czech Republic	
Ireland was the surprise of not only the tournament but the whole season. They took their first-ever fastpitch medal.		

U-22 Women's European Championship

Trnava, Slovakia

	Italy	
	Netherlands	
	Ireland	
17 teams participated! That is nine more than in the previous largest Championship of this category. For Slovakia this was their first official ESF tournament within their borders.		

European Cups

As always, three **Women's Cups** were held. Two non-European teams were allowed in two of the events. Titans from Botswana and ISA from New Zealand. The two teams' entries were approved by the ESF EC on exception with the aim to support softball development in disadvantaged areas.

Men's Super Cup saw one of its strongest editions. The teams were packed with Argentinians and New Zealanders, who stayed in Prague for more softball after the Intercontinental Cup.

ESF celebrates that **EMRYT** has finally grown into what the Competition and the Development Committees have envisioned. A total of 18 teams played in this U-13 Mixed European Cup; 8 teams in the Sport Division, and another 10 in the Future Division. A big shoutout goes to the organizer for exceptional media coverage in Softball Europe style at their own efforts.

The Blues

Blue Convention that hosted 70 ESF Umpires was held in March. Various sessions and workshops focused mostly on game management. Special guests such as softball coach or a hockey umpire took also part in the program.

A basic clinic for **Slowpitch** umpires was held in Riccione prior to the Coed Super Cup so the five freshly-licensed Blues got the chance to start umpiring right away at the tournament.

Hans Daanen and Chris Moon took care of the intrusion and training. The five newly ESF-stamped Slowpitch umpires are: Matteo Sabbadini, Peter Allaerts, Francesco Benvenuti, Federico Delorenzi, Pavel Podhajecky.

In August, a **WBSC** seminar was held before and during the WEPC in Forli, Italy.

The seminar was conducted by Bob Stanton, WBSC Director of Umpires, assisted by Carolien Stadhouders, ESF Director of Umpires.

Nine ESF umpires earned their WBSC International Umpire Certification, which allows them to be assigned to any Fast Pitch World Championship, Fast Pitch Regional Qualifier Championship, Fast Pitch World Cup, Fast Pitch Regional and Continental Games held in the future.

The new WBSC-licensed umpires are: Sara Dielen, Alen Magdalenic, Jonas Kristensen, Benjamin Milgrom, Megan Hylton, Akos Farkas, Arjan De Wever, Patrick Reus, Michael Renggli.

baseballsoftball.tv >>>

Europe's new platform for videos on-demand and live-streams of baseball and softball launched in April. Cooperation with Sportradar was one of the first steps of WBSC Europe back in February 2018. Since then, the OTT platform brought to you more than 100 of softball games live. Baseballsoftball.tv users could have watched top events like the Intercontinental Cup or Super 6 but also simple live-streaming from all of our Championships. Hopefully, National Federations will also jump on board and then all softball games in Europe will be available in one place.

go live! >>>

Our Communications Director Helena Novotná had a clear task for the 2018 season - explore and test ways of how to bring all of the Championships games to your homes. In 2018, all Championship games from the main fields were live-streamed.

More than that; the idea was to create the know-how and make it available to all National Federations, tournament hosts, clubs, coaches, managers, and players. It took the whole season to come up with a solution that would work for everyone, but it's here! Now it's only up to you. Let's bring it to another level.

numbers >>>

Number of 2018 are a little bit of a nightmare for anyone who cares about stats a bit. Having gone through the transition from Playo.tv website to baseballsoftball.tv, and having used Facebook Live for various occasions, it was difficult to get corresponding numbers to all of the games. See some basic numbers below.

	MECh 2018	U19WECh 2018
total views	16 645 plus Czech TV	24 829
unique viewers	8 884 plus Czech TV	9 663

	U22WECh 2018	MESC 2018
total views	17 941	9 702
unique viewers	7 175	3 916



#lovesoftball >>>

Our Softball Europe brand with its #lovesoftball tool was visible at all European Championships. Most of our projects such as Blue Convention or Team Europe took advantage of the graphics and continued the pathway.

More and more enthusiasts start using the #lovesoftball to show where they belong to. The community keeps growing. Just look up #lovesoftball and you'll see.



teamwork >>>

We bring you softball news from all over Europe and even the World via our website and social media every week.

