

**EHF**

# FLAG MANUAL



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# 1. INTRODUCTION



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## 1.1 About this manual

This Flag Manual was produced with the sole intent and purpose of providing a guide to all matters pertaining to flags and flag-related protocols in EHF events. The protocols and procedures described here are based on the Olympic Charter, the IOC Protocol Guide, and any additional procedures developed and approved by the EHF.

The Manual covers all the EHF member Federations (NF) flags and the Protocol Set of flags as defined by EHF. All the flags used in EHF events are graphically shown here, in their final and approved versions; all flags have been “signed off” as correct by the relevant authorities (IOC, NOC, NF, etc.) to ensure their correct designs, colours, and orientation.

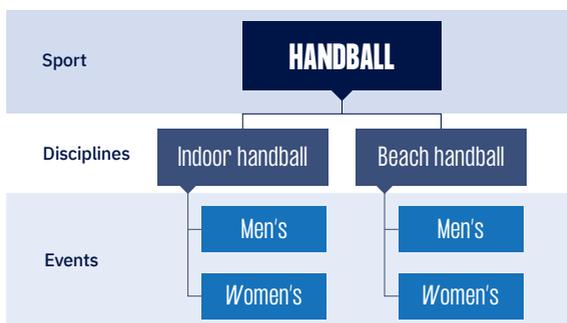
**This document supersedes any previous edition of the EHF Flag Manual and becomes an integral part of any EHF competition and event regulations.**

## 1.2 Handball: Sport – Discipline – Event

**Sport:** An activity involving physical exertion and skill in which a team competes against another (or others).

**Discipline:** A branch of the sport (handball) comprising one (or more) events.

**Event:** A competition in the sport (or a discipline) that gives rise to a ranking.



## 1.3 Flags and symbols

A flag is a piece of coloured fabric or material that is used as a symbol, or for sending a signal.

People have used flags for over 4,000 years. First flags (*or vexilloids*) were metal or wooden poles with carvings on top. About 2,000 years ago, pieces of fabric or material were added to some vexilloids for decoration.

Flags often include symbols that are used to show ideas that would otherwise take many words, and they use colours that almost always symbolise something pertinent to the countries or organisations they represent.

Today every nation in the world has a flag, which sometimes changes as their governments change, or during other events of national importance (*union, independence, renaming, etc.*)

The national flag is usually the most powerful and emotionally charged national symbol, representing the history of a country, its people, and its culture. As such, it demands the utmost respect.

## 1.4 EHF protocol

The EHF is the supreme authority during its events. The EHF alone has the authority to determine the protocol applicable at all venues placed under the responsibility of the OC. The flag protocol outlined in this manual has been directly defined by the EHF.

## 1.5 EHF logo

The EHF logo represents a simple, functional, and modern take on the well-known EHF logo used over more than the last three decades. The handball itself has always been at the very core of the EHF brand design system and we continue to build on this heritage with a logo that has been updated to a more contemporary expression. The dark blue EHF colour is represented throughout the entire organisation and all of its sub-brands and tournaments.



## 1.6 EHF flag

The EHF Family hotel as well as the competition and training venues and all other places that are under the responsibility of the OC must be decked with a large number of EHF flags.



## 2. FLAGS AT EHF EVENTS



## 2. FLAGS AT EHF EVENTS

### 2.1 Flag requirements

EHF protocol dictates not only that flags are required, but also which flags and the order in which they are displayed. Flags can be static (*stationary flags installed at the venues*) or dynamic (*flags that move during ceremonies*).

#### 2.1.1 Proportions

Flags, especially national ones, come in varying sizes, proportions, and in some cases even shapes.

This is fine when a flag is hoisted alone, but would lead to visual confusion when many flags are flown together, as some flags would stand out more than others, against the EHF spirit which promotes equality and mutual respect amongst nations.

Therefore, a standard 1:2 ratio (1 height x 2 length, ex. 1 x 2m) has been established as the standard ratio for flags during the EHF events.



