Tournament review

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UEFA President's message

Antwerp raises the roof



From early surprises in the opening round of matches to Italy being crowned champions at the finish, UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 caught the imagination from the outset and never let go.

The semi-final lineup may have featured some familiar faces, but from holders Spain's draw with Croatia in their first game it was clear that nothing could be taken for granted in Antwerp. Our congratulations must go to Italy, who overcame a loss to Slovenia in their opening match and proceeded to lift the trophy for a second time – and commiserations to Russia, defeated in the final for the second UEFA Futsal EURO running.

They leave Belgium, however, with heads held high after ousting Spain in a thrilling semi-final that showed this sport at its brilliant best – fun, dramatic, fast-paced and unpredictable. Russia may have ended Spain's nine-year hold on the trophy, but it was a measure of the wonderful spirit of respect that suffused the tournament that on the final whistle, beaten coach José

Venancio López did not dwell on his side's loss, offering instead the highest praise for his opponents.

With matches broadcast live on Eurosport and a strong following at the venues, futsal's expanding fan base will have grown still further in Antwerp. Our thanks therefore go to the Royal Belgian Football Association (URBSFA-KBVB) and its president, François De Keersmaecker, to the City of Antwerp and to all the volunteers for their excellent work helping to stage the event. Their dedication played an important part in its success. As we look ahead to UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 in Serbia, I hope you enjoy this official review of what was a memorable fortnight in Belgium.

Michel Platini **UEFA** President

"Futsal's expanding fan base will have grown still further in Antwerp"



Belgian FA President's message

"A bright future"

Following the climax of UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, we at the Royal Belgian Football Association (URBSFA-KBVB) can look back with huge satisfaction on two exhilarating weeks. The cooperation between the three parties involved – the City of Antwerp, the Belgian FA and UEFA - was tremendous. It is a great feeling knowing that we are more than capable of taking an active role in this kind of organisation.

On the pitch, the quality of play and the sportsmanship between the teams as well as towards the referees was exemplary. It was a pity that our team, as hosts of this memorable event, got knocked out in the group stage. But in their second match against Ukraine, they showed how exciting futsal can be. Exciting is just one word to describe the rip-roaring action that unfolded. The semi-finals, followed by the third-place match and the final itself, were simply thrilling. The same can be said about the vibrant, energising crowd.

This championship showed, once again, that futsal can have a bright future in our country, not only for the players but also for the spectators and for television. I sincerely hope that UEFA Futsal EURO



2014 has given Belgian futsal the boost this great sport deserves. I would also like to applaud champions Italy on their fantastic achievement – and congratulate all those who contributed to making the tournament a success beyond all expectations.

François De Keersmaecker Royal Belgian Football Association President

"I sincerely hope that UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 has given Belgian futsal the boost this great sport deserves"

More than a game

Respect was a crucial principle at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, as it is in all UEFA competitions. Respect for the game, integrity, diversity, players' health, the rules, the referee, opposition supporters and the environment are key principles of futsal as well as football, and the players in Antwerp were proud to wear the Respect logo on their shirts to lend their support to UEFA's campaign.

Respect

"As the governing body of European football, UEFA has the responsibility to protect the game and its supporters," explained the UEFA President, Michel Platini. "Respect highlights UEFA's ongoing commitment to combatting any form of discrimination, increasing access for fans with disabilities, promoting health through physical activity and encouraging intercultural dialogue between fans."

The campaign to eliminate racism, discrimination and intolerance from football is a major priority for UEFA, and the European body makes full use of its highprofile platforms to send out a key and unequivocal message: No to Racism. Futsal, like football, unites people and transcends differences. Racism and any other forms of discrimination will never be tolerated, nor will UEFA tolerate violence either on the pitch or in the stands.

THE REAL PROPERTY.

UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 once more provided a superb platform for this message, with players and fans from 12 nations coming together in a spirit of openness and fair play, with a splendid atmosphere in Antwerp showing the power the game has to unite.



TO RACISM RESPECT NOTORAGIN NOTORA





Technical report

Detailed analysis



UEFA's technical team in Antwerp (from left to right): Graham Turner, Stéphanie Tétaz, Ioan Lupescu, Aca Kovačević and Javier Lozano

FUTSALEURO

The technical report on the eighth final tournament of the UEFA European Futsal Championship is the first to be included in an overall review which embraces commercial, marketing, broadcasting and organisational aspects of UEFA Futsal EURO 2014.

The technical report sets out to provide a permanent record of the 20 matches played in Antwerp and to present factual and statistical information in a readerfriendly format. The report is based on the observations and analysis provided by UEFA's two technical observers in Belgium, comprising one current and one former national team coach – both well versed in Futsal EUROs and FIFA Futsal World Cups. Javier Lozano was completing a hat-trick, having previously operated as UEFA technical observer at the 2010 and 2012 final tournaments. He chose futsal as his first love in the early 1980s, going into coaching at 31 and making his name at the helm of Caja Toledo and Madrid-based Inter FS. In 1992, he was invited to take over from Felipe Oieda as head coach of the Spanish national team - and led it to victory in the first European tournament staged under UEFA auspices in Córdoba in 1996. It was the first of a rich collection of gold medals, as he subsequently led Spain to victory in the 2000 and 2004 World Cups and the 2001 and 2005 European championships. He handed the baton to José Venancio in 2007 to take a post in the outdoor

UEFA FUTSALEUKU

game with Real Madrid CF, initially in the first-team dressing room and then as director of player development, before returning to futsal in his current role as president of Spain's professional futsal league.

Aca Kovačević had a futsal playing career spanning 16 seasons with KMF Mungosi Beograd, MNK Kutina, Deni Beograd KFC and Italian club Hellas Verona. Having captained the national team as a player, he took command as the head coach of Serbia in 2007, leading the side into three consecutive EUROs in 2007, 2010 and 2012 and guiding them into ninth place at the 2012 World Cup in Thailand. Alongside his coaching duties, he has run an academy for boys aged 6–12 since 2000, organised activities for children with

The facts and observations in this review seek to provoke as well as inform. The objective is to generate analysis, reflections and debate

BELGIUM 2014 TOURNAMENT REVIEW

disabilities and published Serbia's first book on futsal (in 2006). He has also been the City of Belgrade's secretary for sport and youth since 2009, and will be deeply involved in the next Futsal EURO, to be staged in Belgrade in 2016.

The facts and observations in this review seek to provoke as well as to inform. The objective is to generate analysis, reflections and debate which, it is hoped, will give technicians food for thought. By highlighting tendencies and trends at the peak of European futsal, the aim is also to provide coaches at senior and development levels with information that may be helpful when working on the qualities which will be needed by the players and coaches who will play leading roles in shaping the future of futsal in Europe.

Route to the final

BELGIUM 2014 TOURNAMENT REVI

Belgium's Karim Chaibai attempts the spectacular against Romania

AL-IOANI

ANTWERP



Pula shields the ball from the Netherlands' Mohamed Attaibi

"Differences have become more slender. The lower-level teams have improved the tactical elements of their game. We saw better defending, better preparation for games, better movement, and attacks based on fewer touches of the ball. We also saw that teams now have many more universal players than specialists." The views expressed by Croatia coach Mato Stanković summarise the general opinion among coaches and observers in Antwerp.

Although differences have been trimmed, they still exist. Netherlands coach Marcel Loosveld pointed out: "Physical fitness levels rise at every tournament and, because of the lack of a strong domestic competition, I prioritised physical preparation. We don't have a professional league, so players never experience the circumstances they run into during a EURO."



Ukraine's Dmytro Bondar in action against the hosts

The lack of exposure to high-intensity fixtures was a key factor during the group stage of the competition. The Dutch, in a 'group of death' alongside two pre-tournament favourites – Russia and Portugal – played with considerable individual skills and commitment to the cause. But they failed to take chances in the tournament's opening fixture against a Russian team which, by permuting three quartets, ran them into the ground, winning 7-1. Playing Portugal 48 hours later imposed physical and mental demands – and, conceding three goals in the final 3:09, the Dutch were beaten 5-0 and eliminated. This allowed Portugal and Russia to face up with quarter-final places in their pockets and offer the fans a spectacular 4-4 draw, with Jorge Braz's team going 4-3 up while the opponents were down to four following the dismissal of Pula. Eder Lima levelled the scores with a breathtaking bicycle kick which brought the crowd to its feet. The result allowed Russia to top the group.

It was a similar story in Group A, where the Belgians allowed first-night nerves to translate into errors which paved the way for a 6-1 defeat by a Romanian team that used

only eight outfield players. Nelu Stancea used three more during the second match against Ukraine, but the high-tempo movement and ball circulation that had impressed against the hosts began to fade and they managed only five on-target attempts in a game where they were beaten by a solitary goal from Dmytro Sorokin. This obliged Belgium to beat Ukraine by a substantial margin in the final match and, although the hosts cast their inhibitions aside, won a lot of possession and enjoyed more scoring chances than their opponents, their finishing was unable to beat Kyrylo Tsypun, outstanding between the Ukrainian posts. Oddly, Yevgen Ryvkin's side topped the group with a goal tally of 1-0.

Group C opened with a major surprise. Slovenia made their presence felt with a game based on physical strength, mobility, pace and the will to fight for every ball as if it were the last. Fast on the counter and with Kristjan Čujec rampant as a strong, mobile pivot, they took a 3-1 lead against Italy and, when Roberto Menichelli sent on the flying keeper, they conceded only once (31 seconds from time) to record a surprising 3-2 victory. But Andrej Dobovičnik used only eight outfield



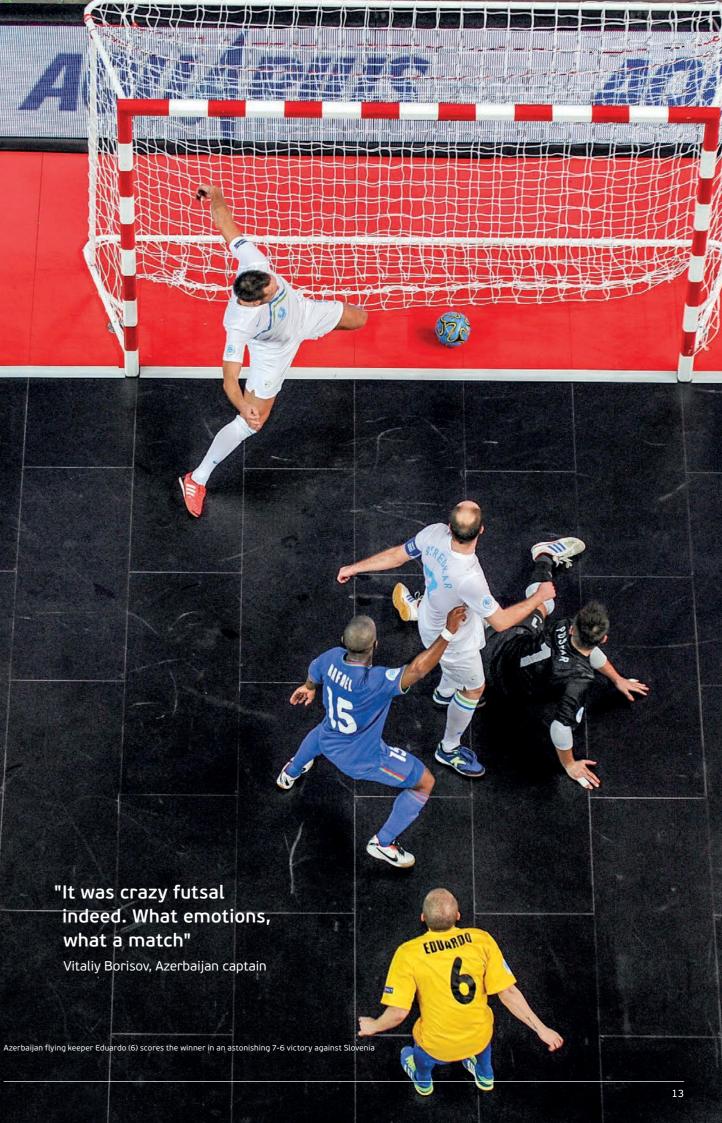
Russia's Eder Lima enjoys his stunning goal versus Portugal

players – and this was ultimately to take its toll. One more player was fielded as Slovenia raced into a 5-2 lead against Azerbaijan, whose coach sent on Edu as flying keeper 14 times in the final 13 minutes. The ploy worked when, after going 6-5 down after 36:32, an astounding 7-6 victory was secured by two goals in the final 90 seconds.

The challenge facing Alesio's Azerbaijani team was, however, to take a point from the Italians 48 hours later - a result which would have sent the eventual champions home. But, with three outfielders again remaining

"It was crazy futsal indeed. What emotions, what a match"

Vitaliy Borisov, Azerbaijan captain





Saad Assis on the ball for Italy

unused, they were short of fuel against a totally committed and focused Italian team whose nerves were calmed by a Sergio Romano goal after only 1:33. This time, Alesio handed the flying keeper's jersey to Edu after 18:37 when Azerbaijan were already trailing 3-0. The flying keeper appeared 13 times more throughout the second period, with Vitaliy Borisov taking over from Edu for the last eight appearances. It was to no avail, as Italy defended intelligently and scored four times at the other end to clinch a 7-0 win which, as keeper Stefano Mammarella admitted, "put an end to four days of hell". It also put a premature end to the Azerbaijanis' campaign.

The opening fixture in Group D also contained a surprise element – and it was the Spanish team that were surprised. Mato Stanković fielded Dario Marinović as a mobile, skilful pivot who was willing to take on opponents. Croatia used him as the foundation stone for a fast counterattacking game – notably when Spain pushed forward for set plays. One-nil and then 2-1 up, Croatia ultimately paid a price for fatigue (Marinović, in particular, had remained on the pitch for the opening 8:52) and a degree of over-confidence in their ball skills, conceding two goals in 52 seconds. But Stanković sent on Matija Capar (just once) as flying keeper and, briefed to be patient, they moved the ball round in 2-3 formation



Croatia's Matija Capar celebrates scoring against the Czechs

until Capar found an opening in the centre of the Spanish defence to clinch a 3-3 draw.

The script was virtually identical when Croatia took on the Czech Republic two days later. The Czechs, playing a high-tempo game with rapid transitions in both directions, opened up spaces in Croatian territory but their finishing (ten on-target efforts from 29 attempts) restricted them to a 3-2 advantage. That allowed Stanković to send on Capar for a final assault, with the flying



Portugal's Pedro Cary shoots at the Netherlands goal



Spain keeper Rafa thwarts a Croatia attack

keeper again sneaking in to make it 3-3 on 38:20. The Croatians, although two points offered no guarantees, celebrated as if they had won the final – counting on Spain beating the Czechs in the final fixture of the group stage. Croatian hopes were fulfilled during a game in which the Czech coach, Tomáš Neumann, deployed Jiří Novotný and Michal Belej as flying keepers for 11:30 of the 40 minutes – a topic mentioned later in this publication – of an 8-1 defeat. The Spaniards who, like the Italians, had lived with spectres of elimination, were safely through.