During the tournaments, daily reporting is provided. This wouldn't be possible without a few enthusiastic people who complete the media team.

Romy Marinus has been partially taking care of both website and Facebook. She was also the author of Youth Series on the website, and covered the U22WECh media-wise completely.

Dominika Měšřánová has been our Instagram guru since the Europeans in 2017 and she continues with the „This is how we do” project using Instastories. Pavlína Menčíková assisted with media coverage at the MECh, and the hope is to bring more people like her on board.

Also photographers need to be mentioned; they help our events to become unforgettable and that is highly appreciated and we value their efforts!

IGETS

Malta, Croatia, Netherlands.

The final chapter from the joint venture of the three clubs from Malta, Croatia and the Netherlands was concluded this year in Malta.

As you might remember the project was an Erasmus+ Sports project, named Inclusion & Gender Equality Through Softball (IGETS).



We are happy to report that this venture was very successful and we can only hope that this will enhance all the possibilities in these countries for further developing Softball and encouraging other countries to seek for such cooperation with the assistance of our ESF special projects manager, Petra Cizmic Pokrajac.

exceptional growth

Turkey.

This year we have seen an incredible increase in softball activities in Turkey. Thanks to President Murat Pazan and his staff including USA Coach Thomas McDermott the plans and programs we have reported last year on truly moving forward.

From the acquisition of land for new fields with government support to creating their own stock of equipment from gloves, bats, helmets and uniforms the Turkish Federation is well on their way to becoming a factor in the European Softball scene.

The ESCA Level 1 Coaches Course was held under the supervision of Dutch Coach Ben Ten Pas and ESF Secretary General Ami Baran with a total of 66 hours of lectures and on field training and 19 coaches who attended. The Course includes Training Theory, Anatomy, Physiology and other scientific aspects to the game but of course the majority of the course is softball on the field.

Also we included during this time an Umpires Clinic run by Raoul Machelet.



Baltic Open

Denmark, Sweden, Norway.

The tradition is now set for the Baltic Open to be the regional Euroleague for our northern countries. We have seen the growth and we are finally moving in the direction set out a few years back envisioned by ESF VPs Mette Nissen Jakobsen and Krisitain Pälviä.

This year, five women's teams and four men's teams took part; including Norway with both men's and women's teams. Denmark came with three teams, two women's teams and their U19 men's team. Sweden came with their National Men's Team and the club team Venezuela Softball Club from Stockholm. We will be assisting Norway in the next few years in their quest to build their softball program for the future.



The expansion of the Men's **Swedish League** looks positive as the immigrants from Venezuela have given this a push.

This year, yet again, the Swedish Men's Fastpitch Team competed at the European Championships in Havlíčkův Brod, Czech Republic.

It has been a while since Norway has been able to contemplate on growing the game of softball. For years the **Norwegian Federation** has been trying, but the lack of personnel did not let the game emerge within their programs.

In January we held the first clinic for introduction purpose and we will be holding three more of these clinics and possibly an ESCA coaches course throughout the year.

If all goes well we will also be seeing a Men's Team for the first time at the European Men's Super Cup and the next step will be another team at the Men's European Championship in 2020.

quality coaching >>>

Germany, Spain, Great Britain, Italy.

The continued efforts of our Member Federations to conduct high level coaches conferences is really one of the highlights of the development of softball throughout Europe. The ESF and ESCA try to assist as much as possible through the funding of the clinicians who show up to actually being part of the curriculum for these events.



For years we have been a partner with the German Baseball and Softball Federation when it comes to their Conference, usually held in Paderborn. This year the Conference was held in Frankfurt with the clinicians Liz Lucas, Kiley Majesky and Mary Ann Halt. The International Sports Group (ISG) also continues to support these events and our cooperation with them will hopefully grow.

Spain, Great Britain, Italy continue their efforts in developing their coaches and we would like to let all of you know that the ESF is prepared to discuss with your federation on the possibilities of assisting you in creating your own Conferences in your countries. The development of Coaches is a priority since without them we have no athletes.

equipment for Europe >>>

Pitch in for Baseball and Softball based in Pennsylvania have been a great partner with the ESF and have literally supplied our member federations with an abundance of equipment.

VP Mette Nissen Jakobsen met with the CEO and others and concluded an agreement on continuing the cooperation.