Portrait

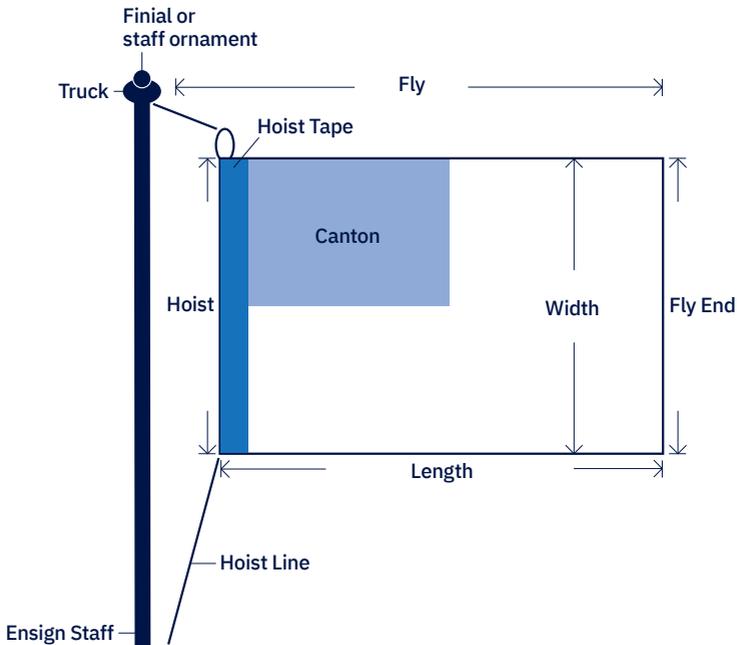


Landscape

#### 2.1.2 Flag sizing table

Flag size	Portrait orientation	Landscape orientation
1	1 x 2m	2 x 1m
2	2 x 4m	4 x 2m
3	3 x 6m	6 x 3m
4	4 x 8m	8 x 4m
5	5 x 10m	10 x 5m
6	6 x 12m	12 x 6m

### 2.1.3 Parts of a flag and flag terminology

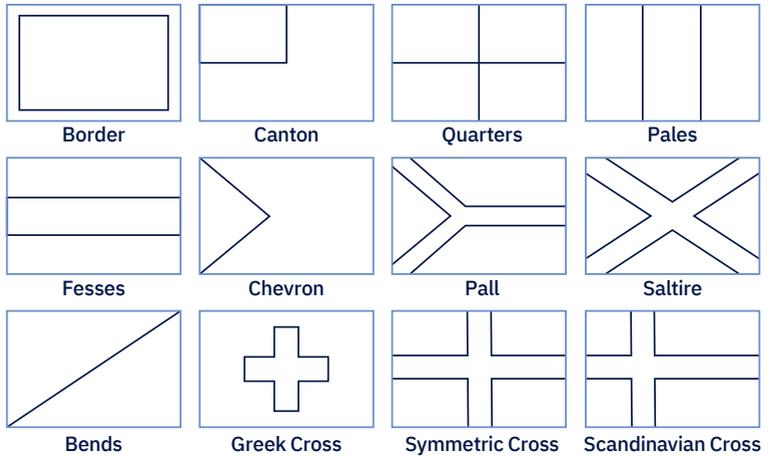


#### 2.1.3.1 Glossary of flag terms

- Banner** A synonym for a flag of any kind, and in heraldry specifically, a square or rectangular flag whose design is identical to the shield of a coat of arms.
- Coat of Arms** A term to describe all the different designs and symbols that appear in the field of the flag.
- Canton** Any quarter of a flag, but generally referring to the top left quarter (*next to the hoist*) e.g. the Union Flag in the Red Ensign.
- Emblem** A figure or symbol appearing in the field of a flag.
- Field** The back-drop fabric for the whole flag.
- Finial (or staff ornament)** This is the decorative ornament that is placed at the top of the flagpole, above the truck.
- Fly** The longer, top edge of the flag, including the length of the top edge, traditionally the half of the flag furthest from the leading edge, is also sometimes used to describe the leeward end of the flag.

