

# a retrospective

2013 - 2017

**European Softball Federation**  
**2013 - 2017**

*"You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get."*

Michael Phelps, most decorated Olympian of all times

Dear ESF Federation Members,

As you see, we have given a quote from outside our sport. Sometimes we have to look beyond what our eyes can see, what our minds can conceive and what our hearts can feel.

Let's reminisce about the past four years with the most important highlights. The second part of this brochure focuses on you, the members - because while we unite the federations, you represent the sport. You are softball!

Four years of dreaming, believing, and working are presented to you here. From grassroots to high performance - to girls, boys, men and women. The scope of our dreams goes beyond the playing field, the borders and the oceans.

From an idea by six countries in 1979 to the 33 federations of 2016, the work of the numerous ESF Councils has not gone unnoticed and throughout the years, each federation that joined, each person that donated their time has created one of the most exciting games played on this planet.

The ESF Executive Council of 2013-2017 are proud to have served you and hope that you will remember all the projects, plans and dreams we tried to help become reality.

We thank you for allowing us to serve you and the game of Softball.



A row of eight handwritten signatures in blue ink, representing the members of the ESF Executive Council of 2013-2017. The signatures are stylized and vary in length and complexity, with some appearing to be first names and others more formal or full names.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



President  
**Andre van Overbeek**



1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
**Gabriel Waage**



Secretary General  
**Ami Baran**



Treasurer  
**Eddy van Straelen**



Vice President  
**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen**



Vice President  
**Youri Alkalay**



Vice President  
**John Austin**



Vice President  
**Gilbert Tobback**



Vice President  
**Dejan Jesic**

## COMMITTEES

**Development Commission** is Co-Chaired by **Ami Baran** and **John Austin**.

**Ami Baran** oversees all softball development efforts and projects in Europe.

**John Austin** is taking special care of all slowpitch-related projects, including clinics, programs planning, etc.

**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen** is in charge of all international and ESCA Coaches related issues.

**Petra Cizmic Pokrajac** deals with development of Euroleagues, and with general development.

ESCA Team: **Craig Montvidas**, **Mattias Grimstoft**, **Lilly Rossetti**, **Peter Schuler**, **Ben Ten Pas**, **Vojtech Albrecht**

**Marketing Committee** is Co-Chaired by **Youri Alkalay** and **Dejan Jesic**.

**Youri Alkalay**, our VP Marketing takes care of the ESF as a brand, he also assists the Development Commission with getting equipment from the United States.

**Dejan Jesic** is our VP Media. Along with our Communications Director, he has brought some of our most interesting ideas for media projects.

**Helena Novotna**, our **Communications Director** is the media executive. It's her job to make European Softball and all Championships and Cups visible, as well as to keep the softball community informed.

### COMMITTEES

All committees related to our competitions are supervised by 1st VP Gabriel Waage.

The **Technical Commission (TC)**, Chaired by **Mike Jennings**, has general responsibility for the successful running of ESF tournaments. The Technical Commission prepares all the necessary documents for each competition and members of the TC physically supervise each game of every single ESF tournament.

**Technical Director:** Mike Jennings

**Technical Commissioners:**

Anna Battigelli

Lis Castro

Cornelia Chwojka

Anna Di Luca

Goose Gillett

Gabriele Hardinger

Bob Kessler

Marcel Kratochvil

Irene Michielan

Libby Moss

The **Umpires Committee**, Chaired by **Andrea Marcon**, is responsible for umpiring schedules at tournaments and for organization of umpire clinics. Umpires in Chief evaluate umpires at each ESF tournament to give them feedback and improvement advice.

**Director of Umpires:** Andrea Marcon

**Umpires in Chief:**

Pavel Prachar

Carolien Stadhouders

Hans Hornstra

Geri Lindberg

Bert Loggen

Stefano Russi

Joeri Tobback

Pavel Vychodsky

Gian Paolo Pelosi

Fabio Capitoni

The **Competitions Committee**, Chaired by **Cornelia Chwojka**, provides ideas for the development of ESF competitions and also creates game schedules. Jens Terkelsen assists and brings ideas especially with regard to men's fastpitch.

The **Scorekeeper Committee**, Chaired by **Dennis Duin**, is responsible for scorekeeping of all games at ESF competitions and also for scorekeeper clinics.

Last but not least is the **Disciplinary Committee**, Chaired by ESF VP **Gilbert Tobback**. This Committee has responsibility for all rule-related issues raised on and off the field.

