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In 2016, three Softball European Championships and six European Cups took place. A total of 97 teams took part in 399 games. Germany, Sweden and Italy premiered at the Men's Fastpitch Championship. Great Britain seized their first-ever fastpitch (baseball or softball) title. Lithuania participated in two championships with an identical roster. Slowpitch Super Cup recorded the highest number of participants ever.

Check the 2016 season in numbers [here](#), and take a brief look at what's in store for us in 2017.



This action shot by Cristiano Gatti was given the Best Photo Award in the [ESF PhotoFEST](#): The most attractive moment of the game. All photos from this contest for all professional/semi-professional/enthusiast softball photographers were uploaded to the newly established ESF's [Instagram account](#).

[Basic Fastpitch Umpires Clinic](#) will be held in Prague, May 24 - 29.


To become a licensed ESF Umpire, softball umpires have to attend this clinic.

Maximum of 16 participants will be allowed to sign up.

To see what a day of an ESF Umpire looks like, watch our recently released [video](#).



NATIONAL FEDERATIONS' NEWS


 Kostis Liarommatis, president of the Greek Softball Federation, has been working diligently in trying to revive softball programs throughout Greece and try to regain the independence of the federation. The ESF Development Commission along with the WBSC Softball Division, have put a lot of efforts in trying to assist Kostis. Equipment is already on its way and growth of teams and coaching clinics will for sure bring the


change.

The fruit of the hard work came to fruition in a meeting that Ami Baran and Kostis had with the General Secretary Mr. Julious Synadinos, who immediately had his Legal team working on the preparation of the documents to allow Softball to become independent. [Read more](#)



Presidential election took place in two affiliated federations in November.

 Swiss Federation confirmed Georges Gladig as their president. [Read more](#)

 Andrea Marcon (*shown left*) became the new president of Italian Baseball and Softball Federation. [Read more](#)

ERASMUS + funding in softball

Two projects, which are taking advantage of the Erasmus + program, were announced recently. Both are funded by the European Union.

Youth Exchange "Sports Xchange" is a project for which Croatia and the Czech Republic partnered up. Each country is bringing in a group of 30 young individuals, mostly between 13


- 18 years of age, both boys and girls.

A project titled Inclusion and Gender Equality Through Softball (IGETS) will bring together three softball clubs coming from different parts of Europe – Ghajnsielem Redcoats from Gozo, Malta, Olympia Haarlem from the Netherlands and Softball Klub Princ Zagreb from Croatia.

The project involves exchange of best practices relevant to gender equality in sports, efforts to encourage youths to play softball and sports in general, and to increase the participation rate in sports - especially among women and girls by working with key stakeholders in each country.



COACH WANTED IN ITALY - A.S.D. Thunders Castellana Softball is looking to hire a softball coach for the 2017 season. The coach would be in charge of the U-13, U-16 and U-21 (women's) teams, in addition the coach would assist at the senior top division women's team. For details contact Fabio Cecchin at info@fabiocecchin.it.

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