## Flag design

The different shapes that feature in flags are illustrated in the drawing below:



## Flagpole

A pole designed to support a flag. *(If it is taller than can be easily reached to raise the flag, a cord is used, looping around a pulley at the top of the pole with the ends tied at the bottom. The flag is fixed to one lower end of the cord and is then raised by pulling on the other end. The cord is then tightened and tied to the pole at the bottom).*

## Fly end

The vertical edge at the leeward end of the flag, away from the halyard, mast, or flagstaff.

## Grommet/Eyelet

A ring pressed into the hoist tape of a flag for attaching a halyard. A hoist line sewn into the hoist tape creating a tail at the bottom and a loop at the top, with an optional toggle, is the more traditional method.

## Half-mast

Refers to a flag flying below the summit of a mast, or a pole on a building. This is seen as a symbol of mourning.

## Hoist

The heading or leading edge of the flag, attached to the halyard, mast, or flagstaff, may also refer to the vertical height of the flag. The action, of hoisting a flag, refers to raising it aloft using a halyard (*rope*).

## Hoist tape

Strengthens the leading edge, optimally with a special herringbone weave polyester webbing, which can be folded neatly and sewn to form the reinforced windward end of the flag.

## Length

The horizontal span of a flag along the top or bottom edge from the hoist to the fly end.

<b>Obverse/Reverse</b>	The front view of the flag when the hoist is correctly positioned next to the mast or halyard. The other ( <i>back</i> ) side is known as the reverse.
<b>Tricolour/Bicolour</b>	A flag comprising stripes or parts of different colours – Tricolour = 3 colours, Bicolour = 2 colours.
<b>Truck</b>	A flagpole is usually topped by a flat plate or ball called a “truck” ( <i>originally meant to keep a wooden pole from splitting</i> ) or a finial in a more complex shape.
<b>Width</b>	The span of a flag down the side parallel to the flagpole.

### 2.1.3.2 Quality, designs, colours, and orientation

All flags to be flown during EHF events must be approved by the EHF.

All measures have been taken to ensure that the flags flown at EHF events are of the topmost quality in terms of material strength, true colours, and safety.

## 2.2 Static flags

Static flags are installed at venues for the duration of the event. They can be installed in a horizontal (portrait) or vertical (landscape) position. There are two main static flag displays:

- a. Protocol Set
- b. Participating nations

## 2.3 Dynamic flags

Dynamic flags are those that are raised and lowered throughout an event for various ceremonies. All dynamic flags, at both indoor and outdoor venues, will always be raised horizontally.

***\*Two flags should not be flown from the same pole under any other circumstances.***

## 2.4 Protocol set

The Protocol Set of flags is a number of flags defined by the EHF and the OC concerned that will be hoisted at the beginning of all flag displays. In general, the precedence is defined as:



In the Protocol Set, the host's flag is raised only as the host's National Flag, and not twice. In all competition venues, the Protocol Sets are followed by the flags of the nations attending the event.

## 2.5 National Federation (NF) flags

Flags of all the participating NFs will be displayed at the competition venues.

## 2.6 How the flags are displayed

When viewed from the front, flags should be hung from **left to right**. Flag displays **begin with the Protocol Set** followed by the participating NFs flags.

## 2.7 How the flags are managed

The EHF VM team (*or the EHF Delegate*) has completed the flag approval process before the competition time and the OC will procure all flags for the event. At each venue, the EHF VM team will approve the installation, Protocol Set, and participating NFs/club team flags accordingly. During the event time, members of the EHF VM team will check the static flag displays every day to ensure that they are correct. The EHF VM team will also cooperate with the OC ceremony team to ensure that proper flag protocol is observed and that the correct flags are selected.