### COMPETITIONS

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**U-19 Women's European Super Cup** was held in 2015 for the first time. The tournament took place in Ostrava, Czech Republic, consisted of seven teams and is considered a development competition.

*"It's a great concept, and I'm happy it's finally happened in Europe. Athletes need to be exposed to this type of competition at an early age, so it can prepare them physically and mentally for adult World Tournaments... If they choose to participate in the future. Also, it provides athletes and coaches a great platform to assess where their development/progress for the next Junior World Championships are, with a realistic time line. It's an exciting time for European softball at the moment."*

**Lawrence Allen**, Arena, Serbia, coach

**U-16 Men's European Championship** will have its inaugural edition in 2017. Continuous efforts in men's fastpitch programs and understanding the importance of youth base has led to establishment of an official competition for U-16 men, which will be organized as one event, together with the already existing U-19 Men's Championship.

*"In my opinion, this is going to raise the competition in men's fastpitch. Younger kids will get a chance to play at European level. Players who started with softball early, will have more motivation fighting for a spot in their national team. And what's most important for European softball - I hope that we'll have more national teams involved in men's softball.."*

**Damir Mandic**, Medvednica, Croatia, coach

**Men's European Super Cup's** format was changed. Champions' Cup and Cup Winners' Cup merged into one event of around 20 teams. Two winning teams come out of this tournament – the Super Cup Winner and the ESF Cup Winner. In 2015, the **Black Sox** – U-23 National Team of New Zealand took part in the European Super Cup.

*"The event is much better this way. Now all the teams in Europe are at the same location and every team has a chance to win, even though they may have not won their own league. It's harder to win it if you don't have a pick up player, but it's also good that not so good players can see the "star" players and play with or against them."*

**Kim Hansen**, Bulls, Denmark, player

**Men's Slowpitch Championship** establishment was approved by the ESF EC, the tournament already has an organizer and will be held in 2018.

### COMPETITIONS

**Euroleague** is a fastpitch softball competition played at a cross-border regional level. The aim is to build a workable framework for international club competition in Europe. Euroleague was founded in 2014 and five countries have participated so far: Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia.

*“Euroleague has a big asset for the whole team. There are challenges for everyone - for the girls who are beginners, as well as for the experienced ones. Going to these Euroleague trips is always fun, our parents usually drive us there, so we have fans on site as well.”*

**Dominika Mestanova**, Apollo, Slovakia, player

*“In Hungary we have only a few teams and the Hungarian championship is not as strong as our neighbour countries. Therefore Euroleague is especially important for our country, since it gives us many more opportunities than our own league: we can play against new and stronger teams on good fields with qualified umpires, etc. The games are much more difficult for us but that gives a greater chance to learn and improve while growing as a team. Euroleague weekends are always a lot of fun, the participating teams know each other more and more, the atmosphere is very friendly and we get a lot of help from other teams. Can't wait to start the next season!”*

**Enikő Gergely**, Budapest Reds, Hungary, player

**Baltic Open**, first held in 2014, is an annual tournament of the North-European region. This event is very special as it strengthens relationships among the participating countries, and features both women's and men's fastpitch. Countries that have participated so far are: Denmark, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden.

**Triple Ball**, also called the Balkan Championship, was organized in 2015 and will be held every other year. Triple ball is a unique event which features tournaments in fastpitch, slowpitch, and baseball all in one place, at one time. Five countries participated in the first Triple Ball: Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia.

**Over the last four years, we've seen record participation at most of the official competitions:**

Women's Championship	26 teams (2017)
Men's Championship	10 teams (2016)
Coed Slowpitch Championship	8 teams (2017)
U-22 Women's Championship	8 teams (2016)
U-19 Women's Championship	15 teams (2014)
U-16 Women's Championship	12 teams (2017)
EMRYT	10 teams (2015)
Coed Slowpitch Super Cup	14 teams (2016)
Men's Super Cup	23 teams (2015)

## 2013 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

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### DEVELOPMENT

Since the presentation of the **BeeBall** concept many federations have invited the ESF/CEB Development Commission for clinics. The pilot in the Netherlands and the rollout after 2010 was very successful and BeeBall has become a great way of recruiting young children for baseball and softball. This simplified version of softball is now played in Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, and Bulgaria.

