

**AUSTRALIA**  
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SVIJET U OSIJEKU –

Australians will be participating at the World Championships for the fifth time. Handball is definitely not one of the popular sports in Australia. The best ranking, Australians achieved in 2003, when they placed 21<sup>st</sup> recording their only World Championships win against Greenland. They booked their ticket to Croatia by winning their Oceania tournament beating both Cook Islands and New Zealand. A bit part of the national team is made up of players with European backgrounds, especially from former Yugoslavia. On the wing they have Bojan Stojanovic, backs Mladen Turanjanin and Nemanja Subotic, pivots Dragan Jerkov and Taip Ramadani and one of the best players is goalkeeper Ognjen Latinovic. The coach is Morten Fjeldstad from Denmark, who tried to implement the Scandinavian style of handball. Many of the players, therefore, play their club handball in that part of Europe. Lack of experience and tactical solutions will be a problem but the Aussies will fight to get a better ranking than two years ago.

Translation by Ognjen Latinovic