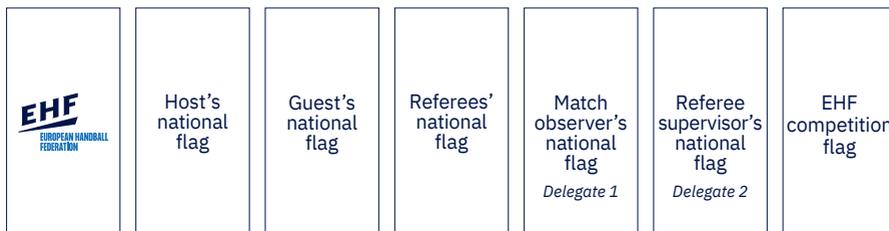
## 2.8 Flags at competition venues

### 2.8.1 Indoor handball

Club competitions (*one EHF Delegate*):



Club competitions (*two EHF Delegates*):



## EUROs, YAC EUROs, YAC European Championships:

	OC flag	Host's national flag	Competing nations' national flags <i>In English alphabetical order</i>	EHF competition flag
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## 2.8.2 Beach handball

### ebt tournaments:

	Host's national flag	Competing nations' national flags <i>In English alphabetical order</i>	EHF ebt flag
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### Champions Cup, ebt Finals:

	Host's national flag	Competing nations' national flags <i>In English alphabetical order</i>	
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### EUROs, YAC EUROs:

	OC flag	Host's national flag	Competing nations' national flags <i>In English alphabetical order</i>	
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## 2.9 National flags

Country flags are displayed in English alphabetical order (*full country name, not by the three letter code*) following the host country flag, from left to right. National Flags illustration on Appendix 2.

The EHF flag protocol dictates that, when massed in a display, **all national flags should be identical in size**, to avoid some flags from standing out more than others and going against the Olympic spirit, which promotes equality and mutual respect amongst nations.

### Important notes:

- All of these national flags must be flown in the playing hall if the host team wants to display the flags of the competing clubs, EHF delegates and referees.
- At EHF FINAL4s, no national flags are displayed (teams, EHF officials or organisers).

## 2.10 Opening, closing, and victory ceremonies

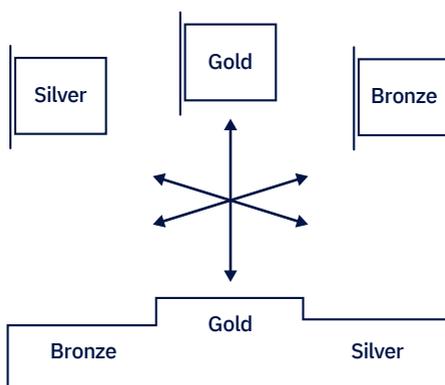
### 2.10.1 Teams' parade

For the Teams' Parade, the flags of all competing NFs in alphabetical order (in English) enter the stadium, and the flag of the host nation will enter last.

### 2.10.2 Victory ceremonies

NF national flags corresponding to the teams that win gold, silver, and bronze medals will be raised during the victory ceremonies. Only the anthem of the gold medalists will be played.

If dynamic or digital flags are hoisted, they will be displayed as follows as viewed from the medalist's podium:



### 3. VARIOUS FLAG ISSUES AND PROCEDURES



## 3. VARIOUS FLAG ISSUES AND PROCEDURES

### 3.1 Flag handling

Protocol requires a certain etiquette when handling a flag, a nation's foremost symbol:

- Flags should be folded when carried to and from flagpoles.
- No flag should be raised in a position inferior to another flag.
- **No national flag should be smaller than another.**
- Flags must be securely fastened so as not to fall.
- When a flag visibly deteriorates, it must be replaced with a new one.

### 3.2 Problem-solving

When a flag-related issue arises at a competition venue, the following actions can be taken:

1. Issue/problem identified.
2. Venue Manager (VM) is informed and refers to the Flag Manual:
  - a. VM confirms there is no problem, therefore no action is needed, or
  - b. VM confirms there is a problem and advises OC.
3. The flag issue is resolved by all Functional Areas (FAs) involved.
4. The VM verifies the correct protocol has been observed.

**THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF FLAGS AND ANTHEMS IN GENERAL IS THE VERIFICATION PROCESS BEFORE TO COMPETITION AND LABELING.**

### 3.3 A protocol Set or an EHF member national flag is hung incorrectly during competition or the victory ceremony

The treatment of flags is an emotional subject and can run high if a flag is, or is seen to be, displayed improperly. Flags must be checked multiple times and many failsafes (labeling of flags, the design of finishes of the flags, the design of the rigging system, etc.) must be established to ensure that flags are identified/ displayed correctly before the opening of the venue/ beginning of the competition.

This procedure is designed to resolve any mistakes in the display of the Protocol Set or participating NF flag Set.

Step	Description of action	Who actions the step?
1	All flag displays in the venue will be checked by the EHF VM or the EHF Delegate before the venue is opened to the public or media.	EHF VM, EHF Delegate
2	Notwithstanding this, if anyone (spectator, media person, staff member, EHF Official, or delegation member) reports that a static flag has been displayed incorrectly, that report should be relayed as soon as possible to the VM or the EHF Delegate.	VM, EHF VM, EHF Delegate
3	The EHF VM or the EHF Delegate, with the aid of the EHF Flag Manual, will make an initial decision as to whether the flag is displayed incorrectly. If he/she decides that the flag is hung correctly, no further action will be taken.	EHF VM, EHF Delegate
4	If the EHF VM or the EHF Delegate decides that the flag is hung incorrectly, the OC VM will be asked to re-orient the flag. Under no circumstances will competition be halted or interrupted by any chance and care must be taken not to draw attention to any mistake.	EHF VM, EHF Delegate OC VM
5	The re-oriented flag will be approved by the EHF VM or EHF Delegate.	EHF VM, EHF Delegate
6	The EHF VM or the EHF Delegate will brief EHF on what has to be done, or what will be done and why, to manage EHF's reputation. EHF Media will also be briefed, not to inform the Press, but so that they are not caught off guard if any questions are asked.	EHF VM, EHF Delegate
7	If a possible error is detected during a ceremony, the ceremony will continue without pause. Under no circumstances the ceremony will be halted. If, after consulting the EHF Flag Manual, the EHF VM determines that an error was indeed made, the EHF and LOC will be notified immediately. Apologies will be made on-site. EHF Media will be informed so that they are not caught off guard. EHF and OC will consult on the further steps to be taken, i.e. asking the medallists to take to the stage again where the correct flag was displayed.	EHF VM, EHF Delegate, EHF, OC

## 3.4 Death of an EHF Family Member during an EHF Competition

Only the EHF flags flying at the competition venues or hotels may be lowered to half-mast\*, for one (1) to three (3) days.

The decision to lower the flag at specific venues for a specific duration will be at the sole discretion of the EHF.

*\*To bring the flag to that half-mast position, the flag is raised to the top and then immediately lowered slowly to half-mast, which is approximately a third (1/3) of the flagpole height, down from the top. For competition and non-competition indoor venues, due to technical complications, the flags are left as is.*

## 3.5 Flags at night

Because lowering the flags at night and raising them again at dawn would not be feasible due to the large number of flags involved, some lighting arrangements are required.

If the flagpoles have specific lighting, it is to be left on all night. If not, the venues' ambient light may be sufficient if left on all night. If the venue needs to shut down all lighting, a small amount must be left on - for security.



## 4. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: EHF member Federations' names and abbreviations

Nation	Code
Albania	ALB
Andora	AND
Armenia	ARM
Austria	AUT
Azerbaijan	AZE
Belarus	BLR
Belgium	BEL
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
Bulgaria	BUL
Croatia	CRO
Cyprus	CYP
Czechia	CZE
Denmark	DEN
Estonia	EST
Faroe Islands	FAR
Finland	FIN
France	FRA
Georgia	GEO
Germany	GER
Great Britain	GBR
Greece	GRE
Hungary	HUN
Iceland	ISL
Ireland	IRL
Israel	ISR