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**ESCA – European Softball Coaches Association** – with a clear goal to bring softball coaches closer together and to professionalize coaching in Europe, ESCA was created in 2015. Cooperation with coaches summits in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Great Britain followed.

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In 2014, the Danish Softball Federation in cooperation with the ESF completed a two-year pilot project - **ESF Coaches Certification**. As an outcome of this project, 14 coaches received certification with the approval of the Danish Sports Federation.

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During the World Championship in 2014 in Holland, **Michele Smith** held clinics and working relationships with some federations were established.

### PARTNERSHIPS

**ASA** local associations adopting ESF Member federations teams from different countries started to visit the USA: the partnership got off to a slow start and then USA Softball decided that it would be best for now to assist directly with the teams and federations. Craig Cress and his USA Staff have been very helpful and have been generous in supplying coaches for our conferences and clinics in Europe.

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**Partnership with St Petersburg Clearwater Sports Commission** was established in 2014. The beautiful facilities in Florida are available for players and teams from Europe to come and practice, the right connections and relationships are provided as well. Michele Smith assists not only on site, but also comes to Europe for numerous clinics and consultations.

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**Little League** is ready to assist ESF in youth softball development efforts in Europe. A number of free coaches' clinics took place and we continue to seek avenues where the cooperation can grow.

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The **Pony Championships** have been held for many years and the cooperation is destined to grow in the coming years



## 2013 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



### MORE HIGHLIGHTS

**Live Streaming** - In 2014, the complete Men's European Championship was broadcast live and the era of live softball streaming in Europe has begun. Since then, the top ESF events are brought to the audience live every year. Live streaming is one of the biggest steps in promotion of softball in Europe

**The European Baseball/Softball Steering Committee (EBSSC)** was created in 2015 to form a regional alliance which will provide guidance on key issues regarding the development and operations of the two sports throughout Europe. There are three working committees: development, marketing and media, and operations.

**Equipment** from USA to Europe with a special container. One of the best projects and with the assistance of our own VP Youri Alkalay this could not happen. We continuously work with organizations such as Pitch in for Baseball, International Sports Group and others to donate equipment to all our federations and we help deliver for those federations who are joint baseball and softball. We deliver when we can the baseball equipment that is donated as well.

In 2014 a **European Men's Slowpitch Team** attended the **Border Battle** in Canada. The efforts are made to keep this initiative going in the future as well.

**Umpires Exchange Program** helps European umpires get more experience on international level. Not only our umpires can go to judge at tournaments in Australia, Canada, but also umpires from those regions take part in ESF tournaments. In 2014, **Blue Convention** was held in relation to major rule changes. **ISF licensing** took place in Prague that year, too.

The position of **ESF Communications Director** was established in 2014. The main reason for establishing this position was to have a professional, who would be responsible for two main aspects of the ESF agenda - communication and presentation.

*"The establishment of the ESF Communications Department has been a tremendous success and must be complimented. ESF has clearly taken the lead in Europe when it comes to using digital media to spread information and PR for our sport thanks to this initiative.*

*With a limited budget, we should all be proud of the amount of relevant, unique, and high-quality content that has been produced by the ESF staff and spread on the various digital platforms - not only game action from various tournaments - but also relevant information, news, and player blog posts.*

*All of this together serves an important purpose - to spread information and PR for our sports in Europe at a reasonable cost. I applaud the ESF decision to invest in this particular area as it is crucial for the growth of our sports to produce relevant content to the different social media platforms."*

Kristian Pälviä, Swedish Softball Federation

# **National Federations 2013 - 2017**

Comments by the ESF Executive Council

## AUSTRIA



**John Austin:** We were happy to welcome Austria among the organizing countries in 2016 when the 8th edition of the European Super Cup Coed Slowpitch (ESCCS) took place in Wiener Neustadt. With 14 teams from 7 different countries, it was the largest official slowpitch tournament to date.

**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen:** Austria's participation in Surrey at the Women's World Championships was a success that will for sure bring more enthusiasm in the country.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: 6th place

**2014**

**2015**

Women: 6th place

**2016**

## BELGIUM



**Eddy van Straelen:** Belgium has been improving results in all their participations in European competitions. This was especially proven when the Men's National Team won the bronze medal in 2016 European Championship.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: 11th place

Cadet Girls: 4th place

**2014**

Men: 6th place

Junior Women: 7th place

**2015**

Women: 11th place

Cadet Girls: 5th place

**2016**

Men: 3rd place

Junior Women: 5th place



## BULGARIA



**Gabriel Waage:** Bulgaria is one of the traditional hosting countries of European tournaments.

**John Austin:** It's great to see that Sofia is hosting another tournament, this time it's the Coed Slowpitch European Championship in 2017.