Ouarter-finals





Portugal coach Jorge Braz



Spain coach José Venancio

Heavyweights show their strength

Just 20 hours after Spain had clinched their place in the last eight, Ukraine and Portugal kicked off the quarter-finals. Ukraine, having placed an emphasis on compact defending and minimising losses of possession, displayed greater self-belief and added depth to their attacking play. But, although Yevgen Valenko delivered a reply to Cardinal's early goal, their punch was too lightweight to produce a knockout. Ukraine ticked many boxes in terms of mobility, solidity and use of the wide areas but were eliminated after scoring only twice in two hours of futsal. The Portuguese, led by Ricardinho, relied on vertical interchanges on the flanks to separate the Ukrainian lines of defence and confuse their man-to-man marking system. Cardinal's second goal, 2:50 after the break, proved decisive, with welldrilled 2-2 defending seeing out the closing

three minutes when Ryvkin used his flying keeper option.

Next on court were Romania and Russia. Nelu Stancea used more outfielders, though two appeared only in the final four minutes. Going 3-0 down within ten minutes and with Matei increasingly frustrated in his attempts to galvanise Romanian attacking, they lacked the physical and mental resources to fight back against the impressively mobile and compact Russians. Stancea sent on the flying keeper throughout the second period (when already 4-0 down), conceded a fifth, and finally discarded the option when Russia made it 6-0 after 36:47.

On the following day, Italy again enjoyed a dream start, Sergio Romano firing home following a corner on the right after just

46 seconds. Roberto Menichelli opted to start with Fortino as pivot to separate Croatian lines and to make frequent use of 3-1 defending, with the first line of defence operating zonally to cut off horizontal passing and to generate malfunctions in the Croatian engine room. Stanković's team, however, did find a reply – a stunning piece of individual skill on the right allowing Franko Jelovčić to equalise after 6:54. But, again, Italy reaped a dividend from their investment in set-play variations, Fortino scoring after a kick-in with 9:10 on the clock. The remaining 30 minutes were a story of Italian intensity, endeavour and concentration against tiring opposition. Three outfielders remained unused - and a fourth, Matija Capar, only appeared as flying keeper. Two of his three interventions were lengthy (2:17 and 3:22 of possession) but it





Arnaldo Pereira hurdles a tackle from Sergio Romano

Italy and Russia advance

PORTUGAL 3-4 ITALY

In the first of the semi-finals, another rehearsed move from a corner allowed Italy to take the lead against Portugal after 59 seconds. But, in a stunning match which produced 85 attempts at goal and four shots against the woodwork, it was Italy's competitive values and their will to win which prevailed against talented opponents who came back to take a 2-1 lead via the solo

"I can't find the words to describe my players. To say they were exceptional doesn't do them justice" Roberto Menichelli, Italy coach brilliance of Ricardinho and Arnaldo Pereira. After the break, Italy rationed their presence ahead of the ball to thwart Portuguese counters and, although Jorge Braz's team pressed high and kept Mammarella on red alert, they conceded three goals and found only one reply – while operating with the flying keeper with just over five minutes to play.



Robinho settles a dramatic Russia-Spain encounter

RUSSIA 4-3 SPAIN (AET)

The other semi-final was the 'futsal clásico' between Spain and Russia. José Venancio, with captain Torras injured and key defender Ortiz suspended, was short of outfielders. But during the first half his team pressed high, countered fast and created constant danger with runs at the back post. The Russians, often inhibited when the opponent is Spain, focused on defence and direct supply to the pivot. Fortunate to go in 1-0 down at half-time, they emerged as a transformed team for the second half, upping the tempo and generating fatigue among the depleted Spaniards, forced into uncharacteristic defensive errors. After an unstoppable equaliser from Sergei Sergeev, a crazy spell of three goals in 40 seconds ended

"The atmosphere in our dressing room was just incredible. We have met Spain many times, but each time we lacked something. To beat them brings double the pleasure"

Sergei Sergeev, Russia defender

with Russia 3-2 ahead – only for Miguelín, operating as flying keeper, to score on 37:57 and force extra time. A penalty shoot-out was looming until, with too many Spanish defenders lured towards the ball, Robinho was allowed to sneak through the middle and chip a winner into the net. Russia, who had never beaten Spain in the competition, celebrated a historic victory. Venancio's team restored morale by defeating Portugal 8-4 to take the bronze medal in a game marked by brilliantly engineered goals and barely credible lapses of concentration. The Russians had earned a final against Italy, but had been forced to consume large quantities of physical, mental and emotional energy.

Italy take home the trophy

Merlim jumps for joy as the buzzer sounds to signal Italy's triumph





Gabriel Lima opens the scoring

Draped over the rail in front of a colourful, passionate contingent of Italian supporters was a large handwritten banner bearing the words: "KEEP CALM AND PORTA A CASA". The fans were understandably enchanted that their team followed their advice. Italy did stay calm. And they did take the trophy home.

The definition of "calm" requires a codicil. Roberto Menichelli's team contested the final with mental calmness and total concentration. Physically, however, there were no traces of calmness. Each individual, prepared to run, tackle and block until extenuation, gave unstinting commitment to the collective cause. Russia went into the final as favourites on the back of a historic victory over serial champions Spain. Although Italy emerged the winners, many of the keys to success, as both coaches admitted afterwards, could be traced to mental strength and emotional intelligence.

By the time the teams came out for the national anthems, the stage had been set for a spectacular showpiece. A crowd of 11,552 had been warmed up by entertainers and pounding music. The arena announcer had invited the two sets of supporters to make themselves heard – the Italian fans edging the contest by a few decibels. The two coaches, Menichelli and Sergei Skorovich, gave a public demonstration of mutual respect by embracing on the pitch. The television cameras captured expressions of emotion and transmitted them onto the gigantic screen behind the goal initially to be defended by Italy.

When the ball started rolling, that goal immediately came under threat, Russia's Eder Lima muscling his way into possession and testing Stefano Mammarella with a powerful shot. With 2:26 on the clock, the same player struck a fierce volley following a corner by Robinho. But Italy had taken the upper hand – and it was a corner at the other end which broke the deadlock after 6:02 when the delivery from Saad Assis was turned in by Italy's captain and leader, Gabriel Lima. But, just as Italy seemed to be taking a firm grip, Eder Lima produced a moment of genius to level the scores with a stunning turn and shot.

Amid the passion and the intensity, the coaches were oases of calm, Skorovich with



Coaches Roberto Menichelli and Sergei Skorovich

arms folded behind his back or across his chest; Menichelli clutching a piece of white paper in one hand, a yellow pencil in the other. Facial expressions betrayed greater concern on the Russian bench. The players were defending high, but were not effectively pressing the ball – with the result that the Italians could find spaces behind two very separate Russian lines. Skorovich opted for rapid changes of personnel, with the quartet featuring Pula offering greater possession. When Robinho was in action, the emphasis was on overloading one flank with a view to offering him opportunities to exercise his exceptional 1v1 skills on the other.



second European title



Fortino tries to block an Eder Lima shot

Italy simply exuded the will to win. As Javier Lozano commented: "Finals are sometimes not won by the team that plays better but by the team that competes better." Italy took the lead again, capitalising on back-post runs beyond the opponents' field of vision. After sustained attacking, Gabriel Lima delivered a cross to the far post, where Murilo volleyed home. Just over a minute from the halftime hooter, Italy extended their lead thanks to another set play – this time in their own territory. A Russian corner paved the way for a lethal counter, with Humberto Honorio sending a long pass for Daniel Giasson to beat an overworked Gustavo

It proved to be the end of the scoring. After the interval, Russian attempts to force their way back into the game were thwarted by

compact, focused, disciplined Italian defending. Markers shrewdly adjusted body positions to cramp Russian movements, often going into semi-crouching positions to lower centres of gravity sufficiently to cope with Eder Lima's outstanding turning ability.

The other side of the coin was Russian fatigue - mental and physical. As Aleksandr Fukin admitted, "the semi-final against Spain affected our performance. We left too much energy there, left our hearts." The Russian whirlwind of movement had blown itself out. Positional attacking became unusually static. When the ball reached potential saviour Eder Lima, there was rarely enough fuel for runs to support or to get ahead of him. To make matters worse, Cirilo was dismissed – as he had been in the 2012 final - with 33:37 on the clock.

Daniel Giasson (left) takes on Sergei Abramov

Skorovich had started to send on skipper Nikolai Pereverzev as flying keeper from 31:50, but possession was retained for more than a minute during only two of his seven sorties. When the hooter signalled victory for Italy, Skorovich shook hands with his disconsolate players. Menichelli was thrown into the air by his and the coaching staff; the victors went on a lap of honour with their children; Giasson was persuaded not to go up for his medal wearing an outrageous green, white and red wig; and, when Gabriel Lima - a captain who had led by example – lifted the trophy, blue ticker tape rained down on the team which had ended an 11-year drought by taking the European crown for a second time.

The winning coach

Menichelli's moment

Victory in Antwerp represented a reward for years of dedication and shrewd man management. Although the record books state that Roberto Menichelli took over the Italian national team in 2009, his participation in futsal can be traced back to his arrival at the federation in 199 - the year when UEFA staged its first European tournament. He learned the trade as assistant to the passionate Alessandro Nuccorini and, on taking the baton, introduced a different style of management, based on keeping a cool head and focusing on reading the game.

Menichelli's speciality is biomechanics - and a study of the Italian players' body profiles while defending against Russia in the final confirmed that his knowledge had been effectively transferred to his squad. "We worked on refining our physical condition before coming to Belgium," he commented. "But our preparations were conducted in three phases. Firstly, we played friendlies to assess players and decide who should be included in the squad. The emphasis was on the technical and tactical qualities of each individual but we also tried to achieve the right balance. So the second phase was to integrate the players into the group and stress to them that each of them might be strong in specific areas but that the important thing was to be bound by a strong sense of collective value. We implanted a clear playing philosophy and finished our preparations by polishing details." Among these details was the work done in training on set plays especially the corners which paid handsome dividends at crucial moments.

The opening defeat by Slovenia prompted Menichelli to reflect that he might have played more preparation games against top opposition. It also gave him a challenge Media speculation about the possibility of an early exit generated anxiety. His role was to remain calm and to prepare conscientiously for the second game against Azerbaijan. "It wasn't the easiest scenario psychologically," he conceded, "so it was a question of laying

foundations for those players to respond positively." They did. Having turned the defeat into motivation, his side won all of its remaining matches, displaying enormous team spirit in the process. This was highlighted by Menichelli after the narrow quarter-final victory over Croatia.

"We had a great contribution from players such as Massimo De Luca, who had not appeared in the tournament before," he said. "This is our spirit. The squad comes first. This team gave me several things to be happy about - and I'm not only talking about the great results."

On the touch line, Menichelli gestures players into position, makes his substitutions shrewdly with clear tactical intentions, and converses with those on the bench. This translates into minimal use of the timeout in terms of passing instructions and



Roberto Menichelli is hailed by his Italy players

"Our performances have earned love and convinced people to come to watch our games. This is great for Italian futsal"

> advice to his players – and he admits that the proximity of the television microphone during time-outs is an inhibiting factor. UEFA technical observer Aca Kovačević commented: "He has the sort of leadership qualities which get the best out of players and convert them into superstars."

"I'm very satisfied with the work we have done in the last couple of years, not only regarding tactics and technique," Menichelli reflected after the final. "The performances by this squad have earned love and convinced people to come to watch our games. This is great for Italian futsal. As for myself, I always try to work as hard as I can. In life it doesn't matter what people think about you. The important thing is what you do." What Roberto Menichelli did in Belgium was to make Italy champions of Europe.

Technical topics

BIG FOUR SET THE EXAMPLE

In Belgium, individual matches such as Slovenia's victory over Italy or Croatia's draw with Spain supplied further evidence that futsal's 'middle class' is steadily scaling rungs towards the top of the ladder. But the surprises came to a halt in the quarter-finals, the form book prevailed, and the semis were ultimately contested by the sport's 'big four'. As remarked by Aca Kovačević, a UEFA technical observer in Belgium: "The tournament served to demonstrate exactly what the up-and-coming countries need to do if they want to continue to improve and seriously challenge the top teams."

> Russia's Robinho holds off Sergi Lozano of Spain in the semi-finals





Ukraine keeper Kyrylo Tsypun and Maxym Pavlenko deny Belgium

"The tournament demonstrated exactly what the up-and-coming countries need to do to continue to improve and seriously challenge the top teams"

RESOURCES AND HOW BEST TO USE THEM

Javier Lozano stressed that a high-intensity tournament represents a test of fundamental issues. Portugal, Italy and Spain were all required to cope with sequences of three games in five days, with the latter two going on to play four in a week. "To be successful at this level," he commented, "a squad needs to have quality in depth. This is related to the strength of domestic competitions, which vary widely from country to country. Very often, players are not used to intensive training and matchplay – and very often it is evident that, by the third game in such a short space of time, physical, technical and mental skills have lost their edge. In a competition where the intensity is getting higher, you inevitably need more players and a greater diversity of scoring options."

The laudable campaigns by Croatia and Slovenia, for example, were achieved by a nucleus of eight or nine outfield players and much the same applied to Romania, who gave the fringe members of their squad a share of the action in the closing minutes of the quarter-final when trailing Russia by a considerable margin. Slovenia coach Andrej Dobovičnik admitted that he was "short of options on the bench" against Spain in the quarter-final.

The most successful teams, on the other hand, paid greater attention to distribution of workloads. Russia provided an interesting example. For the first time at a final tournament, all 14 squad members were available for match action (coaches had previously been obliged to include only 12 on the team sheet). Sergei Skorovich responded by selecting two goalkeepers and dividing his dozen outfield players into three quartets. His neat arrangement was subsequently disturbed by the two-match suspension of Pula, but the initial strategy, following Russian futsal traditions, was to field two guartets with a marked Brazilian accent and an all-Russian third which, arguably less outstanding in the creative departments, wore down opponents with high-tempo ball circulation and off-the-ball movement.

For the record, only Portugal, Spain and Ukraine opted to select three goalkeepers (Jorge Braz and Yevgen Ryvkin used all three) but none of the other nine contenders divided the outfielders clearly into three blocks of four. One of the challenges in top-level futsal is therefore to develop a squad of sufficiently uniform quality to permit a rational share of workloads during a final tournament which poses extreme physical and mental demands.

DOMESTIC ISSUES

The diverse parameters of domestic competitions make this easier said than done. In the outdoor game, countries often rely on players who migrate to Europe's major leagues and then inject big-match experience into the national team. Dobovičnik commented: "We were obliged to change our preparation schedule. We used to get together to train in Slovenia at weekends. Then some of our top players went to foreign clubs and we were unable to do that anymore. So our preparation for Belgium was based on playing matches rather than training." Another challenge for coaches is that whereas, in the outdoor game, players may have negotiated three national team levels (from Under-17 to Under-21) before joining the senior squad, the lack of youth development underlay in futsal obliges players to step straight into the senior team. As a result, various coaches in Belgium had no qualms about discussing amateur-versusprofessional scenarios in games against the top nations.

The question is to assess the consequent impact on matchplay. "The quarter-finals were the watershed," Lozano commented. "That was where you could see the details which make the difference. Croatia's game against Italy was very close on the scoreboard but, basically, the four teams who won were the four who defended well and were able to maintain concentration throughout the game. The eliminated teams generally possessed fewer tactical options in positional attacking. And then, very often, they were obliged to compensate for the lack of variety in attacking movements by resorting to the flying goalkeeper."