Nation	Code
Italy	ITA
Kosovo	KOS
Latvia	LAT
Liechtenstein	LIE
Lithuania	LTU
Luxembourg	LUX
Malta	MLT
Moldova	MDA
Monaco	MON
Montenegro	MNE
Netherlands	NED
North Macedonia	MKD
Norway	NOR
Poland	POL
Portugal	POR
Romania	ROU
Russia	RUS
Serbia	SRB
Slovakia	SVK
Slovenia	SLO
Spain	ESP
Sweden	SWE
Switzerland	SUI
Türkiye	TUR
Ukraine	UKR

## Appendix 1a: EHF associated member Federations' names and abbreviations

Federation	Code
England	ENG
Scotland	SCO

## Appendix 2: EHF member national flags

### ALBANIA



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 485 (red)  
PMS Black

### ANDORRA



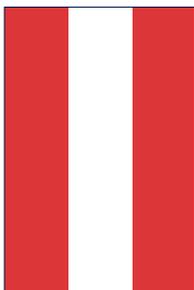
**Pantone codes**  
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PMS Yellow  
PMS 199 (pink)  
PMS 485 (orange)  
PMS 466 (beige)  
PMS 300 (light blue)  
PMS 478 (brown)

### ARMENIA



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 485 (red)  
PMS Reflex Blue  
PMS 1375 (yellow)

## AUSTRIA



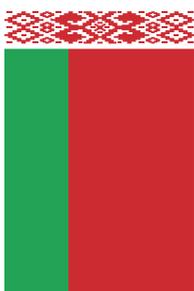
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PMS White

## AZERBAIJAN



**Pantone codes**  
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PMS 185 (red)  
PMS 3405 (green)  
PMS White

## BELARUS



**Pantone codes**  
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PMS 3405 (green)  
PMS White

## BELGIUM



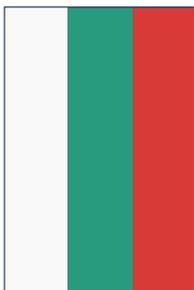
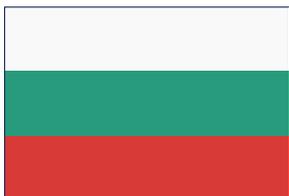
**Pantone codes**  
PMS 116 (yellow)  
PMS 186 (red)  
PMS Black

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 294 (blue)  
PMS 116 (yellow)  
PMS White

## BULGARIA



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 3405 (green)  
PMS 485 (red)

## CROATIA



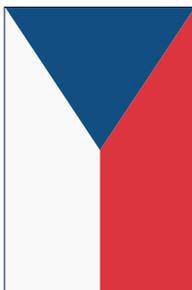
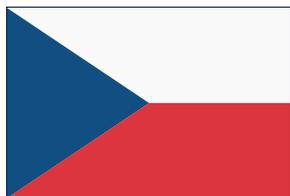
**Pantone codes**  
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PMS 280 (dark blue)  
PMS 297 (light blue)  
PMS 116 (yellow)  
PMS Black

## CYPRUS



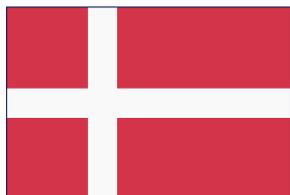
**Pantone codes**  
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PMS 574 (green)  
PMS White

## CZECHIA



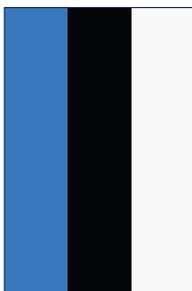
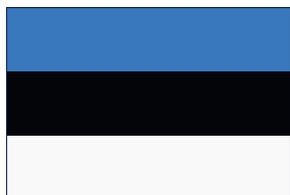
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PMS 287 (blue)  
PMS White