### European Championships

**2013**

**2014**

U-22 Women: **4th place**

**2015**

**2016**

Coed Slowpitch: **5th place**



## CROATIA



**Gabriel Waage:** Croatia has a good men's fastpitch program which also includes development. Croatia is also the creator of the cross-border regional project Euroleague.

**Dejan Jesic:** Men's softball in Croatia is growing rapidly fast.

**Ami Baran:** The all around hard work of the Croatian Federation with Dinko Regula at the helm and Petra Cizmic Pokrajac in development will prove to be the push for Croatia.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **16th place**

U-19 Men: **3rd place**

**2014**

Men: **7th place**

Junior Women: **13th place**

**2015**

Women: **17th place**

U-19 Men: **3rd place**

**2016**

Men: **7th place**

Junior Women: **9th place**



## CZECH REPUBLIC



**Gabriel Waage:** The Czech Republic is the only Federation in Europe with participation at every single ESF event.

**Dejan Jesic:** Without any doubts the best-organized Federation within the ESF and the only one with the teams in every single ESF tournament.

### European Championships

#### 2013

Women: **3rd place**  
Coed Slowpitch: **5th place**  
U-19 Men: **1st place**  
Cadet Girls: **2nd place**

#### 2015

Women: **3rd place**  
Coed Slowpitch: **2nd place**  
U-19 Men: **1st place**  
Cadet Girls: **2nd place**

#### 2014

Men: **1st place**  
U-22 Women: **2nd place**  
Junior Women: **1st place**

#### 2016

Men: **1st place**  
U-22 Women: **3rd place**  
Junior Women: **3rd place**



## DENMARK



**John Austin:** The Danish Federation have taken their first steps in developing a slowpitch program. They are currently assessing the number of teams to be initially involved and have been in communication with the ESF to assess the next steps in developing the slowpitch format with a view to creating a league structure. Other than that, Denmark is traditionally strong in men's fastpitch.

**Ami Baran:** The continued efforts of Danish Softball in assisting others is to be commended by the European Softball Community.

### European Championships

#### 2013

Women: **13th place**  
U-19 Men: **2nd place**

#### 2015

Women: **13th place**  
U-19 Men: **2nd place**

#### 2014

Men: **2nd place**  
Junior Women: **12th place**

#### 2016

Men: **2nd place**  
Junior Women: **10th place**



## FINLAND



**Eddy van Straelen:** Hopefully Finland will be back soon with participations in European tournaments. The first step - signing up for the Women's European Championship 2017 - has been done already.

### European Championships

2013	2014
2015	2016



## FRANCE



**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen:** The French Softball program has taken a few giant steps with the leadership of Didier Seminet and his Board. The possibilities of the French program are great and will for sure be something we should keep our eyes on in the next few years.

### European Championships

2013	2014
Women: 18th place	Junior Women: 6th place
2015	2016
Women: 9th place	





## GERMANY



**Gabriel Waage:** With traditional women's softball leagues and a bit unusual mixed fastpitch league, Germany has recently started men's fastpitch program, too. Hopefully, German Men's Fastpitch Team will become a regular participant in men's competitions.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **9th place**  
Coed Slowpitch: **3rd place**  
Cadet Girls: **5th place**

**2014**

Junior Women: **9th place**

**2016**

Men: **9th place**  
Junior Women: **4th place**

**2015**

Women: **7th place**  
Coed Slowpitch: **4th place**



## GREAT BRITAIN



**Andre van Overbeek:** After many years of waiting, GB celebrated their first European Championship gold medal from fastpitch competition in St. Boi at the U-19 Women's European Championship.

**Gabriel Waage:** Great Britain is a European slowpitch leader, but they have just seized their first fastpitch title. Despite costly travels, they participate as much as possible.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **5th place**  
Coed Slowpitch: **1st place**  
U-19 Men: **5th place**  
Cadet Girls: **6th place**

**2014**

Men: **4th place**  
Junior Women: **4th place**

**2015**

Women: **5th place**  
Coed Slowpitch: **1st place**  
U-19 Men: **5th place**  
Cadet Girls: **4th place**

**2016**

Men: **5th place**  
Junior Women: **1st place**



## GREECE



**Andre van Overbeek:** For years, the situation in Greece was difficult, but after their current President took over, we see the Greek teams again on European level.