Equipment was distributed to **Turkey** and **Malta** and more requests have been submitted and we hope during the rest of this year we will be able to facilitate all the requests as the container from the USA continues to sail.

promising community >>>

Slowpitch.

Interest and development of slowpitch softball continues to expand within the ESF as was demonstrated by the Danish Federation's hosting of a player development clinic in October. 27 players from 9 Danish clubs attended the one-day session presented by coaches from the British Softball Federation. The clinic was a great success and marked a important stepping stone for the development of the slowpitch format in Denmark.

Men's Slowpitch European Championship premiered this year, Coed Super Cup recorded highest-ever 16 teams, and the expectations are high for another record to get broken next year at the Coed Championship.

The European Slowpitch community enlarges but stays true to its positive vibes.



Euroleague >>>

Central Europe Women's Euroleague took another giant step forward as it had everything from stats and constant notifications throughout the season. Countries that participated in the 2018 season were: Slovakia (2), Croatia (2), Hungary (2), Bulgaria (1), Serbia (2) and the Czech Republic (1).

As we have proposed in the past we are trying to create more regional tournaments to provide more local completion with the outlook into having a Final for all regional champions. This would provide for yet another great opportunity for teams and federations to develop the game.



ESCA

European Softball Coaches Association.

This year's **ESCA Training Camp** added an extra day for coaches, prepared them for the upcoming training camp. The Camp was open also for boys for the first time, and some top pro players helped as instructors. In total we had 70 participants – 43 players, 27 coaches, from 15 different European countries. Including instructors from the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Mexico. Just like last year, the idea „GETTING BETTER TOGETHER“ was fulfilled. A big thanks goes again to Craig Montvidas and his staff for leading the training camp and Petra Cizmic Pokrajac for her work on preparing this year's edition.



Another important activity was meetings between **NFCA** representatives and ESF SG Ami Baran in order to try and finalize an agreement between the two bodies. ESCA will begin registrations this year for all coaches and individuals. The benefits will be worthwhile as we hopefully will be receiving with our ESCA membership also NFCA international membership. We hope all of you will help us promote this to all your coaches and whoever would like to be a part of this incredible growing organization within the ESF.

compete & improve

Men's European Championship.

The year 2018 was yet another historic year for Men's Fastpitch as we saw 12 teams play at the Men's European Championship. **Slovakia's** last show at the Europeans was in 2010 and we welcome their return. The Slovakian Federation is trying to build all their disciplines and it was a great honor to have them back.

Lithuania took the next step after playing a few times at the Baltic Open and placed a Men's team at the Europeans. Most of the players play baseball for the Lithuanian Federation and their defensive skills were top level.

Pitching turned out to be a problem and we hope that there is a bright future for them as they continue to develop their pitchers.

One of the additions that the ESF and the Czech Federation assisted the Lithuanian team with was their Coach. **Guillermo Spotorno („Willy“)**, a former Coach from Argentina took the job of helping the Lithuanian Coach, Virmidas Neverauskas, in guiding the team through the Championship.

We of course understand that the levels between the top tier and the lower tier are different and we will be working on closing the gaps in the next years. Let's hope for the number of Men's teams to grow.

U-19 Women's European Championship.

Willy joined the Clinicians team of the ESF and played an important part during the U19 Championship Staranzano, Italy by providing valuable clinics for the players of those teams that felt the need for extra training even during the event. The feedback we have received has proven that these clinics during our tournaments have an incredible positive effect and we look forward to this upcoming season for more development and more fun for our players and coaches.

Women's European Cup Winners Cup.

Another tournament visited by Willy was the WECWC in Capelle a.d. IJssel. Teams from Spain, Switzerland, and Russia gained some extra practice time with our clinician practicing on hitting, pitching, and other skills.



We would have loved to do more clinics at all of our Championships as we believe that is where we can give the players and their coaches extra input to what they already do.

The Development Commission is working for you and we will continue to move forward in the enhancement of the game of Softball throughout Europe and will make sure that every federation receives the attention it deserves. See all of you in 2019!

photo credit
Grega Valančič
Magnus Halqvist
Andrea Andrian
Lukáš Machala
Rein Merx
Libor Matějka
Cristiano Gatti
wbsc.org
fibs.it
bsuk (FB)

editor
Helena Novotna