## DENMARK



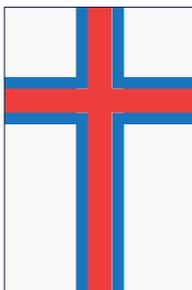
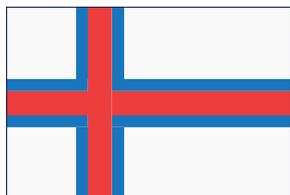
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PMS White

## ESTONIA



**Pantone codes**  
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PMS Black  
PMS White

## FAROE ISLANDS



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 300 (blue)  
PMS 032 (red)  
PMS White

## FINLAND



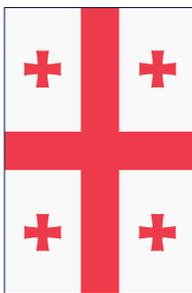
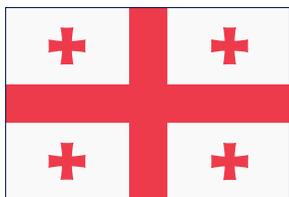
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PMS White

## FRANCE



**Pantone codes**  
PMS Reflex Blue  
PMS 032 (red)  
PMS White

## GEORGIA



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 485 (red)  
PMS White

## GERMANY



**Pantone codes**  
PMS Black  
PMS 485 (red)  
PMS 116 (yellow)

## GREAT BRITAIN



Pantone codes  
PMS 280 (blue)  
PMS 186 (red)  
PMS White

## GREECE



Pantone codes  
PMS Reflex Blue  
PMS White

## HUNGARY



Pantone codes  
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PMS 348 (green)  
PMS White

## ICELAND



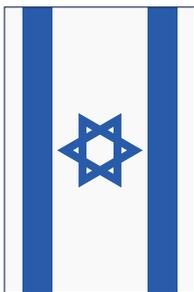
Pantone codes  
PMS 287 (blue)  
PMS 1795 (red)  
PMS White

## IRELAND



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 347 (green)  
PMS 151 (orange)  
PMS White

## ISRAEL



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 300 (blue)  
PMS White

## ITALY



**Pantone codes**  
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PMS 1797 (red)  
PMS White

## KOSOVO



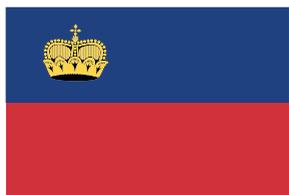
**Pantone codes**  
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PMS 7407 (gold)  
PMS White

## LATVIA



**Pantone codes**  
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PMS White

## LIECHTENSTEIN



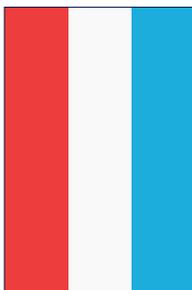
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PMS 185 (red)  
PMS 109 (yellow)  
PMS Black

## LITHUANIA



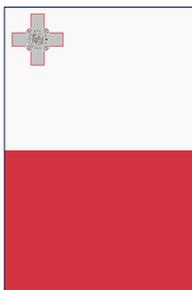
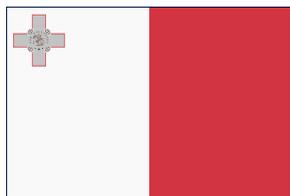
**Pantone codes**  
PMS 1235 (yellow)  
PMS 349 (green)  
PMS 180 (red)

## LUXEMBOURG



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 032 (red)  
PMS 299 (blue)  
PMS White

## MALTA



### Pantone codes

PMS 430 (light grey)  
PMS 432 (dark grey)  
PMS 186 (red)  
PMS White

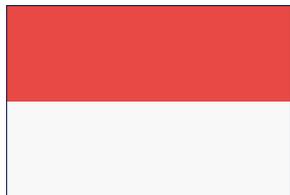
## MOLDOVA



### Pantone codes

PMS 293 (blue)  
PMS 109 (yellow)  
PMS 186 (red)  
PMS 4645 (brown)  
PMS 3415 (green)  
PMS Black