**Gabriel Waage:** Despite all institutional difficulties, Greece participated at European Championships.

### European Championships

**2013**

**2014**

U-22 Women: 3rd place

**2015**

Women: 10th place

**2016**

U-22 Women: 6th place



## GUERNSEY



**Ami Baran:** Once a fastpitch stronghold, today Guernsey hosts many slowpitch teams and have already been communicating with the ESF on future participation in our Cups and Championships.

### European Championships

**2013**

**2014**

**2015**

**2016**





## HUNGARY



**Dejan Jesic:** Hungarian teams take part in the regional Euroleague, with teams from Croatia, Slovakia, Austria and the Czech Republic. We hope to see them bring more experience home to grow their softball program.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: 19th place

**2014**

**2015**

**2016**



## IRELAND



**Andre van Overbeek:** Traditionally a slowpitch country - Ireland - has just started their fastpitch program and at our tournaments you can see what efforts you get with hard work and determination.

### European Championships

**2013**

Coed Slowpitch: 4th place

**2014**

**2015**

Women: 19th place

Coed Slowpitch: 3rd place

**2016**



## ISRAEL



**Gabriel Waage:** Despite the geographical distance, Israel participates in as many competitions as possible.

**Eddy van Straelen:** In Israel you can see impressive quality of youth education for all ages, which surely will become successful.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: 17th place  
U-19 Men: 4th place

**2014**

Men: 5th place  
Junior Women: 14th place

**2015**

Women: 20th place  
U-19 Men: 4th place

**2016**

Men: 6th place  
Junior Women: 12th place



## ITALY



**Youri Alkalay:** As always, Italy trains hard, plays hard and is one of the best teams in the ESF. A first time appearance at the Men's European Championships will also bring all the aspects of softball to the top of the list.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: 2nd place

**2014**

Junior Women: 2nd place

**2015**

Women: 1st place  
Cadet Girls: 1st place

**2016**

Men: 7th place  
Junior Women: 2nd place



## JERSEY



**Ami Baran:** We hope to see Jersey join in on the fun and start to participate in our slowpitch cups and championships as well as ongoing coaches clinics.

### European Championships

2013

2014

2015

2016



## LITHUANIA



**Andre van Overbeek:** With a lack of National competition, the National Teams participate in as many European tournaments to get the necessary experience.

**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen:** Showing up at the Baltic Open has proven that the hard work going on in Lithuania pays off. A cadre of talented players will be something to watch for the future.

### European Championships

2013

Cadet Girls: 12th place

2014

Junior Women: 8th place

2015

Coed Slowpitch: 6th place

2016

U-22 Women: 8th place

Junior Women: 8th place



## MALTA



**Gabriel Waage:** In 2016 we recorded the first Maltese team ever at an ESF event.

**Eddy van Straelen:** Hopefully the cooperation with Italy will be followed by more participations in ESF tournaments.

**Dejan Jesic:** Cooperation with Italian softball organizations can be a good thing and something totally different to today. Who knows, maybe future can be better if another federation finds „a sister“ or „a brother“ somewhere in Europe. The concept that has to be closely followed up.

### European Championships

**2013**

**2014**

**2015**

**2016**



## NETHERLANDS



**Andre van Overbeek:** With a historic 4th place at the World's in Surrey, the Dutch National team again received recognition by the Olympic Federation in funding for their program and funds for the players to train and practice every day.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **1st place**  
Cadet Girls: **3rd place**

**2014**

Men: **3rd place**  
Junior Women: **5th place**

**2015**

Women: **2nd place**

**2016**

Men: **4th place**  
U-22 Women: **1st place**





## NORWAY



**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen:** In 2015 Norwegian team participated in the North-European tournament - the Baltic Open. With continued effort, we hope Norway will be present at European competitions again.

### European Championships

**2013**

**2014**

**2015**

**2016**



## POLAND



**Ami Baran:** A new Board, new atmosphere, coaches from abroad and much more happening in Poland which will change the culture and provide a sport that will become well known in their country.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **15th place**

U-19 Men: **6th place**

Cadet Girls: **7th place**

**2014**

U-22 Women: **7th place**

**2015**

Women: **15th place**

U-19 Men: **6th place**

**2016**

U-22 Women: **5th place**



## ROMANIA



**Dejan Jesic:** Although struggling, Romanian Softball still has some people willing to help. The ESF will try and assist those who are trying so hard to make it happen.