Slovenia's Kristjan Čujec



Azerbaijan's Vitaliy Borisov featured as a flying keeper against Italy - but the tactic often proved counterproductive

FLYING CLOSE TO THE SUN

The use of the flying goalkeeper once more emerged as one of the debating points of the final tournament. Azerbaijan again provided the most extreme examples. During the Group C match against Slovenia, Alesio sent on Edu in a goalkeeper's shirt when trailing 4-2 after 27:10; his team conceded another goal, but then struck five times in 5v4 mode to clinch an improbable 7-6 win. Azerbaijan had played just over seven minutes with a flying goalkeeper. During the subsequent match against Italy, Alesio switched to the flying keeper for just over a minute of the first half when trailing 3-0. Azerbaijan started the second period in identical fashion and, switching to Vitaliy Borisov midway through, ended the match having played 14:42 with the extra outfield player. The net result was four more goals conceded and a 7-0 defeat. Azerbaijan went home having played 22 of their 80 minutes with a flying goalkeeper.

Statistics confirm that teams flew too close to the sun and, like Icarus, fell flapping into deep water. Or, to mix metaphors, that the success for Azerbaijan was an oasis in a desert. The Slovenia coach admitted: "We were probably among the worst in this department because we simply hadn't had the time to train all the aspects of playing 4v5 or 5v4." Slovenia also conceded while themselves using the flying keeper against Italy and Spain. In general, the ploy was counterproductive, leading to 11 goals scored and 19 conceded. This continued a tendency noted at Croatia 2012 but contrasted with Hungary 2010, where six goals were scored and four conceded in 5v4 format. All 12 finalists deployed the flying keeper at some stage.

In the credit column, special mention was due to Croatia coach Mato Stanković who, as Lozano put it, "played against Spain like a chess master". Trailing 3-2, he deployed Matija Capar in one of the advanced positions of a 2-3 attacking formation, instructed his players to initially focus on possession rather than shooting so that his side could have the last word, and was rewarded when Capar scored the equaliser. The recipe and the result were repeated against the Czechs but, ultimately, almost six minutes of 5v4 failed to yield an equaliser in the quarter-final against Italy.

"The tournament demonstrated that coaches now do specific work on this aspect of the game," Lozano commented. "Both on the offensive and defensive sides, it represents an interesting part of futsal because it usually generates emotion and excitement. But there is a danger of it doing just the opposite if it is overdone as a strategic weapon aimed at simply retaining possession." Debate in Belgium centred on whether long periods of ball circulation between five outfielders, with the opposition totally focused on the mechanics of 4v5 defending, are good for the game as a spectacle. In this respect, eyebrows were raised when the Czech Republic sent on Jiři Novotný as flying keeper after 9:32 of the group game against Spain while losing 1-0. He came on six times during the first period, yet the Czech team failed to produce a shot at goal. The flying keeper was being used as a strategic ploy to break up the rhythm of Spanish play. Sustained use during the second period meant that the Czechs had played the flying keeper for 11:30 of an 8-1 defeat. This led to discussion about whether the use of the flying goalkeeper should be limited to certain periods of the game.



Attacking pivots such as Italy's Fortino were prominent in Antwerp

A PIVOTAL QUESTION

UEFA's technical observers signalled a strong trend towards the use of an attacking pivot (and highlighted it by including five in their all-star squad). But, in their opinion, the species which had been endangered in the recent past had returned as a breed which differs substantially from the 'target strikers' of yesteryear – and in a way which has produced repercussions in high pressing. The presence of an advanced pivot evidently produced a requirement in terms of a deeplying marker. Whereas 4-0 attacking generally provokes 2-2 defending, the trend in Belgium was clearly towards 1-2-1 defending with



Croatia's Dario Marinović was a marked man

two players withdrawing rapidly to provide support for the last defender and cover the central route to goal. The 1-2-1 system made effective high pressing less frequent, although the top teams engaged in spells of intense high pressure, notably Portugal and Spain – the latter especially adept at regaining possession in opposition territory. The general trend, however, was towards a more conservative approach.

As Lozano commented: "It became evident that the role of the pivot is now being coached as a specialised role, with players like Italy's Fortino, Spain's Fernandão, Russia's Eder Lima or Croatia's Dario Marinović making an impact on the tournament." The latter, during the opening game against Spain, illustrated that the emphasis is now on fast rotation and constant movement to offer lines for the pass and to draw defenders out in order to create spaces for runs or passing interchanges.

"The pivot is now being coached as a specialist role, with players like Fernandão, Eder Lima, or Dario Marinović making an impact on the tournament"

THE NON-FLYING KEEPER

The trend towards the use of a pivot highlighted the advances in the art of goalkeeping. UEFA's technical observers detected an improvement, attributable to the specialised coaching now deeply implanted in many countries. In Belgium, goalkeepers were required to make accurate long-range deliveries to the pivot, looking for the viability of the direct counterattack before starting attacks with shorter deliveries if no route was open. In general, the tournament demonstrated that the keepers had been well coached in terms of body position, use of the legs and the ability to come out of the goal at speed, having anticipated a pass in behind the last defender or in response to a fast counterattack by the opposition. The quality of the goalkeepers - and the coaches' confidence in them – was illustrated by Yevgen Ryvkin and Jorge Braz, who had no gualms about using all three of theirs during the tournament. The latter adopted a policy of changing his goalkeeper at half-time.



Czech Republic keeper Libor Gerčák

TIME-OUT FADING OUT?

In Antwerp, the coaches used 52 of the 80 opportunities to call a time-out. In other words, 35% remained unused. No fewer than 37% of the time-outs were called in the last 10 minutes, and 23% in the last five. Portugal coach Jorge Braz provided the anecdote of the tournament by calling a time-out 27 seconds from time with his side leading the Netherlands 5-0, while the champion coach, Italy's Roberto Menichelli, called only three time-outs in five games. As Javier Lozano remarked: "It's an indication that coaches are working more efficiently in the preparation of games and don't feel the need to intervene during the 40 minutes. It's a useful option to have, but really, the coach is important during the build-up to a game and the players are the important decision-makers during it."

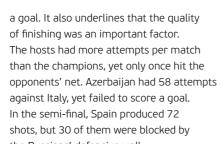
DECISION-MAKERS AND PLAYMAKERS

"Almost all of our preparation work was dedicated to organising our play and the importance of decision-making," said Portugal coach Jorge Braz. UEFA technical observer Aca Kovačević commented: "Players need to take more decisions during a game than the coach. They need to be taught to read the game, to see how the opposition defends, and to find solutions." In the opinion of the observers, improved reading of the game contributed to a decline in the number of goals scored from counterattacks, with teams more aware of the perils of ball-loss in the key areas. Croatia provided an exception, drawing the opposition into their final quarter and then breaking fast - especially when opponents pushed players forward at set plays.

In Belgium, the emphasis was also on collective virtues rather than individual qualities. Few teams operated with a playmaker in the classic sense – the outstanding examples being Romania's Florin Matei and Portugal's Ricardinho,

THE END PRODUCT

As Javier Lozano remarked, the number of goals at the tournament in Belgium seemed at odds with general improvements in tactical maturity, physical condition and goalkeeping standards. "The strong impression," he commented, "is that you now need to create a lot more shooting opportunities to score goals." The table below demonstrates that it required, on average, 11 attempts to produce



both of whom spent extensive amounts

of time on the pitch. The latter, however,

combined solo skills with leadership

the Russians' defensive wall.

Traditional playmakers such as Romania's Florin Matei were in short supply

In individual terms, Russia's Eder Lima topped the scoring chart by getting 21 of his 32 attempts on target. Spain's Fernandão was accurate with 15 of his 23 attempts, and Italy's Gabriel Lima hit the target with 16 of his 27 while, by contrast, 18 of the 33 shots by Portugal's Ricardinho were off the mark.

qualities, which constituted an important

asset - as demonstrated by the Italian

captain, Gabriel Lima.

"Players need to be taught to read the game, to see

how the opposition defends, and to find solutions"

GOAL ATTEMPTS



Gabriel Lima was on target with 16 of 27 shots

AZERBAIJAN 2 94 47.00 32 24 7 38 BELGIUM 2 76 38.00 28 24 24 1 CROATIA 74 24.67 29 7 3 21 24 CZECH REPUBLIC 2 57 28.50 27 15 15 4 ITALY 5 188 37.60 79 54 55 18 NETHERLANDS 2 47 23.50 17 18 12 1 PORTUGAL 5 173 34.60 67 59 47 18 ROMANIA 3 68 22.67 23 27 18 6 RUSSIA 5 64 22 181 36.20 63 54 SLOVENIA 3 82 27.33 31 27 24 9 SPAIN 5 240 48.00 90 80 70 26 UKRAINE 3 77 28 17 2 25.67 32

MATCHES ATTEMPTS AVERAGE ON TARGET OFF TARGET BLOCKED GOALS



Eder Lima challenges Stefano Mammarella for the ball during the fina

Russia's Eder Lima topped the scoring chart by getting 21 of his 32 attempts on target

lovir



Spain forward Sergio Lozano ripples the back of the net

GOAL RUSH

WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

Belgium 2014 registered an 11% increase in the number of goals scored in comparison with Croatia 2012, despite the uncommonly low tally of four goals in the three games involving Ukraine. The 16 goals scored on the final day brought the average per game up to the second-highest in the competition's history.

GOALS PER EURO

EURO	GOALS	GAMES	AVERAGE
1999	86	16	5.38
2001	90	16	5.62
2003	77	15	5.13
2005	87	16	5.44
2007	83	16	5.19
2010	127	20	6.35
2012	109	20	5.45
2014	121	20	6.05

In Belgium, 52 goals were scored in the first half, 69 in the second. In other words, there was a 30% increase in the number of goals after the interval. This is in line with historical values for the final tournament, but with a marginal levelling-out. Whereas at Croatia 2012, only 37.6% of the goals were scored during the first half, in Belgium the figure rose to 43%. No fewer than 24 goals (20% of the total) were scored in the last five minutes. "In some cases," commented UEFA's technical team, "physical condition was evidently a factor. But there were also risk management elements, with coaches often preferring to be more cautious during the first period. The prolific scoring in the closing minutes was also reflected in the extensive use of the flying goalkeeper by the losing team, which obviously introduced even greater risk factors."

GOAL TIMES

MINUTES	2014	2012	2010	2007	2005	2003
1-5	10	11	10	8	5	4
6-10	15	15	14	5	10	10
11-15	11	4	9	9	8	8
16-20	16	11	15	14	13	8
21-25	17	17	14	15	13	6
26-30	14	19	18	10	8	11
31-35	13	11	17	15	12	10
36-40	24	19	30	7	18	20
EXTRA TIME	1	2	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	121	109	127	83	87	77

HOW THE GOALS WERE SCORED

During the tournament in Antwerp, 24% of the goals were scored from dead-ball situations, even though the philosophy of letting the game flow implemented by referees reduced the number of set plays. Only one goal was scored from a penalty (Spain's second during the group game against the Czech Republic) and although the five foul mark was signalled on 15 occasions, only Croatia travelled beyond it – being penalised seven times during the second half of the group game against the Czech Republic. At the other end of the scale, the referees signalled only two fouls during the match between Croatia and Spain. This meant that corners and kick-ins were, by far, the most productive set plays, with Italy emphasising the value of work in training by scoring the opening goal in each of their knockout fixtures from a corner. Against Croatia, Sergio Romano put them in the driving seat after 44 seconds; in the semifinal against Portugal, a delivery by Saad Assis allowed Gabriel Lima to score after 59 seconds; and in the final against Russia, the same two players combined to give Italy the lead after 6:02. Russia's semi-final victory against Spain was also pinned to excellent set-play goals, Sergei Sergeev hitting an unstoppable shot when racing on to a corner

GOAL TYPES

CATEGORY	ACTION	GUIDELINES	e
SET PLAY	Corner	Direct from or following a corner	
	Free-kick (direct)	Direct from a free-kick	
	Free-kick (indirect)	Following a free-kick	
	Penalty (6m)	Spot kick (or follow-up)	
	Penalty (10m)	Spot kick (or a follow-up)	
	Kick-in	Following a kick-in	
OPEN PLAY	Combination	Wall pass or combination play	
	Passing run	Breakthrough in the middle	
	Passing run	Breakthrough on the wing	
	Power play	Goals scored while using flying goalkeeper	
	Solo performance	Individual action	
	Goalkeeper distribution	Pass or direct shot from goalkeeper	
	Long-range shot	Direct shot or shot and rebound	
	Own goal	Goal by the opponent	
		TOTAL	

	GOALS A	SSISTS
EDER LIMA (RUSSIA)	8	4
FERNANDÃO (SPAIN)	5	0
GAŠPER VRHOVEC (SLOVENIA)	4	0
FORTINO (ITALY)	4	2
GABRIEL LIMA (ITALY)	4	3

11 players on three goals

and Robinho shrewdly spotting opportunities when the Russians won a corner then a kickin on their left. He delivered the first for a long-range volley which was deflected for a kick-in. With the Spanish defence moving out in anticipation of a replay, he stabbed the ball into the half-moon for Dmitri Lyskov to turn the ball into the net from close range.

Combination moves topped the chart of goals scored in open play, but the diversity of goals (and scorers, with no fewer than 65 different players sharing the 121 goals) added up to top-class entertainment for the fans in Antwerp and the millions of TV viewers.







Fernandão tries his luck

Talking points

The frequency of the UEFA Futsal EURO and opportunities ters were keen oints in Antwerp

32

A QUESTION OF YEARS

The futsal almanac inspires a series of interrelated debating points. Newcomers to the sport, for instance, sometimes wonder why the UEFA Futsal EURO is the only one of UEFA's senior final tournaments to be played every two years. The first discussion topic is therefore whether the frequency devalues the competition. The response from the coaches in Belgium was categorically negative. "Playing every two years is very good for futsal," commented Russia boss Sergei Skorovich. "It provides a great opportunity to see new faces and new aspects of play."

For the sake of argument, it could be mentioned that some of the faces were not so new. Azerbaijan's Nilson Mashado, alias Biro Jade, was the tournament's senior citizen at the age of 41, followed by Belgium's Lúcio, the Czech Republic's Roman Mareš and Ukraine's Maxym Pavlenko, all 38. Eleven of the Azerbaijan squad had turned 30, as had six Russians, five Spaniards and seven apiece from Portugal and Romania. The value of experience is unquestionable but fuel for

YOUR PLACE OR MINE?

Should a revision of structures embrace qualifying procedures? Many of the coaches in Belgium believed that it should. "The current system of mini-tournaments means that many teams don't play at home," commented Italy coach Roberto Menichelli. "If we agree that the international game is becoming more competitive, with several countries narrowing the gap on the top teams, why should we organise qualifying rounds in tournaments where teams play each other only once and one of them has home advantage?" Tomáš Neumann supported this thesis: "I would prefer to play qualifiers on a home-and-away basis because, otherwise, we only play friendly matches in front of our own public - and we run the risk of losing money if the opposition isn't attractive enough. If we play competition matches at home, we can fill the hall, get much greater interest from TV and have much better opportunities to promote the game." Menichelli added: "It has to be positive for smaller countries to give their fans the chance to see the top teams and to get good gate receipts from attractive fixtures."

Is it a viable proposition in sporting and economic terms to play qualifying rounds on a home-and-away basis? If so, how could the international calendar be best redesigned to accommodate this?

further discussion can be pumped up from the other end of the scale. Of the 168 players in Belgium, none were under the age of 21.