## MONACO



### Pantone codes

PMS 186 (red)  
PMS White

## MONTENEGRO



### Pantone codes

PMS 110 (yellow)  
PMS 032 (red)  
PMS 301 (blue)  
PMS 377 (green)  
PMS 131 (gold)

## NETHERLANDS



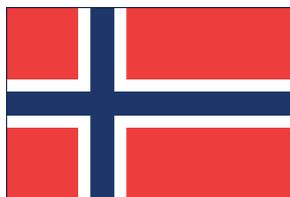
**Pantone codes**  
PMS 186 (red)  
PMS 293 (blue)  
PMS White

## NORTH MACEDONIA



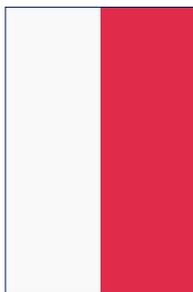
**Pantone codes**  
PMS 485 (red)  
PMS 108 (yellow)

## NORWAY



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 200 (red)  
PMS 281 (blue)  
PMS White

## POLAND



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 1795 (red)  
PMS White

## PORTUGAL



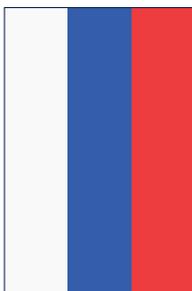
**Pantone codes**  
PMS 349 (green)  
PMS 485 (red)  
PMS 803 (yellow)  
PMS 288 (blue)  
PMS Black  
PMS White

## ROMANIA



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 280 (blue)  
PMS 116 (yellow)  
PMS 186 (red)

## RUSSIA



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 285 (blue)  
PMS 032 (red)  
PMS White

## SERBIA



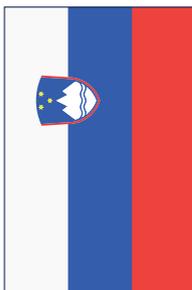
**Pantone codes**  
PMS 192 (red)  
PMS 280 (blue)  
PMS 123 (yellow)  
PMS Black  
PMS White

## SLOVAKIA



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 293 (blue)  
PMS 032 (red)  
PMS White

## SLOVENIA



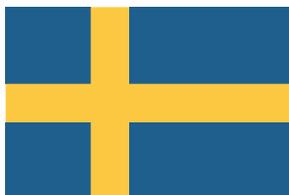
**Pantone codes**  
PMS 293 (blue)  
PMS 199 (red)  
PMS 116 (yellow)  
PMS White

## SPAIN



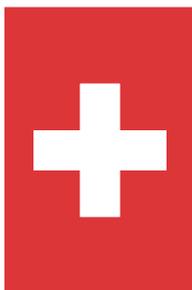
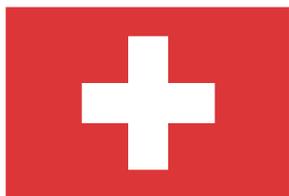
**Pantone codes**  
PMS 032 (red)  
PMS 109 (yellow)  
PMS Process Blue  
PMS 226 (pink)  
PMS 355 (green)  
PMS Black

## SWEDEN



**Pantone codes**  
PMS 301 (blue)  
PMS 109 (yellow)

## SWITZERLAND



Pantone codes  
PMS 485 (red)  
PMS White

## TÜRKIYE



Pantone codes  
PMS 186 (red)  
PMS White

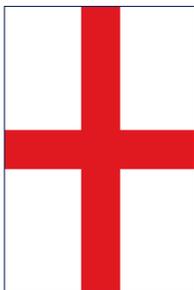
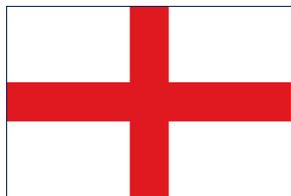
## UKRAINE



Pantone codes  
PMS 2935 (blue)  
PMS Yellow

## Appendix 2a: EHF associated member national flags

### ENGLAND



Pantone codes  
PMS 188 (red)  
PMS White

### SCOTLAND



Pantone codes  
PMS 300 (blue)  
PMS White





**EHF**  
EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION