



European Handball Federation

## 2009 “RINCK” Convention Seminar for Non-Signatory Nations

10 – 11 January 2009 in Vienna, Austria

## 2. “Rinck Convention”

Motto: “It is impossible to educate coaches of the future, with education structures of the past”

Ton van Linder



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### **Current status of the “Rinck Convention”**

1. The way to .....
2. The childhood discussions.
3. Actual status
4. Conclusions .



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### 1. The way to .....

In 1994 the M.C. started with following mission:

To be a “service institute” for European handball federations in different task domains.

Overall strategy to realise the objectives:

A pro-active exchange of knowledge, experiences and innovations,

- Between European handball experts,
- Between Europe and other continents,
- Between handball and other sports,
- Between EHF and other institutions, etc.



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At the same time .....

1993 - A study of European commission and Coopers & Leybrand:  
“The Impact of European Community on Sport”

1994 - Research of ENSSHE concerning qualifications for sport  
occupations.

1995 - 1994 Proposition by ENSSI:  
“European Structure for 5 levels of Coaches’ Training”



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So M.C. started in 1994:

A strategy to facilitate the mobility of knowledge and professionals within “the expanding open market” and including also other EHF member federations.

One of our objectives:

The creation of an European-wide framework for coaches qualifications in handball.



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1995 - Brainstorm group meeting

Result: A concept of philosophy, principles, areas of competence and a basic education structure.

1996 - Working group meeting

Result: A proposal concerning: Age and experience, minimum duration, areas of competence, domains of sciences. All divided in 3 levels.

1997 - Brochure “Structure of Coaches’ Education in EHF”





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### The impact:

- Almost no reaction from bigger handball federations for different reasons.
- More enthusiastic reactions from minor and “new” federations.

We feared “a dead end”.

But we were lucky!

6 top federations of UEFA (DEN, GER, ITA, NED, FRA, ESP) signed a “Coach Education Structure” and the EHF Congress requested for an European wide structure.

### We continued with a 2-trail-strategy:

- Support of courses in young federations to show the interest and importance of good coach education,
- To invite an elite of 6 top federations.



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1999 - Creation of an elite group (CZE, DEN, FRA, HUN, GER, RUS).  
All invited federation reacted in a positive way and were present in 2 meetings to construct a draft.

There was commitment concerning:

- Scope of application,
- Objective of a convention,
- Principles,
- Competent bodies to approve and to control,
- Withdrawal,
- Sanctions,
- Jurisdiction





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2000 - EHF Congress in Tel Aviv.

6 nations signed the convention.

So there was a sport political decision to start and to implement a European wide convention of interested handball federations.



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### 2. Childhood discussions

The main discussions were:

- How to bridge the past and future at that time?
- How to award “old” certificates?
- How to monitor and to evaluate the national processes?

Practical questions.

- How to describe profiles?
- Control of examinations?
- How to organise the “daily business”? (Organisation, administration, finances etc.)



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### 3. Actual status

- Formal application and signing by the president during an official EHF meeting.
- Mutual recognition refers only to EHF Master Coach Certificate (level V)
- All EHF Master Coaches will be registered in a EHF data base,
- Minimum requirements have to be fulfilled and guaranteed by signatories,
- The unique identity of education within the federations will be respected
- EHF monitors and controls.



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### Practical duties:

- A yearly report concerning all education activities at levels III – V, including contents,
- Proposal to award new EHF Master coaches > formally the EHF awards,
- To be present at convention meetings.



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### 4. Conclusions

We are proud and optimistic on which we realised up till now:

- There exists a formal co-operation,
- We are together focussed on a common target,
- We have more insight in education structures of other federations,
- We have more respect for other philosophies and
- We observed a more open attitude to “other” and critical reflection on the own situation.
- but the bridge to “Rinck convention maturity is not built yet”.



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We just arrived in “Convention puberty”, because .....

We are still looking for more balance in the whole process.

- The balance between the freedom of federations and the requested need for more control and sanctions.
- The balance between perception of terms and supposed contents of definitions,
- The balance between certificates and licences to control continuous learning,
- The balance between traditional education and more modern philosophies.





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We just arrived in “Convention puberty”, because .....

We are still doubting about .....

- The recognition of the EHF Master Coach certificate,
- The seriousness of federations in fulfilling the requirements and to co-operate in a pro-active way,
- Serious co-operation inside the countries between federations and academies/universities etc.
- The objective and fair evaluation of prior learning and experience.



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We just arrived in “Convention puberty”, because .....

We are still worrying about .....

- The future of our vision,
- Opposition by conservative powers in case you want to change, to innovate,
- People who are still supposing, EHF Master Coach is an honorary award,
- Universities, supposing they offer the best and most modern education,
- And federations, supposing they know everything the best,
- Not-related institutes marketing “our” title “EHF Master coach”
- Political opposition in non-E.C. countries.



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**But today,**

**You are here .....**

**With your interest and ambition,**

**“Rinck Convention” is able to make  
another step forward.**