That fact can be interlocked with the twoyear cycle of the Futsal EURO. Portugal's Jorge Braz remarked: "Playing every two years undoubtedly creates confusion about a calendar which is sometimes a chaotic mix of European championship and World Cup qualifiers. So I wouldn't mind a switch to a four-year cycle - with the proviso that we play an Under-21 competition." Italy's Roberto Menichelli concurred: "In some years, the calendar can become very messy, but on the other hand, we need to organise competitions with a view to promoting the sport and maintaining the public's interest."

The coaches in Belgium voted unanimously for a revival of the UEFA Under-21 tournament which was organised on a pilot basis in 2008 and subsequently discontinued. "Because of that competition in St Petersburg," commented Netherlands coach



Marcel Loosveld, "we were able to connect a lot of players to our futsal programme."

Azerbaijan coach Alesio said: "An Under-21 competition is essential, especially in countries which have to cope with a tendency for clubs to buy rather than train their players. It's very important for the growth of the sport." Czech Republic coach Tomáš Neumann added another dimension to the debate: "It's very difficult for national associations to offer support for Under-21 or Under-19 teams when there is no international competition for them to compete in." Slovenia coach Andrej Dobovičnik added: "At the moment, it's very difficult for young players to make the step up from club [futsal] into the national team, simply because they lack international experience."

The talking point is therefore that, bearing in mind the lack of opportunities for youngsters and the barriers to player development, has the time come to reconsider the structures of futsal competitions?

Fans enjoy the action as Romania take on hosts Belgium



Russia coach Sergei Skorovich gets a point across to his players

A BIB ISSUE?

In Belgium, the teams reacted positively to the pre-tournament briefings dedicated to refereeing issues. One of the items addressed was the question of the bibs to be worn by the players on the bench. The match officials stressed that bibs were to be worn – as opposed to being draped over shoulders, slung round necks or wrapped round hands. Initially, the issue seemed to be trivial. But, once attention had been drawn to it, the bib question developed into a talking point.

During the tournament, third officials certainly spent considerable amounts of time insisting that the players on the touch line had their bibs properly donned. As one of the coaches remarked, the question seemed to have nuisance value for both players and match officials. So the first debating point was quite simple: are the bibs necessary at all?

The question, when posed to other coaches, received diverse responses. Many regarded the use of bibs as a positive feature which, apart from helping officials and spectators to identify players and non-players, gives futsal a neater, more organised image than other indoor sports, where bibs are not used. On the other hand, it could be argued that the image is slightly sullied by a more detailed examination of a day in the life of the average bib. How often is a bib used to wipe a sweaty brow and then handed to a team-mate? How many owners does it have during the average match? It has to be said that the medical profession would be unlikely to hold this up as best practice in terms of personal hygiene. If bibs are considered necessary and/or positive for the image of the sport, should they be personalised with the player's number?

IS 12 AN ODD NUMBER?

Once again, the 12-team format of the final tournament generated debate. There were logistical anomalies, such as the Dutch team having gone home before Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic had played their first game. There were discrepancies endemic to three-team groups in which two teams played twice in 48 hours while the other had four days between the two fixtures. The coaches did not complain. Russia boss Sergei Skorovich, for example, admitted that he would have preferred to get into 'two games in 48 hours' mode as soon as possible rather than have a four-day separation. The Czechs and Azerbaijanis had to tread water in Belgium until making their debuts on the fourth matchday. Portugal and Russia had a one-rest-day advantage over their opponents between the quarter and semi-finals.

For the coaches, this represented challenges in terms of assessing training intensities and rest-and-recovery periods. Jorge Braz commented: "It was difficult to manage the diversity of rest periods and I would certainly have welcomed an extra day between the end of the group stage and the start of

If the 12-team format continues to be preferred, what more could be done to offer similar matchplay and rest-and-recovery opportunities to all participants?



the knockout rounds." Andrej Dobovičnik added: "The schedule is very intensive and demanding, especially if you are a bit short on the bench. So it's important that all the teams should have, as far as possible, the same rest-and-recovery times. I strongly believe that this would be one of the advantages of expanding the final tournament to 16 teams, which would allow smaller countries to benefit from competing against the top teams."

The debating points are whether the futsal competition is ready to be aligned with other UEFA tournaments or, if the 12-team format continues to be preferred, what more could be done to offer similar matchplay and rest-andrecovery opportunities to all participants?

All-star squad

UEFA's technical observers at the final tournament in Antwerp had the pleasurable task of selecting 14 players to form their all-star squad at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. The steady rise in standards led to a long list of over 30 candidates, with a great deal of debating required to reduce it to less than half. As mentioned elsewhere, it was significant that five pivots feature among the dozen outfielders who were selected – demonstrating that the species regarded as endangered has survived and flourished. The contributions by other players such as Gabriel Lima, Ricardinho or Robinho showcased their leadership qualities alongside outstanding individual skills. Sergei Sergeev or Vampeta may have performed in a less eyecatching manner, but their energy, work rate and defensive qualities were valuable elements within team structures. Consistency over the tournament was also a conditioning factor especially in selecting the two goalkeepers. Stefano Mammarella was beaten only eight times in five matches, while Rafa conceded the same number in the four games he played.

OUTFIELD PLAYERS





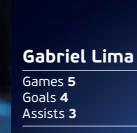
GOALKEEPERS



Stefano Mammarella Games 5 Goals 1 Clean sheets 1



















Sergei Sergeev



Eder Lima Games **5** Goals 8 Assists **4**



Franko Jelovčić

Games **3** Goals **3** Assists 2



Ricardinho Games **5**

Goals 3 Assists 5



Vampeta

Games 5 Goals 1 Assists 1

Results and standings

28 JANUARY 2014

1 FEBRUARY 2014

GROUP A

GROUP B

RUSSIA

PORTUGAL

NETHERLANDS

Attendance: 3.248

Attendance: 3.629

Attendance: 3.515

RUSSIA 7-1 NETHERLANDS

6-1 Attaibi 27:54, 7-1 Eder Lima 34:19

Cards: Yellow: El Ghannouti 32:30 (NED)

NETHERLANDS 0-5 PORTUGAL

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
UKRAINE	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
ROMANIA	2	1	0	1	6	2	3
BELGIUM	2	0	1	1	1	6	1

BELGIUM 1-6 ROMANIA

Attendance: 3,760

Goals: 0-1 Răducu 03:23, 0-2 F. Matei 14:38, 0-3 Lupu 22:47, 1-3 Rahou 23:33, 1-4 Șotărcă 32:11, 1-5 Iancu 35:20, 1-6 Salhi 39:20 (og) Cards: Yellow: Dahbi Reda 26:33, Rahou 28:58, Neukermans 39:16 (BEL); Al-Ioani 32:49 (ROU). Red: Rahou 38:26 (BEL) Referees: Malfer, Onatsu TO: Šivic TK: Černý

ROMANIA 0-1 UKRAINE

30 JANUARY 2014

Attendance: 2,544 Goals: 0-1 D. Sorokin 17:01 Cards: Yellow: F. Matei 04:36, Szőcs 36:22 (ROU); O. Sorokin 19:35, Rogachov 29:39, Valenko 36:22 (UKR) Referees: Černý, Çetin **TO:** Birkett **TK:** Gutiérrez Lumbreras

UKRAINE 0-0 BELGIUM

Attendance: 3,724

Goals: None Cards: Yellow: O. Sorokin 27:13 (UKR); Liliu 13:41, Neukermans 24:47, Aziz Hitou 37:37 (BEL). Red: Liliu 35:06 (BEL) Referees: Tomić, Gutiérrez Lumbreras **TO:** Birkett **TK:** Çetin

TO: third official **TK:** timekeeper All group stage matches were played at Lotto Arena, Antwerp



Portugal fans were in good voice in Antwerp



w

Р

Goals: 1-0 Cirilo 03:00, 2-0 Lyskov 09:04, 3-0 Cirilo 11:30,

4-0 Eder Lima 14:34, 5-0 Sergeev 20:25, 6-0 Robinho 22:16,

Referees: Gutiérrez Lumbreras, Birkett TO: Çetin TK: Tomić

Goals: 0-1 João Matos 06:44, 0-2 Joel Oueirós 13:18, 0-3 Cardinal

Cards: Yellow: El Morabiti 36:20 (NED); Pedro Cary 34:12 (POR)

1-2 Pereverzev 24:35, 2-2 Gonçalo 29:26, 2-3 Eder Lima 30:45,

3-3 Fukin 32:07 (og), 4-3 Goncalo 34:33, 4-4 Eder Lima 35:22

36:51, 0-4 Bruno Coelho 38:10, 0-5 Bruno Coelho 39:08

Referees: Tomić, Šivic TO: Malfer TK: Onatsu

Goals: 1-0 Ricardinho 23:02, 1-1 Abramov 23:29,

Cards: Yellow: Ricardo Fernandes 33.12 (POR).

Referees: Onatsu, Malfer TO: Lemal TK: Šivic

Kutuzov 09:34 (RUS). Red: Pula 34:08 (RUS)

PORTUGAL 4-4 RUSSIA

D L F A Pts

28 JANUARY 2014

30 JANUARY 2014

1 FEBRUARY 2014

2 1 1 0 11 5 4

2 1 1 0 9 4 4

2 0 0 2 1 12 0

Cirilo fires at goal against the Netherlands

GROUP C

	Ρ	w	D	L	F	Α	Pts		Р	w	D	L	F	Α	Pts
ITALY	2	1	0	1	9	3	3	SPAIN	2	1	1	0	11	4	4
SLOVENIA	2	1	0	1	9	9	3	CROATIA	2	0	2	0	6	6	2
AZERBAIJAN	2	1	0	1	7	13	3	CZECH REPUBLIC	2	0	1	1	4	11	1

ITALY 2-3 SLOVENIA

29 JANUARY 2014

31 JANUARY 2014

Attendance: 3,649

Goals: 0-1 Vrhovec 10:09, 1-1 Fortino 23:01, 1-2 Čujec 25:11, 1-3 Osredkar 38:46, 2-3 Saad Assis 39:29 **Cards:** Yellow: Fortino 23:37, Mammarella 38:17 (ITA) **Referees:** Ivanov, Bauernfeind **TO:** Stawicki **TK:** Coelho

SLOVENIA 6-7 AZERBAIJAN

Attendance: 2,321

Goals: 0-1 Amadeu 00:26, 1-1 Vrhovec 01:14, 2-1 Čujec 17:35, 3-1 Vrhovec 19:45, 3-2 Rafael 24:26, 4-2 Kroflič 25:37, 5-2 Vrhovec 29:05, 5-3 Borisov 29:20, 5-4 Augusto 31:59, 5-5 Felipe 35:37, 6-5 Fetič 36:32, 6-6 Rafael 38:32, 6-7 Edu 39:34 Cards: Yellow: Drobne 29:05 (SVN); Farajzade 39:34 (AZE) Referees: Coelho, Sorescu TO: Lemal TK: Stawicki

AZERBAIJAN 0-7 ITALY

2 FEBRUARY 2014

Attendance: 3,298

Fortino 03:22.

Goals: 0-1 Romano 01:33, 0-2 Fortino 03:22, 0-3 Honorio 15:14, 0-4 Vampeta 24:45, 0-5 Gabriel Lima 26:57, 0-6 Mammarella 30:58, 0-7 Miarelli 39:30 **Cards:** Yellow: Laercio Buranello 12:56, Amadeu 23:10, Rafael 39:30 (AZE) **Referees:** Birkett, Černý **TO:** Farkas **TK:** Stawicki



Saad Assis (right) and Merlim celebrate an Italy goal against Azerbaijan

GROUP D

SPAIN 3-3 CROATIA

29 JANUARY 2014

Attendance: 3,528 Goals: 0-1 Babić 09:44, 1-1 Aicardo 15:15, 1-2 Jelovčić 17:20, 2-2 Lin 26:14, 3-2 Lin 27:06, 3-3 Capar 37:38 Cards: None Referees: Lemal, Farkas TO: Sorescu TK: Shabanov

CROATIA 3-3 CZECH REPUBLIC 31 JANUARY 2014

Attendance: 2,002 Goals: 0-1 Novotný 08:39, 1-1 Jelovčić 13:17, 2-1 Marinović 15:37, 2-2 R. Mareš 20:28, 2-3 Belej 23:58, 3-3 Capar 38:20 Cards: Yellow: Suton 11:20, Jelovčić 13:48, Babić 26:03, Matošević 27:21, Novak 34:28, Jukić 34:33 (CRO); Novotný 17:40, Frič 31:02 (CZE) Referees: Shabanov, Birkett **TO:** Ivanov **TK:** Bauernfeind

CZECH REPUBLIC 1-8 SPAIN

2 FEBRUARY 2014

Attendance: 3,433 Goals: 0-1 Fernandão 06:13, 0-2 Lozano 19:51p, 0-3 Fernandão 22:25, 0-4 Ortiz 24:39, 1-4 Belej 25:09, 1-5 José Ruiz 32:14, 1-6 Raúl Campos 34:03, 1-7 Lozano 36:06, 1-8 Pola 37:03 Cards: Yellow: Belej 19:50, Gerčák 33:22 (CZE); Ortiz 28:48 (ESP) Referees: Sorescu, Coelho TO: Shabanov TK: Ivanov

Spain scored 11 group stage goals, the same as Russia

QUARTER-FINALS

UKRAINE 1-2 PORTUGAL

3 FEBRUARY 2014

Attendance: 3,702

Goals: 0-1 Cardinal 02:48, 1-1 Valenko 12:08, 1-2 Cardinal 22:50 Cards: Yellow: D. Sorokin 23:51, Klochko 37:52 (UKR); Arnaldo Pereira 30:49 (POR) Referees: Farkas, Lemal TO: Bauernfeind TK: Gutiérrez Lumbreras

ROMANIA 0-6 RUSSIA

3 FEBRUARY 2014

Attendance: 4,124

Goals: 0-1 Robinho 02:41, 0-2 Shayakhmetov 07:50, 0-3 Eder Lima 08:12, 0-4 Eder Lima 15:30, 0-5 Sergeev 33:25, 0-6 Eder Lima 36:47 Cards: Yellow: F. Matei 18:58, Lupu 40:00 (ROU); Perverzev 26:51 (RUS) Referees: Šivic, Çetin TO: Stawicki TK: Tomić

ITALY 2-1 CROATIA

4 FEBRUARY 2014

4 FEBRUARY 2014

Attendance: 3,225 Goals: 1-0 Romano 00:46, 1-1 Jelovčić 06:54, 2-1 Fortino 9:10 Cards: None Referees: Gutiérrez Lumbreras, Sorescu TO: Onatsu TK: Shabanov

SLOVENIA 0-4 SPAIN

Attendance: 3,893 Goals: 0-1 Fernandão 11:40, 0-2 Rafael Usín 17:26,

0-3 Aicardo 36:50, 0-4 Aicardo 39:48 Cards: Yellow: Osredkar 20:44, Mordej 23:57, Čujec 28:09 (SVN); Ortiz 32:56 (ESP) Referees: Malfer, Černý TO: Coelho TK: Ivanov