### European Championships

**2013**

Cadet Girls: **9th place**

**2014**

**2015**

**2016**



## RUSSIA



**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen:** It has been a while since we have heard about the Russian program but they are still a viable federation and we look forward to seeing them with their minimes and their Nationl Teams at our championships and cups

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **4th place**

Cadet Girls: **1st place**

**2014**

U-22 Women: **1st place**

Junior Women: **3rd place**

**2015**

Women: **4th place**

Cadet Girls: **3rd place**

**2016**

U-22 Women: **2nd place**

Junior Women: **6th place**



## SAN MARINO



**Youri Alkalay:** We hope to hear more from our friends in San Marino as they continue to try and grow their sports of baseball and softball.

### European Championships

2013

2014

2015

2016



## SERBIA



**Gabriel Waage:** Despite the difficulties that the Serbian Federation faces, we can see Serbian teams at some ESF events, as well as development tournaments and promotional activities in Serbia.

**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen:** The Serbian girls we have seen playing in European Championships, in Surrey at the World Championships is a guiding light for others to watch.

### European Championships

2013

Coed Slowpitch: **6th place**  
Cadet Girls: **10th place**

2014

Junior Women: **11th place**

2015

2016

Junior Women: **11th place**



## SLOVAKIA



**Gabriel Waage:** Even though Slovakia does not have a strong national competition, they try to participate also in youth ESF events as much as possible.

**Andre van Overbeek:** The win of Slovakia over the Czech Republic at the U-22 Women's Championship in Pardubice, was the most emotional and passionate game of 2016.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **10th place**  
Cadet Girls: **8th place**

**2014**

U-22 Women: **6th place**

**2015**

Women: **16th place**

**2016**

U-22 Women: **4th place**



## SLOVENIA



**Gabriel Waage:** Softball in Slovenia is represented mostly by slowpitch.

**Dejan Jesic:** After a few years of domination of slowpitch in Slovenia, Fastpitch is resurrected. In 2015, the Slovenian National Team participated at the Women's Championship and they have signed up for the 2017 Championship as well.

### European Championships

**2013**

Coed Slowpitch: **2nd place**

**2014**

**2015**

Women: **14th place**

**2016**





## SPAIN



**John Austin:** The Spanish Federation has been in communication with the ESF regarding possible slowpitch development clinics in the Cataluna region. As slowpitch is a great development tool, we like to see fastpitch countries' interest in slowpitch.

**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen:** Spain has the potential of becoming a leading force in women's as well as men's fastpitch in Europe. The players are athletes and have the temperament of true winners.

**Gabriel Waage:** After seven years, Spain organized another tournament, the U-19 Women's Championship, and they did an outstanding job.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **8th place**

**2014**

Junior Women: **10th place**

**2015**

Women: **8th place**

Cadet Girls: **6th place**

**2016**

Junior Women: **9th place**



## SWEDEN



**Youri Alkalay:** Sweden has proven to be a federation that takes it [softball and baseball] seriously. Nurturing their Women's and junior women's programs with training camps in the USA and sending a Men's team to the European Championships for the first time.

**Ami Baran:** Pioneers of the Baltic Open and leaders for the future Baltic Euroleague.

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **7th place**

**2014**

**2015**

Women: **11th place**

**2016**

Men: **9th place**



## SWITZERLAND



**Mette Nissen-Jakobsen:** It was a pleasure to see a team from Switzerland in Surrey at the Women's World Championships. With a bit more help from the ESF, Swiss softball will grow for sure.

### European Championships

**2013**

**2014**

Women: 14th place

**2015**

**2016**

Women: 18th place



## TURKEY



**Youri Alkalay:** The country is struggling with many issues but the Federation does not stop trying to build the base for softball in different regions and we have to give them credit for that.

### European Championships

**2013**

**2014**

**2015**

**2016**



## UKRAINE



**Andre van Overbeek:** Because of a difficult situation in their country, it was necessary to move to another part of Ukraine. Despite all these problems the development of softball continues and so does the participation in European Championships

### European Championships

**2013**

Women: **12th place**

Cadet Girls: **11th place**

**2014**

U-22 Women: **5th place**

Junior Women: **15th place**

**2015**

Women: **12th place**

**2016**

U-22 Women: **7th place**



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