SEMI-FINALS

PORTUGAL 3-4 ITALY

Attendance: 6,833 Goals: 0-1 Gabriel Lima 00:59, 1-1 Ricardinho 12:57, 2-1 Arnaldo Pereira 18:33, 2-2 Romano 22:42, 2-3 Gabriel Lima 30:22, 2-4 Fortino 34:21, 3-4 Joel Oueirós 34:36 Cards: Yellow: Leitão 33:23 (POR); Gabriel Lima 29:25, Vampeta 35:00, Giasson 39:53 (ITA) Referees: Černý, Birkett TO: Çetin TK: Gutiérrez Lumbreras

RUSSIA 4-3 SPAIN (AET)

Attendance:	8,152
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Goals: 0-1 Pola 16:11, 1-1 Sergeev 22:20, 2-1 Lyskov 26:03, 2-2 Rafael Usín 26:22, 3-2 Fukin 26:43, 3-3 Miguelín 37:57, 4-3 Robinho 48:54 Cards: Yellow: Sergeev 12:22, Gustavo 49:57 (RUS); Miguelín 47:33 (ESP) Referees: Tomić, Onatsu TO: Farkas TK: Malfer

All knockout stage matches were played at the Sportpaleis, Antwerp



Portugal's Cardinal takes on Vitaliy Kiselyov of Ukraine

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF

PORTUGAL 4-8 SPAIN

8 FEBRUARY 2014

Attendance: 10,619

Goals: Fernandão 05:46 0-1, José Ruiz 06:06 0-2, Lozano 06:45 0-3, Ricardinho 07:10 1-3, Pedro Cary 11:40 2-3, Miguelín 16:43 2-4, Rafael Usín 17:35 2-5, Raúl Campos 19:13 2-6, Pedro Costa 25:07 3-6, Joel Queirós 35:29 4-6, Fernandão 37:47 4-7, Pola 39:55 4-8 Cards: Yellow: Gonçalo 29:22 (POR); Aicardo 37:21 (ESP) Referees: Malfer, Černý TO: Onatsu TK: Birkett

MATCH OFFICIALS

6 FEBRUARY 2014	Gerald Bauernfeind (Austria) Awarded FIFA badge: 2007
2:57, -3 Gabriel Lima	Marc Birkett (England) FIFA: 2008
5 29:25,	Ondřej Černý (Czech Republic) FIFA: 2010
z Lumbreras	Kamil Çetin (Turkey) FIFA: 2010
6 FEBRUARY 2014	Eduardo Coelho (Portugal) FIFA: 2008
kin 26:43,	Balázs Farkas (Hungary) FIFA: 2007
JS);	Fernando Gutiérrez Lumbreras (Spain) FIFA: 2006
ortozlejs Antwern	Oleg Ivanov (Ukraine) FIFA: 1997

FINAL **ITALY 3-1 RUSSIA** 8 FEBRUARY 2014 Attendance: 11,552 Goals: 1-0 Gabriel Lima 06:02, 1-1 Eder Lima 09:33, 2-1 Murilo 13:50, 3-1 Giasson 18:56 Cards: Yellow: Murilo 30:26 (ITA); Robinho 8:26, Cirilo 30:38 (RUS). Red: Cirilo 33:37 (RUS) Referees: Gutiérrez Lumbreras, Tomić TO: Birkett TK: Onatsu "We started at full speed and never gave up. Climbing those stairs to receive the trophy was just incredible" Stefano Mammarella, Italy goalkeeper

Italy savour their victory

BELGIUM 2014 TOURNAMENT REVIEW

Pascal Lemal (Belgium)

Alessandro Malfer (Italy)

Timo Onatsu (Finland)

Ivan Shabanov (Russia)

Borut Šivic (Slovenia)

Bogdan Sorescu (Romania)

Sebastian Stawicki (Poland)

Saša Tomić (Croatia)

FIFA: 2005

FIFA: 2011

FIFA: 2007

FIFA: 2007

FIFA: 2007

FIFA: 2006

FIFA: 2007

FIFA: 2009



Azerbaijan





KEY FEATURES

- 4-0 attacking, switch to 3-1 when Farzaliyev in play
- Goal chances created by combinations between Amadeu and Augusto
- Goalkeeper in advanced position as support when opponents press
- Able to sustain high-intensity game for short periods
- Willing to take risks; sometimes vulnerable to counters
- Rafael the fast, mobile catalyst in building and supporting attacks
- Extensive use of flying goalkeeper in 3-2 or 2-3 formation

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	Α	SLO	ITA	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS						
1	Laercio Buranello	12/04/82				Û	Araz Naxçivan
19	Elnur Zamanov	17/05/81			U	U	Ekol Baku
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS						
2	Seymur Mammadov	06/05/83			U	U	Fenerbağça
5	Felipe	05/10/78	1	2		Î	Araz Naxçivan
6	Edu	14/10/86	1		Î	Û	Araz Naxçivan
7	Rajab Farajzade	19/12/80			U	U	Ekol Baku
8	Rizvan Farzaliyev	01/09/79		•	Û	В	Ekol Baku
9	Amadeu	06/03/90	1	1	Î	Î	Araz Naxçivan
10	Biro Jade	24/01/73			В	В	Araz Naxçivan
13	Elnur Gambarov	13/07/78			В	U	Araz Naxçivan
14	Vitaliy Borisov	05/07/82	1	1	В	В	Araz Naxçivan
15	Rafael	26/12/82	2	•	В	В	Araz Naxçivan
17	Isa Atayev	07/08/89			U	U	Araz Naxçivan
18	Augusto	25/02/80	1		В	Î	Araz Naxçivan

G = goals; A = assists; 🗍 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

COACH



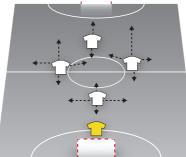
Alesio Born: 27/09/1968

"I didn't like how we played. We made a lot of mistakes. We played well only when we were five against four. I didn't like all the other aspects of our game. We didn't play well in defence and conceded goals after set pieces. We also had problems creating attacks. There were moments when I just wanted to sit down and close my eyes, but coaches can't do that. We created some chances, but didn't convert them. To end with a 7-0 defeat is ugly for Azerbaijan."

FORMATIONS



DEFENDING



RESULTS

Group C	Р	w	D	L	F	А	Pts
Italy	2	1	0	1	9	3	3
Slovenia	2	1	0	1	9	9	3
Azerbaijan	2	1	0	1	7	13	3

Slovenia 6-7 Azerbaijan Azerbaijan 0-7 Italy

Belgium



SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	Α	ROU	UKR	Club
	-						
GO	ALKEEPERS						
1	David Morant	24/12/77			1	1	Paris Métropole
12	Pietro Benetti	19/05/88			U	U	Futsal Hasselt
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS						
2	Valentin Dujacquier	23/07/89			T	T	Châtelineau
3	Mustapha Harram	29/04/81			U	U	FP Asse-Gooik
4	Omar Rahou	19/07/92	1		T so	S	Châtelineau
5	Ahmed Sababti	10/12/85			1	1	Futsal Topsport Antwerpen
6	Lúcio	04/07/75			T	T	Châtelineau
7	Karim Chaibai	05/10/82		1	В	В	Châtelineau
8	Liliu	16/04/79			В	B so	Châtelineau
9	Saad Salhi	14/05/87			В	1	Charleroi 21
10	Aziz Hitou	01/02/90			В	В	Futsal Topsport Antwerpen
11	Abdelhak El Ghaadaoui	12/04/92			В	В	Futsal Topsport Antwerpen
13	Jonathan Neukermans	12/04/83			В	В	FP Asse-Gooik
14	Mohamed Dahbi Reda	13/10/87			В	U	Futsal Hasselt

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

COACH



Alain Dopchie Born: 26/03/1964

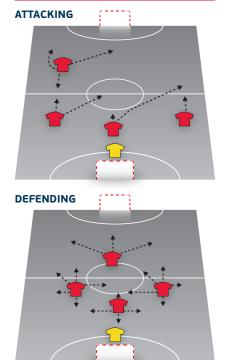
"I'm proud of the work that we did and the spirit of the game. We were at home and in the first game we showed almost nothing. It was important to show the crowd that we could attack, that we could score. We got near the goal, but we didn't take shots. I had an ambition: to show that futsal in Belgium exists and I think we did that job – the media know that futsal exists in Belgium now. The aim was to reach the quarter-finals and we will try to do better next time."



KEY FEATURES

- 3-1 attacking with Rahou the most effective pivot
- Lúcio and Chaibai ready to try 1v1 penetration on flanks
- Use of centre-wing-centre wall passing to gain numerical superiority
- Good individual technique, ready to shoot from any angle
- Aggressive 1-2-1 defending with man-to-man marking
- Good ball-winning entailing high expenditure of energy
- Attack-to-defence transition not always efficient; lacked big-tournament expertise

FORMATIONS



RESULTS

Group A	Ρ	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Romania	2	1	0	1	6	2	3
Belgium	2	0	1	1	1	6	1

Belgium 1-6 Romania Ukraine 0-0 Belgium

Team profiles

Croatia



KEY FEATURES

- Dangerous attacks especially with Marinović operating as pivot
- Invited opponents forward to launch counters via direct supply to pivot
- Emphasis on three-man build-up; use of direct keeper-to-pivot passing when pressed
- Goalkeeper Jukić excellent at dealing with 1v1 situations
- Effective, patient use of flying keeper (Capar) in 2-1-2 attacking
- Willing to try 1v1 in wide areas, especially Jelovčić and Marinović
- Strong team ethic and commitment to cause

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	ESP	CZE	ITA	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS							
1	Ivo Jukić	13/04/1986			*	*	*	FK Nikars Riga
12	Marin Stojkić	30/09/1984			U	U	U	MNK Murter
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS							
2	Matija Capar	20/10/1984	2		В	В	В	Alumnus
3	Jakov Grcić	12/04/1983			S	В	*	MNK Novo Vrijeme
4	Kristijan Grbeša	17/01/1990			В	В	В	Alumnus
5	Nikola Pavić	10/08/1990			U	U	U	MNK Murter
6	Saša Babić	04/08/1989	1		В	В	В	MNK Novo Vrijeme
7	Franko Jelovčić	06/07/1991	3	2	*	*	*	MNK Split
8	Dario Marinović	24/05/1990	1	2	*	*	*	Al Yarmouk
9	Alen Protega	05/03/1987			В	U	U	MNK Split
10	Tihomir Novak	24/10/1986		1	*	*	*	ASD Asti C/5
11	Josip Suton	14/11/1988			*	*	В	MNK Split
13	Vedran Matošević	27/08/1990			В	В	В	Alumnus
14	Gordan Duvančić	12/09/1987			U	U	U	FC Osijek Kelme

G = goals; A = assists; 🗱 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

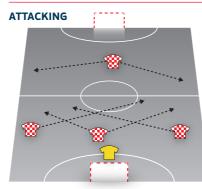
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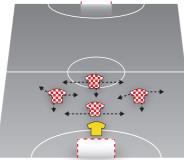
Mato Stanković Born: 28/09/1970

"We proved ourselves to be a very good team. That was important for Croatia – we are a very small country, we don't have the strongest national league, but we showed the world a good standard of futsal. Step by step, we are climbing the rankings and maybe that will give us easier draws. We had the youngest team in 2012 and this team was even younger."

FORMATIONS



DEFENDING



RESULTS

Group D	Ρ	w	D	L	F	А	Pts
Spain	2	1	1	0	11	4	4
Croatia	2	0	2	0	6	6	2
Czech republic	2	0	1	1	4	11	1

Spain 3-3 Croatia Croatia 3-3 Czech Republic

Quarter-final Italy 2-1 Croatia

Czech Republic



SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	Α	CRO	ESP	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS			-			
1	Jakub Ždánský	28/05/1986			U	В	FK EP Chrudim
12	Libor Gerčák	22/07/1975			1	1	1. FC Nejzbach Vysoké Mýto
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS						
2	David Cupák	27/05/1989		1	1	T	Helas Brno
3	Jiří Novotný	12/07/1988	1		В	В	Teplice
4	Petr Oliva	23/10/1987			U	В	SK Slavia Praha
5	Michal Kovács	17/04/1990			В	В	FC Tango Brno
5	Roman Mareš	15/03/1975	1		1	В	FK EP Chrudim
7	Lukáš Rešetár	28/04/1984			1	T	FK EP Chrudim
3	Marcel Rodek	07/11/1988			U	В	FC Benago
Э	David Frič	17/02/1983		1	В	1	FK Kladno
10	Michal Seidler	05/04/1990		1	В	В	FC Tango Brno
13	Zdeněk Sláma	28/12/1982			U	В	Teplice
14	Matěj Slováček	08/10/1990			1	1	FK EP Chrudim
18	Michal Belej	16/11/1982	2		В	В	FC Tango Brno

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

COACH



Tomáš Neumann Born: 22/09/1970

"We played very well in the first half against Spain and had good chances, but didn't take them. But for us the match against Croatia was the most important as we needed to win and came close to doing it. We knew it was the crucial match for us. But our future is very good. We have a lot of experience of playing in the European championship, and we must now start to build towards the next World Cup and the next EURO."

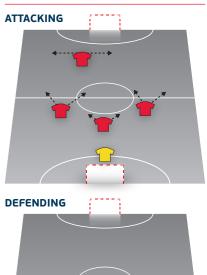




KEY FEATURES

- 3-1 attacking but with pivot dropping wide to convert to 4-0 structure
- Good at opening opposition defence, exploiting parallel passing
- Goalkeeper always looking for quick counterattack; if not, short distribution
- Generally 1-1-2 defending aimed at disrupting opponents' building from back
- Fast, well-organised attack-to-defence transitions
- Unfinished attacking moves sometimes invited quick counters
- Good diagonal covering to thwart 1v1 approaches by opponents

FORMATIONS





RESULTS

Group D	Ρ	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	1	1	0	11	4	4
Croatia	2	0	2	0	6	6	2
Czech Republic	2	0	1	1	4	11	1

Croatia 3-3 Czech Republic Czech Republic 1-8 Spain

Team profiles





KEY FEATURES

- Flexible 4-0 attacking switching to 3-1 with Fortino as pivot
- High-intensity game with mix of zonal and individual marking
- Fast attack-to-defence transitions to pre-empt counters
- Compact 3-1 or 2-2 defending with Gabriel Lima the organiserAggressive pressure on ball carrier in own half; occasionally higher
- Well-structured 2-2 or 1-2-1 defending against flying keeper
- Mental strength, concentration, strong team ethic, self-belief

SQUAD	
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No	Player	Born	G	A	SVN	AZE	CRO	POR	RUS	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS									
1	Stefano Mammarella	02/02/1984	1		1	1	1	1	1	Città Sant'Angelo C/5
12	Michele Miarelli	29/04/1984	1		U	В	U	U	U	Real Rieti C/5
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS									
2	Marco Ercolessi	15/05/1986		1	В	В	В	В	В	Luparense C/5
3	Gabriel Lima	19/08/1987	4	3	В	T	1	1	1	ASD Asti C/5
4	Sergio Romano	28/09/1987	3		В	1	T	1	В	Pescara C/5
5	Luca Leggiero	11/11/1984			1	U	В	В	В	Pescara C/5
6	Humberto Honorio	21/07/1983	1	1	В	В	В	В	В	Luparense C/5
7	Massimo De Luca	07/10/1987			U	U	U	В	В	Real Rieti C/5
8	Vampeta	18/07/1984	1	1	В	В	В	В	В	ASD Asti C/5
9	Fortino	30/04/1983	4	2	В	В	В	В	В	ASD Asti C/5
10	Merlim	15/07/1986			1	1	1	1	1	Luparense C/5
11	Saad Assis	26/10/1979	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	FC Barcelona
13	Daniel Giasson	24/08/1987	1		1	В	В	В	1	Pescara C/5
15	Murilo	10/03/1989	1		В	В	В	В	В	Città Sant'Angelo C/5
	_									

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

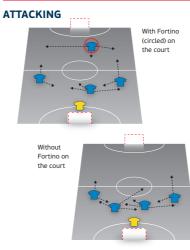
COACH



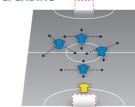
Roberto Menichelli Born: 14/01/1963

"We wanted to confirm our status among the best teams in Europe. We were the best this time. We rise to the occasion in big tournaments like this. It was a great joy, a great satisfaction for me and for the players, who were simply fantastic. The final was a hard-fought game and we had to be very good to make it look easy. The victory was very important for the whole of Italian futsal."

FORMATIONS



DEFENDING



RESULTS

Group C	Р	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	1	0	1	9	3	3
Slovenia	2	1	0	1	9	9	3
Azerbaijan	2	1	0	1	7	13	3

Italy 2-3 Slovenia Azerbaijan 0-7 Italy

Quarter-final Italy 2-1 Croatia Semi-final Portugal 3-4 Italy

Final Italy 3-1 Russia

Netherlands



SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	Α	RUS	POR	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS						
1	Petrus Grimmelius	01/09/1987			1	1	CF Eindhoven
12	Ennes van Maasbommel	28/10/1989			U	U	AORC
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS						
2	Oualid Saadouni	12/03/1988			В	В	CF Eindhoven
3	Jamal El Ghannouti	29/03/1983			В	В	CF Eindhoven
4	Nigel Wijdenbosch	03/04/1989			В	В	FC Marlène
5	Mohammed Allouch	07/08/1989			В	В	FCK De Hommel
5	Samir Makhoukhi	01/09/1982			1	1	FCK De Hommel
7	Yoshua St Juste	23/02/1991			В	В	Hovocubo
3	Zaid El Morabiti	04/07/1984			В	В	AORC
Э	Najib El Allouchi	03/06/1988			1	1	FCK De Hommel
10	Mohamed Attaibi	23/10/1987	1		1	1	Futsal Topsport Antwerpen
11	Amir Molkârâi	15/05/1987			В	В	Hovocubo
13	Mohamed Darri	11/09/1989			В	В	Hovocubo
14	Karim Mossaoui	27/02/1988		1	-	•	TPP Rotterdam

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

COACH



Marcel Loosveld Born: 04/01/1963

"In the first match the players were nervous. Before the second, I told them: 'Just play your match, you can play very well, we can play some excellent futsal, but don't be nervous. That can block you.' We showed that we can compete with excellent countries. The scorelines were too big, but you can't change the results. If we had been in an easier group we could maybe have competed more evenly with some other countries."

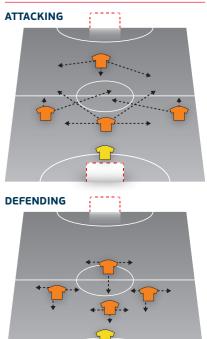
BELGIUM 2014 TOURNAMENT REVIEW



KEY FEATURES

- 3-1 or 4-0 attacking with great mobility
- Good back-to-goal work, ball protection, one-on-one skills by pivot El Allouchi
- Ball passer staying between lines to divide opponents' defence, available for return pass
- Effective use of direct attacking to exploit space behind opposition defence
- Emphasis on high-energy man-to-man defending
- Aggressive pressure on the ball carrier physically demanding
- Ready to shoot from long range, attempt one-on-ones in wide areas

FORMATIONS



RESULTS

Group B	Р	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	2	1	1	0	11	5	4
Portugal	2	1	1	0	9	4	4
Netherlands	2	0	0	2	1	12	0

Russia 7-1 Netherlands Netherlands 0-5 Portugal

Portugal



KEY FEATURES

- 4-0 attacking or 3-1 with Cardinal or Leitão the pivot
- High 1-2-1 defending with spells of intense pressure
- Pivot dropping wide to receive, play wall passes on flanks
- Ricardinho the artist, playmaker and leader; long periods on pitch
- Intelligent zonal defending aimed at disrupting opposition build-up
- Quick counters with two players breaking fast when keeper gains possession
- In 4-0 attacks good use of parallel or diagonal runs to combine in wide areas

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	A	NED	RUS	UKR	ITA	ESP	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS									
1	João Benedito	07/10/1978			T	1	T	1	T	Sporting Clube de Portugal
12	André Sousa	25/02/1986			В	U	В	В	U	Fundão
14	Cristiano	20/08/1979			U	В	U	U	В	Sporting Clube de Portugal
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS									
2	Bruno Coelho	01/08/1987	2		В	В	В	В	В	SL Benfica
3	Leitão	03/01/1981		2	T	В	В	В	В	Città Sant'Angelo C/5
4	Pedro Costa	18/12/1978	1		В	T	I	I	В	Nagoya Oceans
5	Joel Queirós	21/05/1982	3		T	I	I	В	В	SL Benfica
6	Arnaldo Pereira	16/06/1979	1	2	S	T	T	T	T	FK Nikars Riga
7	Cardinal	26/06/1985	3	2	В	В	T	T	В	No club at time
8	Pedro Cary	10/05/1984	1		В	В	В	В	T	Sporting Clube de Portugal
9	Gonçalo	01/07/1977	2		T	T	T	1	В	SL Benfica
10	Ricardinho	03/09/1985	3	5	T	T	T	T	T	Inter FS
11	João Matos	21/02/1987	1		В	В	В	В	T	Sporting Clube de Portugal
13	Ricardo Fernandes	20/02/1986			В	В	В	U	В	SL Benfica

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off Aleksandr Fukin scored an own goal in the Russia match

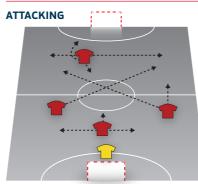
COACH



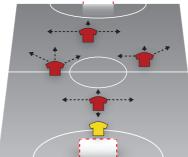
Jorge Braz Born: 25/05/1972

"We still seem to have a lot of difficulty in understanding the intensity and concentration level needed to succeed in a demanding competition like this one. It was fair enough to lose against Italy but it would have also been fair if we had been the team to go through to the final. Nobody can take away from us the quality we displayed in Antwerp. But we finished in the place we deserved: fourth."

FORMATIONS



DEFENDING



RESULTS

Group B	Р	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	2	1	1	0	11	5	4
Portugal	2	1	1	0	9	4	4
Netherlands	2	0	0	2	1	12	0

Netherlands 0-5 Portugal Portugal 4-4 Russia

Quarter-final Ukraine 1-2 Portugal

Semi-final Portugal 3-4 Italy

Third-place play-off Portugal 4-8 Spain

Romania



SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	А	BEL	UKR	RUS	Club
	-	born			Dee	GRAT	1105	
G0	ALKEEPERS							
1	Vlad Iancu	03/01/1978	1		1	1	1	Autobergamo Deva
12	Andrei Grigoraș	15/05/1989			U	U	В	Sfintul Gheorghe
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS							
2	Florin Matei	08/12/1983	1	3	1	1	1	Autobergamo Deva
3	Florin Ignat	26/02/1982			В	В	В	City'US Târgu Mureş
1	Cristian Matei	12/03/1987			U	В	В	Autobergamo Deva
5	Ionut Movileanu	10/09/1991			U	U	В	FC Dunărea Călărași
5	Emil Răducu	19/05/1984	1		В	В	В	Balzan FC
7	Robert Lupu	28/10/1982	1		1	1	1	Autobergamo Deva
3	Marian Șotârcă	12/11/1980	1		1	1	1	FC Dunărea Călărași
Э	Ion Al-Ioani	07/05/1983			В	В	I	City'US Târgu Mureş
10	Dumitru Stoica	30/09/1981		1	В	1	1	City'US Târgu Mureş
11	Cosmin Gherman	25/04/1984			1	В	В	City'US Târgu Mureş
14	Szabolcs Manya	30/01/1989			U	В	В	FC Odorheiu Secuiesc
15	László Szőcs	10/10/1984			U	В	В	FC Odorheiu Secuiesc
	-							

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off Saad Salhi scored an own goal in the Belgium match

COACH



Born: 20/10/1967

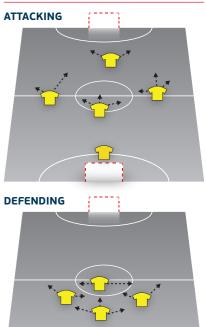
"We learned many, many things from this championship. We will take the good things and look to correct the bad things. We made mistakes and gave away goals. We have to be more aggressive in our play, more confident in ourselves. Then I think it would be a different game. The players are very good and have another few years left to play so the objective is now to qualify for next EURO and the World Cup."



KEY FEATURES

- 3-1 attacking based on short passes and quick movements
- High level of technique, notably Florin Matei, the catalyst and playmaker
- When pressed, pass to keeper and direct throw to Stoica
- Reliance on nucleus of six outfielders heavy workload
- Flexible defending 1-2-1 the default setting but also 2-2 and zonal pressing
- Good set plays with two players blocking, creating shooting chance for third
- Extensive use of flying keeper against Russia; no goals scored

FORMATIONS



RESULTS

Group A	Р	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Romania	2	1	0	1	6	2	3
Belgium	2	0	1	1	1	6	1

Belgium 1-6 Romania Romania 0-1 Ukraine

Quarter-final Romania 0-6 Russia

Team profiles

Russia



KEY FEATURES

- Rapid 4-0 attacking or more patient 3-1 with Eder Lima or Cirilo as pivot
- Pivot starting wide to receive, making diagonal runs into centre
- 1-2-1 defending with man-to-man marking throughout move
- Game based on mobility, high tempo, quick transition in both directions
- Use of three quartets with different characteristics
- Robinho a key player; team-mates creating space for him to try 1v1
- Fukin key element in 1v1 on wings, supply to pivot or other flank

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	Α	NED	POR	ROU	ESP	ITA	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS									
1	Ivan Poddubny	04/04/1986			В	U	U	U	U	FC Dynamo
12	Gustavo	05/02/1979			T	T	T	1	T	FC Dynamo
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS									
2	Vladislav Shayakhmetov	25/08/1981	1	1	В	T	T	I	T	MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg
3	Nikolai Pereverzev	15/12/1986	1	1	T	В	В	T	В	MFK Tyumen
4	Dmitri Lyskov	24/09/1987	2	1	В	В	В	В	В	TTG-Ugra Yugorsk
5	Sergei Sergeev	28/06/1983	3	3	В	T	В	1	В	FC Dynamo
6	Daniil Kutuzov	13/03/1987			В	В	В	В	U	MFK Dina Moskva
7	Pula	02/12/1980			T	B so	S	S	В	FC Dynamo
8	Eder Lima	29/06/1984	8	4	В	T	T	В	T	TTG-Ugra Yugorsk
9	Sergei Abramov	09/09/1990	1		В	В	T	В	T	MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg
10	Robinho	28/01/1983	3	3	В	T	T	В	T	TTG-Ugra Yugorsk
11	Cirilo	20/01/1980	2	1	T	U	В	1	B so	FC Dynamo
13	Aleksandr Fukin	26/03/1985	1	1	T	В	В	T	В	FC Dynamo
14	Ivan Milovanov	08/02/1989		1	В	В	В	В	В	MFK Tyumen

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

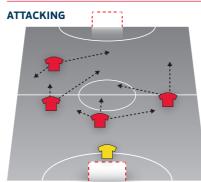
COACH



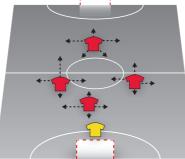
Sergei Skorovich Born: 05/04/1973

"If you want to win a final you should show all your abilities, all your strengths, but our opponents prevented us from doing that. We had faith until the end, we tried to make things happen but it didn't work out. Every defeat is sad, but afterwards you get time to analyse what went wrong. We proved that we were not accidental finalists but we know that we need to improve. Big wins will come."

FORMATIONS



DEFENDING



RESULTS

Group B	Р	w	D	L	F	А	Pts
Russia	2	1	1	0	11	5	4
Portugal	2	1	1	0	9	4	4
Netherlands	2	0	0	2	1	12	0

Russia 7-1 Netherlands Portugal 4-4 Russia

Quarter-final Romania 0-6 Russia

Semi-final Russia 4-3 Spain (aet)

Final Italy 3-1 Russia

Slovenia



SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	Α	ITA	AZE	ESP	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS							
1	Damir Puškar	03/09/1987		1	Û	T	U	FC Litija
12	Alen Mordej	13/03/1990			U	U	T	Toulon Tous Ensemble
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS							
2	Rok Mordej	03/03/1989		1	T	T	7	New Team FVG
3	Dejan Bizjak	21/04/1988			U	U	U	Toulon Tous Ensemble
4	Sebastijan Drobne	19/04/1987			U	U	U	Melissa FC
5	Kristjan Čujec	30/11/1988	2	2	Û	Û	T	New Team FVG
6	Uroš Kroflič	02/11/1985	1		В	В	В	MNK Novi Marof
7	lgor Osredkar	28/06/1986	1	1	T	T	T	MNK Novo Vrijeme
8	Benjamin Melink	15/11/1982			В	В	В	C/5 Adriatica
9	Gašper Vrhovec	18/07/1988	4		В	Î	T	FC Litija
10	Alen Fetič	14/10/1991	1	1	Û	В	В	MNK Novo Vrijeme
11	Aleš Vrabel	10/09/1986			U	U	U	Toulon Tous Ensemble
13	Gaj Rosič	14/05/1987			U	U	U	A. Académica de Coimbra
14	Tilen Štendler	08/10/1991			В	В	В	KMN Puntar

G = goals; A = assists; 🗍 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

COACH



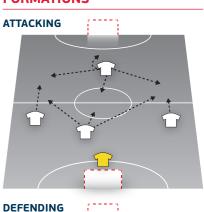
"We did our best. We were short of options on the bench to get close to Spain, but we have the will and the strength to close that gap. The tournament was a big step forward, as it demonstrated that the team as a whole is improving and that each individual is getting better and better. As long as we can maintain this progression, there is nothing for Slovenian futsal to be afraid of."

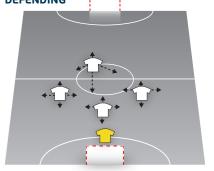


KEY FEATURES

- 3-1 attacking with pivot dropping wide or back to draw defender and create spaces
- Čujec a quality pivot, protecting the ball well and turning to take on defenders
- Use of direct keeper-to-pivot play to counteract opponents' high pressing
- Powerful committed defending with disciplined individual marking
- Physically well-prepared; fast defence-to-attack transitions and vice versa
- Ready to take on opponents in fast, powerful counters
- Stong team spirit, tactical discipline and work ethic

FORMATIONS





RESULTS

Group C	Р	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	1	0	1	9	3	3
Slovenia	2	1	0	1	9	9	3
Azerbaijan	2	1	0	1	7	13	3

Italy 2-3 Slovenia Slovenia 6-7 Azerbaijar

Quarter-final Slovenia 0-4 Spain

Team profiles





KEY FEATURES

- 4-0 attacking or 3-1 with Fernandão receiving and protecting as pivot
- Game based on exceptional technique, positional play
- High pressing earned extensive ball-winning in advanced positions
- Rapid defence-to-attack transitions
- Well-rehearsed set plays with wide variety of options
- Emphasis on ending attacks with goal attempt, pre-empting counters
- Outstanding ability to lose markers, make runs to back post

SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	А	CRO	CZE	SVN	RUS	POR	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS									
1	Rafa	13/06/1980			T	1	1	1	U	Murcia FS
12	Juanjo	19/08/1985			U	U	U	U	T	Santiago Futsal
13	Jesús Herrero	04/11/1986			U	U	U	U	U	Inter FS
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS									
2	Ortiz	03/10/1983	1	4	T	T	T	S	T	Inter FS
3	José Ruiz	06/06/1983	2		В	В	В	T	В	Murcia FS
4	Torras	24/09/1980		1	В	В	I	I	Ι	FC Barcelona
5	Aicardo	04/12/1988	3	1	T	T	T	В	T	FC Barcelona
6	Fernandão	16/08/1980	5		В	В	В	В	В	FC Barcelona
7	Pola	26/06/1988	3	2	U	T	T	T	T	Inter FS
8	Miguelín	09/05/1985	2	2	U	I	В	В	В	Murcia FS
9	Sergio Lozano	09/11/1988	3	3	В	В	В	Ŧ	В	FC Barcelona
10	Rafael Usín	22/05/1987	3		1	В	В	В	В	Navarra FS
11	Lin	16/05/1986	2		В	I	В	В	В	FC Barcelona
14	Raúl Campos	17/12/1987	2	2	T	T	T	T	T	Murcia FS

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

COACH



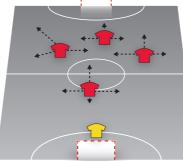
José Venancio López Born: 27/06/1964

"We made the error of not playing with the necessary intensity in the first match, but we made the semi-finals and lost in the last minute of extra time. Games like the Russia one can always be lost. So we left with a bittersweet taste. Nobody likes to play for third place. But we have created a winning philosophy and we played as if it was the first game of the next tournament. Two years to go, but we were already thinking about it."

FORMATIONS



DEFENDING



RESULTS

Group D	Р	w	D	L	F	А	Pts
Spain	2	1	1	0	11	4	4
Croatia	2	0	2	0	6	6	2
Czech republic	2	0	1	1	4	11	1

Spain 3-3 Croatia Czech Republic 1-8 Spair

Quarter-final Slovenia 0-4 Spain

Semi-final Russia 4-3 Spain (aet)

Third-place play-off Portugal 4-8 Spain

Ukraine



SQUAD

No	Player	Born	G	Α	ROU	BEL	POR	Club
GO	ALKEEPERS							
1	Yevgen Ivanyak	28/09/1982			1	S	U	Lokomotiv Kharkov
12	Kyrylo Tsypun	30/07/1987			U	1	U	Uragan Ivano-Frankovsk
16	Dmytro Lytvynenko	16/04/1987			U	U	1	Lokomotiv Kharkov
ou	TFIELD PLAYERS							
2	Petro Shoturma	27/06/1992			U	В	В	Uragan Ivano-Frankovsk
3	Vitaliy Kiselyov	20/02/1983			В	В	В	Lokomotiv Kharkov
4	Dmytro Bondar	12/10/1983			1	1	1	Energy Lviv
5	Mykola Bilotserkivets	05/12/1986			В	В	В	Lokomotiv Kharkov
5	Yevgen Valenko	01/11/1984	1		В	В	В	Uragan Ivano-Frankovsk
7	Maxym Pavlenko	15/09/1975			1	1	1	Energy Lviv
8	Yevgen Rogachov	30/08/1983			1	1	1	Energy Lviv
Э	Dmytro Sorokin	14/07/1988	1		В	В	В	Lokomotiv Kharkov
10	Dmytro Klochko	17/02/1987			U	В	В	Lokomotiv Kharkov
11	Denys Ovsyannikov	10/12/1984			1	1	1	Energy Lviv
13	Oleksandr Sorokin	13/08/1987		1	В	В	S	Lokomotiv Kharkov

G = goals; A = assists; 👕 = in the starting five; B = came off the bench; U = unused; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; so = sent off

COACH



Yevgen Ryvkin Born: 07/09/1967

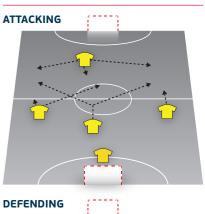
"We had problems with our positional attacking and did not create as many chances as we would have liked. It was tough playing Portugal but we competed well and at times we imposed our game. Unfortunately, we did not perform when we had the flying goalkeeper. As a result we found ourselves unable to use our usual links and the plays we had worked on in training. But I can only thank the players who did their best and could go home with their heads held high."

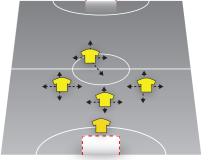


KEY FEATURES

- Usually 3-1 attacking with highly mobile pivot
- When pivot dropping wide, good use of parallel passing moves on other flank
- Emphasis on constantly high-paced possession play
 physical demands on opponents
- Disciplined individual marking in own half, patiently looking to counter
- Occasional higher pressure when opponents playing deep
- Ready to shoot from long range but struggled to convert possession into goals
- Compact defensive block backed by three competent keepers

FORMATIONS





RESULTS

Group А	Р	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Romania	2	1	0	1	6	2	3
Belgium	2	0	1	1	1	6	1

Romania 0-1 Ukraine Ukraine 0-0 Belgium

Quarter-final Ukraine 1-2 Portugal

Event report



merlim

Futsal finds a home in Antwerp

Acrobats, dancers, comedy acts, rock music that vibrated up and down the spine, a gigantic screen that showed action replays or homed in on spectators, and an arena announcer who choreographed Mexican waves and raised the temperature by constantly encouraging the fans to "MAKE SOME NOISE!" – it was wall-to-wall entertainment. Pre-match, half-time, during time-outs ... there was never a dull moment.

Each match at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 was a vibrant, riveting spectacle, both on and off the court, with the high-speed, all-action game attracting new converts and drawing people

back to the arenas for more. And, with tickets highly affordable, no one could go home with a feeling that they had not received value for money. No wonder the arena PA announcement that "tomorrow's games are sold out" became one of the catchphrases of the tournament. And no wonder coach Alain Dopchie could hold his head high despite Belgium's group stage exit. "I'm proud of the work we have done," he said. "We showed here in Belgium that futsal exists."

FERNANDAD

Not even his side's opening-day 6-1 loss to Romania could dampen the enthusiasm. "Those supporters were great," Dopchie said. "They came to see the game and, I have to say, they got what they wanted: excitement." The players too fed off the atmosphere. "It's always good to see the arena full of people, it is very important for futsal," said Emil Răducu, who opened the scoring for Romania against Belgium. "That is why we play, so people can come and see us."

Two magnificent arenas were the venues for the 20 games: Lotto Arena for the group stage and then, right next door, the grandiose Sportpaleis for the eight knockout matches. It was the first time since 2007 that the final tournament had been staged in a single city. Antwerp, which had just ended its term as 2013 European Capital of Sport, responded in style – even dressing one of its famous trams in UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 livery. The city is no stranger to futsal, with local side Futsal Topsport Antwerpen Belgian champions in 2007 and 2012, and both the City of Antwerp and the Royal Belgian Football Association (URBSFA-KBVB) threw their wholehearted support behind the championship.

Even the hosts, however, were taken by surprise by the public response. As the total attendance figure climbed towards 90,751

"They came to see the game and they got what they wanted: excitement"



at an average of 4,538 – major figures for an indoor sport – whole communities came together alongside the Belgian hosts and their Dutch neighbours, carrying Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, Russian or Ukrainian flags in the metro or on trams as they flocked to the sports hall to make their voices heard in support of their teams.

So great was the demand for tickets for the final that extra seats were made available, and the 11,552 attendance was the third highest in the competition's history. The fans' desire for mementos also exceeded expectations. In the shops, stocks ran out of the Brazuca ball, which adidas had designed especially for the tournament. Official match balls were prime souvenirs for supporters to take home after players and entertainers kicked them into the crowd at the end of every game. UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 provided a great opportunity for futsal followers to discover Antwerp and to enjoy Belgium. It also helped a lot of Belgians to discover and enjoy futsal.



Running like clockwork

While the players on the court caught the eye at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, behind the scenes the events team at the venues ensured the tournament passed without a hitch. From media operations to hospitality, and from broadcast and commercial liaison to tournament promotion, UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 was a success as much from an organisational perspective as it was for the futsal on display at Lotto Arena and Sportpaleis. It was a collaborative effort, with UEFA staff working alongside the Royal Belgian Football Association (URBSFA-KBVB) and the City of Antwerp to produce a memorable championship.

For a final tournament such as UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, a huge amount of work has to be undertaken before the first matches kick off: UEFA's logistics and ICT team build and maintain the infrastructure in the hotel offices, arena offices and arena facilities to UEFA specifications; the commercial team plan and execute the signage and sponsor arrangements; and the travel and conference team arrange logistics for teams as well as staff.

Facilities were put in place for the media in addition to the UEFA.com team and UEFA data services to deliver multilingual coverage and gather live statistics for distribution to



fans and media. Arrangements also had to be made for the referees, who had a busy schedule with early workouts and meetings most days, on top of matches. Unlike UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 in Croatia, the event was held in a single city, Antwerp, but that did not make the switchover from Lotto Arena (which staged the group stage fixtures) to the Sportpaleis for the knockout stage any less impressive. No sooner had the Czech Republic and Spain played the final group game, Lotto Arena facilities were taken down and transported to the Sportpaleis next door. With no rest day and rehearsals for the first quarter-finals beginning at midday the following day, that was a huge undertaking,



yet all of the various areas - accreditation, VIPs, hospitality – managed a swift and seamless transfer.

The work intensifies in the closing stages, with the final and the subsequent trophy ceremony presenting their own demands. Huge efforts were made to cater for VIPs, while the medal and trophy handovers in Antwerp were planned in meticulous detail - every footstep and every second was counted to make sure that the only surprises on the night came on the court.



The UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 match officials





Common goal

UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 was enhanced by a flourishing commercial programme, which featured ten global and five national sponsors. This approach allowed the tournament to benefit from the support of global brands, together with the local activities and promotions of companies focused on the Belgian market. This combination enabled wider brand exposure, reinforced by local market backing, and helped drive fans to the venues.

For UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, a strong family of brands complemented each another perfectly. UEFA's global sponsors enjoyed wider exposure while the local market had a unique opportunity to capitalise on the success of the championship. Local entities, such as the City and Province of Antwerp, together with the Region of Flanders, provided essential support and used the occasion to promote futsal throughout the region. Television, radio and magazine partners also contributed vital exposure and promotional assistance.

GLOBAL SPONSORS



NATIONAL SPONSORS









In total, 121 goals were scored with the official match ball, which was designed and produced by adidas, and

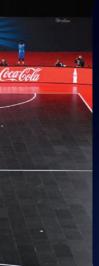
used by all the teams in training and at all the matches. With its blue base, the ball featured colours reflecting the UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 brand. The adidas Golden Shoe award for the top scorer, meanwhile, was won by Russia's Eder Lima (centre). adidas also supplied apparel for everyone involved in the event. Youth programme children, referees, volunteers and staff received high-quality equipment to allow them to accomplish their tasks in comfort and style. A range of official licensed products was also created by adidas to give fans a chance to buy championship souvenirs.





This was Carlsberg's first <u>arlsber</u>g UEFA Futsal EURO, with the company having come on board as a UEFA national team competitions sponsor in early 2013. Within the Belgian market, Carlsberg is one of the leading premium beer brands and therefore leveraged the competition to reinforce this positioning. By providing Carlsberg products for fans, staff, the media, UEFA staff and local organising committee members, the popular beer company left an indelible mark on the tournament. Besides activating all traditional rights, the company conducted a wide range of on-trade and offtrade consumer ticket promotions, as well as entertaining clients in VIP hospitality.

As UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 hosts, the City of Antwerp got fully behind the competition. In addition to operational help given to UEFA with the staging of the finals, the city utilised this partnership to advertise the event and invite lots of local people to come to the venues and be part of UEFA Futsal EURO. The City of Antwerp demonstrated its desire to make residents aware of the competition, and of futsal in general, through the use of the sponsor-dedicated commercial display area in the Sportpaleis, where it promoted futsal and told the story of the sport in Antwerp.



Coca-Cola was once more a key player in the success of a UEFA Futsal EURO, making its



presence felt in Antwerp. As a long-term UEFA national team competitions partner, Coca-Cola delivered a complete service and plenty of drinks for the participating teams and match officials – including the sport drink Aquarius, which is available in Belgium – as well as VIPs, the media, UEFA and local organising committee staff. The lucky youngsters participating in the various youth programmes at the finals, and volunteers and spectators throughout all areas and venues of the indoor tournament, also had their thirst quenched by Coca-Cola products. Continental was sponsoring a UEFA Futsal EURO for the first time, having recently

extended its sponsorship presence to encompass all UEFA national team competitions. As such, the championship represented an invaluable opportunity for the company to publicise its brand within the local market as well as activating its standard rights for the first time in this sphere, while key Continental staff and clients attended the VIP hospitality areas. The tyre manufacturer duly benefits from activating at UEFA tournaments as it cements its position at the heart of European football.

Ontinental 🔧



The car manufacturer played an active role at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, leveraging sponsorship rights effectively

to reach a wide range of new consumers. Kia provided the local organising committee with 37 vehicles, with the Kia fleet a visible presence throughout the competition, laying on transport for all major stakeholders. Through its long-standing official match ball carrier programme, Kia offered promotion winners at each match the chance to get close to the action. Furthermore, by activating a commercial display at the opening game, Kia created a lively and entertaining atmosphere on the concourse (right), giving fans the opportunity to win official adidas match balls.







Following on from its role at UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 in Croatia, Mondo

continued to show it is a world leader in sports flooring, supplying highquality playing surfaces and the goals in the Antwerp arenas, as well as carrying out all maintenance on site. As a global partner, Mondo was able to invite four guests to its sole and exclusive event, 'The Mondo Behindthe-Scenes Tour', at the last match of the group stage, visiting areas normally only accessible to players and officials, such as the changing rooms, media sector and the pitch itself.

MONDO

Committed to encouraging local people to play an active part in sport, the Province of Antwerp offers support to top national and international sporting events. Therefore its partnership with UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 was a natural extension of this work and a great opportunity to promote the game and show its commitment to the finals in Antwerp. The visibility of the province was maximised during the competition across several platforms, including media backdrops, perimeter boards and UEFA's official website UEFA.com.

Sponsorship across UEFA's national team competitions is a key strategy for the State



Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) to build brand awareness, so being associated with an exciting competition like UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 was an important step. Advertising on LED boards and giant screens and in the official programme gave the SOCAR brand significant visibility on site, as well as on television, with all the Azerbaijan national team's matches broadcast live back home. The UEFA Futsal EURO thus enabled SOCAR to keep nurturing brand awareness in Europe, besides creating a special connection with futsal fans.

The tournament benefitted from the support of global brands, together with the local activities and promotions of companies focused on the Belgian market





support at UEFA Women's EURO 2013 in Sweden,

Eurosport was another important national sponsor for UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. As a pan-European broadcaster of the competition, Eurosport was an ideal partner, embracing futsal's target audience and further associating the championship with highquality television that has a worldwide reach. Eurosport has always had a strong relationship with UEFA events and UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 proved no exception.



UEFA Futsal **INTERSPORT** EURO 2014 was proud to welcome back national sponsor Intersport, which again undertook an important role in the promotion of the event through its status as the official fan shop of the tournament. Working closely with official global sponsor adidas, Intersport ran dedicated futsal booths on site at both venues, successfully selling official licensed products and affording fans the chance to leave the arenas with quality souvenirs.



Another valuable national partner for UEFA Futsal

As an



EURO 2014 was Roularta group's Sport Foot Magazine, Belgium's leading football publication, which helped communicate news and excitement about the event to thousands of readers around the country. In addition, the magazine used adverts and ticket promotions to raise awareness of the competition, reaching out to and engaging with the supporters most interested in futsal.

Topsport organisation that aims to increase the number of top sporting events in Flanders, Topsport Vlaanders was a natural national sponsor for UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. Thanks to its association with the tournament, Topsport Vlaanders was able to advertise the region through a national team championship and, with it, support UEFA's objective of promoting futsal and making the finals a great success in the region.

A popular radio station in Belgium,



national sponsor VivaCité was an ideal partner for UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. With six regional stations, VivaCité was able to publicise the event by reaching millions of households and businesses throughout the country. And with its local reach in places in and around the Antwerp area, VivaCité ensured that the tournament's target audience was well and truly covered.

Tuning in to futsal

A significant rise of 28% on the television viewing figures for UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 was a measure of the increasing global interest in the competition, and the success of UEFA's broadcast partners in bringing the excitement of the Antwerp finals to a worldwide audience. In total, more than 205 hours of coverage were dedicated to the

tournament over 177 programmes in seven territories, including 56 live match broadcasts with an average audience of 269,800.

Interest was high in Portugal, where UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 accounted for the highest average rating for live match broadcasts -3.12% of the national audience. Azerbaijan

also recorded a new futsal high, with the 1.2% share for their opening match on Idman TV double their best rating for the 2010 final tournament. Spain's failure to reach the final did not affect audiences too much; 800.000 watched their semi-final loss to Russia on Nitro - a 4.3% share, more than double the channel's prime-time average.

BELGIUM 2014 BROADCAST NETWORK

EUROPE		
PAN-EUROPE	Eurosport	The tournament's host broadcaster transmitted all matches on Eurosport or Eurosport 2
PORTUGAL	RTP	All Portugal matches were broadcast by free-to-air channel RTP2
SPAIN	Nitro	All Spain matches were shown on free-to-air DTT channel Nitro
BELGIUM	RTBF (French language) and VRT (Flemish language)	Free-to-air channels RTBF and VRT showed all Belgium games, live or delayed (as highlights)
AZERBAIJAN	AZTV	Free-to-air channels AZTV and Idman TV showed all Azerbaijan matches, both semi-finals and the final

REST OF THE WORLD

MALAYSIA	Astro	Pay channel Astro showed selected matches live
BRAZIL	Globosat	Pay channel Globosat showed selected matches live







26.44m **13.7**%

The cumulative audience for all UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 broadcasts was up on the 2010 and 2012 final tournaments

1.81m

The audience for Russia's semi-final victory against Spain - the biggest TV audience recorded for a single UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 game

28%

The cumulative increase in audience figures for UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 compared with **UEFA Futsal EURO 2012**

The market share for RTP2's coverage of Portugal's semi-final against Italy, over four times the average share for the channel

15.78m

The number of viewers who watched UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 matches on host broadcaster Eurosport – a proportion of 59.7% of the total television audience

More than 205 hours of coverage were dedicated to the tournament in 177 programmes, including 56 live match broadcasts



With Eurosport acting as host broadcaster at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, television viewers enjoyed superb coverage throughout the tournament. Every match was broadcast in high definition with Dolby 5.1 surround sound, allowing fans at home to enjoy a brilliant view of the action and a strong flavour of the atmosphere inside the two venues in Antwerp.

Nine cameras were focused on every game during the group stage, with an additional super slow motion camera brought in to enhance coverage in the latter stages of the competition. It was a slick but extremely complex operation; there were 40 monitors in the Eurosport outside broadcast van, with the television crew needing around a kilometre of cable to put their plans in

place. By the end of the tournament they had conducted 50 flash interviews, had 7,500 changes of shot, 1,225 replays and - thankfully - just two broken lenses, both caused by misplaced shots during matches.

Eurosport's work was supervised and supported by UEFA's TV production host broadcast control team, who offered production and operational

support. A UEFA HB operations manager was on site at every match, ensuring that coverage was unbiased, that the multilateral running order was adhered to and that UEFA's production philosophy and principles were applied to guarantee the

Nine cameras were focused on every game during the group stage, with an additional super slow motion camera enhancing coverage in the latter stages







quality and consistency of coverage. The Eurosport footage was made available in 54 countries in 20 different languages, while unilateral broadcasters from Belgium (VRT and RTBF) and Portugal (RTP) supplemented the multilateral coverage through their on-site productions by booking commentary positions, flash interviews and unilateral camera positions.



Event promotion

UEFA FUTSALEURO

Making an impression







From Futsal EURO signage to the official programme and even a branded tram, the tournament made its mark in Antwerp

Every effort was made to attract the Belgian public's attention to the action going on at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, with the competition's branding only one element of a campaign to win hearts and minds.

The brand encapsulates the values of Europe's top international competition in the indoor sport. The various elements of the tournament's visual identity reflect passion and pride as well as the pace, skill and drama that make futsal unique. For the 2014 final tournament, the visual identity incorporated the colours of the Belgian flag, to give it a special local look and feel. UEFA broadcast partners were given a range of on-air brand assets, ensuring consistency from the arenas through to the TV screens, while the local organising committee were supplied with key print visuals for

promotional campaigns.

The branding was a key element of a campaign to draw the attention of sports fans at street level in the months leading up to the tournament. Around 200 billboards in Belgium heralded the coming of the finals for four months in advance of the tournament, while UEFA Futsal EURO took to the streets of Antwerp in a more unusual fashion in the eight weeks between Christmas and kick-off, with a competitionbranded tram giving the Futsal EURO a visible presence, as well as giving basic information about how to get tickets.

With an eye to the multinational community in Belgium's second city, the tram also carried the flags of all participating nations, further encouraging Antwerp-based expatriates to get behind their home countries.

Advertisements were made on local radio and in local newspapers just before and during the final tournament, while eight weeks of one-page adverts in national football

publications preceded the finals. However, perhaps more dramatic work was done on a face-to-face basis to attract fans to the finals and introduce the game to those who had yet to be exposed to the five-a-side sport.

Thousands of leaflets featuring information were handed out at Futsal EURO stands and again the following month at RSC

An important barometer to the success of an event is how well it is attended by the media, and UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 proved a popular draw. There were 200 requests for accreditation during the tournament and considerable interest from local television, radio and the written press. The Belgian media accounted for nearly half – 85 – of those requests, with radio, non-rights-holding television channels and futsal websites showing keen interest, as well as major publications such as Gazet van Antwerpen, Het Laatste Nieuws, Het Nieuwsblad, La Dernière-Heure/Les Sports and L'Avenir. Understandably given their side's success, Italian interest was high. There were 24 requests in total from Italy, mostly from websites but also from La Gazzetta dello Sport. There was also interest from a wide range of other European countries, with media in the Netherlands (22 requests), Portugal (13) and Spain (12) also following the tournament in impressive numbers.

Dancers entertain the crowd during a match



about ticketing and the competition schedule at a host of footballing events across the country, starting with a Red Devils' fan day in Brussels on 2 June 2013, and continuing in the supporters' village ahead of the FIFA World Cup qualifier against Serbia five days later. More flyers were handed out at a local cup event in Gent at the end of that month, Anderlecht, KRC Genk and Club Brugge KV

fan days, and at the Belgian national day celebrations in Brussels on 21 July.

A street soccer tournament brought more opportunities to spread the word, with stands being set up and flyers distributed at events in Ostend, Leuven, Brussels, Marche en Famenne, Antwerp, Louvain La Neuve, Verviers, Hasselt and Charleroi.

More spectacularly, a 'tifo' - a piece of fan choreography involving supporters raising placards in the stadium to make a huge picture - was arranged at various national team, Under-21 and women's international matches to give another visual cue to would-be Futsal EURO customers, along with related displays on the LED screens at the stadiums for those matches.



Media interest high

News and views

From the official final tournament programme to up-to-the-minute news and video on UEFA.com and extensive promotion on social media, UEFA's communications team had UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 covered.

The 54-page official programme was produced ahead of the tournament and included guides to all 12 teams as well as a host of features and interviews. It was available in VIP areas at the arenas and complemented UEFA.com's coverage of the event. For all 20 fixtures in Antwerp a dedicated team of reporters produced pre- and post-match copy – previews, on-the-whistle reports and reaction complete with mixed-zone video interviews – in English, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Fans could also keep abreast of events on the pitch via the MatchCentre, which provided live updates from the venue, as well as via the UEFA.com app. Compared to UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 in Croatia, UEFA.com experienced a 78% increase (to almost 475,000) in unique visitors, with the number of page views rocketing by 45.6% to 2,879,549.

This edition of the competition was one of firsts in terms of Twitter coverage and video highlights. For the first time, UEFA.com had an official Twitter account, @UEFAFutsalEURO, up and running before the action started in Belgium, with 1,427 people signing up during the course of the 12-day event, swelling the number of followers to over 7,700. This complemented the already well-established Facebook page, which attracted 7,633 new likes throughout the tournament and was seen by 550,000 users.

From the quarter-finals onwards, UEFA.com provided a 30-second highlights package of every match, enabling fans to watch some of the spectacular goals scored at the Sportpaleis. In addition, a four-minute recap of an exciting group stage afforded supporters the opportunity to relive the drama that had taken place next door at Lotto Arena.



more unique visitors to UEFA.com compared to UEFA Futsal EURO 2012



people saw content posted by the official UEFA Futsal EURO Facebook page **7,700** followers of the official @UEFAFutsalEUR0 Twitter account

72

Eder Lima (left) and Robinho talk to a UEFA.com reporter after Russia's semi-final triumph

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In demand

A combination of affordable pricing, excellent promotion and a creative sales strategy ensured that matches at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 were well attended throughout the tournament.

In all, 34,639 tickets were sold, while attendance totalled 90,751 across the 20 matches at an average of 4,538 per game. Category one tickets cost €10 and category two tickets just €5, with Under-12s and disabled fans admitted free. Special promotions also helped to boost attendances, such as futsal clubs being offered six tickets for the price of four.

"Whenever people get to know about futsal they fall in love with it" Five of the ten matchdays sold out, and such was the demand for the final that extra tickets were released ahead of the game, with a tournament high 11,552 attending Italy's 3-1 win against Russia.

The impressive attendances were met with an enthusiastic response from players and coaches alike, and ensured an excellent atmosphere at both the Lotto Arena and Sportpaleis venues. "It was fantastic - that is the future of futsal," said Spain coach José Venancio. "Whenever people get to know about futsal they fall in love with it."

The high attendances also impressed winning coach Roberto Menichelli. "That is a personal satisfaction for the players, for us [coaches], and I think also for the sport of futsal," said the Italian. "If you look at the number of fans, it shows that it is a sport of high quality."

Venues



Capacity: 3,836

Group stage:

Lotto Arena

Total attendance: 38,651



Knockout stage: Sportpaleis Capacity: 12,450 Total attendance: **52,100**

For Portugal coach Jorge Braz the attendances were "fantastic, and we also had the privilege of having a lot of Portuguese there. It was the first European championship outside Portugal with so many expats supporting us in the hall and outside the hall and that of course gave us even more motivation, and made the moment even better."







UEFA's licensing programmes have a reputation for high-quality items and appealing design - and UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 lived up to those standards. A wellestablished and proven combination that has delivered successful on-site retail programmes for many UEFA events, sports manufacturer adidas and specialist retailer Intersport teamed up once again to purvey a fine range of official licensed products in Antwerp. adidas created a bespoke product line for the tournament: with designs based on the dynamic Futsal EURO brand, the official merchandise was exactly what the fans were looking for. The range consisted of T-shirts, polo shirts, caps, scarves, official match balls and replica balls. The ball was not just the hero in terms of sales, but also the key visual on most of the products adidas supplied for the championship. Intersport, meanwhile, installed a fully event-branded fan shop in each of the two venues at the finals. By picking prominent locations in high footfall areas, they made sure all supporters at Futsal EURO had easy access to official merchandise, reporting an impressive threefold sales increase compared with UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 in Croatia.





Next stop Belgrade

Serbia coach Aca Kovačević was a kev member of the UEFA technical team at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, but as he watched the tournament unfold in Antwerp, he also had one eye on the 2016 edition that will take place in his native Belgrade.

Captain of Yugoslavia from 1988 to 1996, Kovačević (right) has guided Serbia to the final tournament three times as coach and is already relishing the thought of leading out his side on home ground. "Futsal is a very popular sport in Serbia," he said. "Many people like to play. We have played in three European championships, played at the Futsal World Cup, and we rank very highly in the world and in Europe. Serbia didn't qualify here, but we will have a big chance in two years' time as hosts. I would like to make the semi-finals."

Serbia have never got that far before, yet Kovačević is aiming high. Under the 58-yearold's tutelage they did reach the quarterfinals in both 2010 and 2012, though he admits it will be a big challenge to advance any further – one that will require improving standards across the board from club level up. "Without a good national competition, we won't have a good national team," he said.

That work has started, on and off the court. "We are now in the phase of trying out young players," said Kovačević, who will build his side around captain and leader Marko Perić (below left). "We are planning lots of matches and training camps and only then will we know how many players will stay with the national squad. In terms of organisation [we have learned] how it all works, and for me as national coach of Serbia I can see new trends, a new wave in futsal. I hope that in my future work I can improve the Serbia team. There were a number of good matches in Antwerp, good tactics, good players the game is faster and faster."



Serbia will be the ninth country to hold a UEFA European Futsal Championship final tournament and are no strangers to staging such UEFA events, having also hosted the 2011 UEFA European Under-17 Championship finals. The proposed venues are the 6,000-seat Pionir Arena and the 18,386-capacity Belgrade Arena. Though details are to be confirmed, the finals are due to be played from 2 to 13 February 2016.

With every UEFA Futsal EURO serving as an important showcase for the sport, Kovačević is convinced futsal is growing "in Europe and all over the world. Futsal is developing, many new countries in Europe are starting to play the sport. We hope that in future we might see the likes of Germany, England and France becoming strong members of the futsal family. The 2014 tournament was very well organised, with lots of spectacular games, and the many, many people who came to watch will have enjoyed it." The baton now passes to Serbia, with Belgium having set a fine example to follow.

FUTSAL EURO
BELGIUM2014
Winners
2014 Italy
2012 Spain
2010 Spain
2007 Spain
2005 Spain
2003 Italy
2001 Spain
1999 Russia

IMPRESSUM

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This publication is issued by the UEFA President and Executive Office in coordination with the Competitions and National Associations divisions and UEFA Events SA (Operations and Marketing divisions).

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