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HUNGARIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Hungarian football has left its mark on the world stage. Even today, people remember the period five decades ago when the country's footballers set the pace both technically and tactically.

The first official match played in the central European state was between two teams from the Budapesti Torna Club on 9 May 1897. In the following years, the game grew in popularity, to the extent that in 1900 Budapest's city council considered a proposal banning the sport because of the many injuries incurred. However, on 19 January 1901, football gained further credibility as the Hungarian Football Federation (the Magyar Labdarúgók Szövetsége or MLSZ) was founded by 12 clubs in Budapest. That same year, the first championship was organised, and in 1902 the national team made their debut, losing 5-0 to Austria in Vienna.

The MLSZ existed independently in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and became a member of FIFA in 1906. After the first world war, and Hungarian independence, the federation reorganised itself: in 1921, it introduced compulsory injury insurance for players, and in 1926, the first division was allowed to turn professional. It was after the second world war that Hungarian football really bloomed, though.

Under the communist regime, the federation continued its work as a department of the Sport Office. The national team won Olympic gold in 1952, and the next year, with players of the calibre of Nándor Hidegkuti and Ferenc Puskás, beat England 6-3 at Wembley in a match still referred to as the 'Game of the Century'. After losing the 1954 World Cup final to the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary lost most of its legendary players. In 1956, Soviet soldiers crushed a Hungarian uprising. Many players emigrated and the political leadership stopped supporting football.

However, the country still enjoyed Olympic glory (gold medals in 1964 and 1968, silver in 1972, bronze in 1960), finished third at the 1964 European Nations' Cup and took fourth place at the 1972 UEFA European Championship. Flórián Albert was voted European Footballer of the Year in 1967. Clubs were successful too: Ferencvárosi TC won the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in 1965 and were runners-up in the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1975, while MTK finished second in the latter competition in 1964 and Videoton FCF runners-up in the 1985 UEFA Cup.

Since 1989, the MLSZ has functioned as a democratic self-governing organisation. With government support, important programmes involving stadium reconstruction and high-level coach training were launched. The Bozsik programme, a nationwide youth and football development project which started in 2002, has attracted thousands of children. They have also been supporting futsal, qualifying for their first UEFA European Futsal Championship in 2005 and hosting the finals in 2010.

VENUES

Főnix Arena Debrecen

Capacity: 6,500

Population: 204,297

City website: www.debrecen.hu

Arena website: www.fonixinfo.hu

The Hall

Opened in 2002, the Főnix became the second biggest sports hall in Hungary. A Debrecen landmark, it has staged the gymnastic world championships as well as ice hockey and futsal, not to mention a busy programme of music of all sorts from around the globe.

The city

Culturally, the eastern city of Debrecen ranks second only to Budapest in Hungary with famous schools and universities. The famous Nagytemplom church is the centre of Hungarian Protestantism and it is also called the 'Calvinist Rome'. Gastronomy is another strength while Hortobágy is an untouched traditional national park. Sport is represented by Hungarian titleholders and UEFA Champions League contenders Debreceni VSC, and handball teams.

Papp László Budapest Sportaréna

Capacity: 7,700

Population: 1,702,297

City website: www.budapestinfo.hu

Arena website: www.budapestarena.hu

The Arena

The new Sportarénais in keeping with the current trend in Budapest for space-age design. In fact, the state-of-the-art construction was unveiled in 2003 after the old sport hall burnt down in 1999. It is a multi-function plaza next to the Ferenc Puskás Stadium where the biggest rock stars and hip-hop bands are equally as welcome as classical ballet ensembles or the best handball, ice hockey and futsal teams. The arena is named after László Papp a Hungarian boxer who won three Olympic gold medal in 1948, 1952 and 1956.

The City

Budapest is a sparkling city of almost two million citizens in the heart of Central Europe. Situated by the River Danube it is especially famous for its embankment region with the castle, Parliament building and the famous Chain Bridge not to mention the breathtaking panorama from the hillside Buda. For many centuries it has been a cultural meeting point with a history in the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires, not to mention its basilica and one of the biggest synagogues in the continent. Football is, of course, a passion with the flat Pest side of the city boasting century-old forces Budapest Honvéd FC, Ferencvárosi TC, MTK Budapest, Újpest FC and Vasas SC.

MATCH SCHEDULE

UEFA European Futsal Championship hosts Hungary will kick off their campaign against Azerbaijan in Budapest's Papp László Sportaréna on 19 January, with the opening game at Debrecen's Főnix Arena the same day between Italy and Belgium.

Group games will continue with one per day at both venues, with Groups A and C in Budapest and B and D in Debrecen. The top two in each group progress to the quarter-finals, spread between the two venues on 25 and 26 January. Debrecen will then stage the rest of the tournament, with the semi-finals on 28 January and the third-place match and final two days later.

2010 UEFA European Futsal Championship match schedule

Kick-off times CET, matches live or delayed on Eurosport 2

Date	Group/Stage	Match	Venue	Kick-off
Tue 19 Jan	A	Hungary – Azerbaijan	Budapest	17.30
Tue 19 Jan	B	Italy – Belgium	Debrecen	19.00
Wed 20 Jan	C	Russia – Slovenia	Budapest	20.00
Wed 20 Jan	D	Spain – Belarus	Debrecen	18.00
Thu 21 Jan	A	Azerbaijan – Czech Republic	Budapest	18.00
Thu 21 Jan	B	Belgium – Ukraine	Debrecen	20.00
Fri 22 Jan	C	Slovenia – Serbia	Budapest	18.00
Fri 22 Jan	D	Belarus – Portugal	Debrecen	20.00
Sat 23 Jan	A	Czech Republic – Hungary	Budapest	20.30
Sat 23 Jan	B	Ukraine – Italy	Debrecen	18.30
Sun 24 Jan	C	Serbia – Russia	Budapest	20.30
Sun 24 Jan	D	Portugal – Spain	Debrecen	18.30
Mon 25 Jan	Quarter-final 1	Winners A – Runners-up B	Budapest	20.00
Mon 25 Jan	Quarter-final 2	Runners-up A – Winners B	Debrecen	18.00
Tue 26 Jan	Quarter-final 3	Winners C – Runners-up D	Budapest	19.30
Tue 26 Jan	Quarter-final 4	Runners-up C – Winners D	Debrecen	17.30
Thu 28 Jan	Semi-final 1	Winners QF1 – Winners QF3	Debrecen	17.30
Thu 28 Jan	Semi-final 2	Winners QF2 – Winners QF4	Debrecen	20.00
Sat 30 Jan	3 rd place match	Losers SF1 – Losers SF2	Debrecen	18.00
Sat 30 Jan	Final	Winners SF1 – Winners SF2	Debrecen	20.30

TICKETS

Tickets for the 2010 UEFA European Futsal Championship are on sale.

Schedule

The competition runs from 19-30 January, with 12 teams competing at Debrecen's 6,500-capacity Fónix Arena and Budapest's 7,700-seater Papp László Sportaréna.

Prices

All tickets are prices in Hungarian florints (HUF), approximate euro prices are for information only.

Individual match tickets

Group stage, quarter-finals (Debrecen, Budapest)

Category 1: 2,700HUF (€9)

Category 2: 1,800HUF (€6)

Category 3: 900HUF (€3)

Group discount (min 20 people): 300HUF (€1)

Semi-finals, final (Debrecen only)

Category 1: 4,200HUF (€14)

Category 2: 2,800HUF (€9.30)

Category 3: 1,400HUF (€4.70)

Group discount (min 20 people): 300HUF (€1)

Season ('seat holder') tickets

Debrecen: 5.000HUF (€16.70)

Budapest: 4,000HUF (€13.30)

Sales channels

1) IBUSZ offices in Hungary

Until 29 January, open workdays 09.00-17.00CET

2) www.futsaleurotickets.com

Until 12.00CET on 30 January

Customers ordering tickets via the website will get a voucher to be exchanged against a ticket at the arena offices or at IBUSZ offices. Payment by credit card only, MasterCard is the preferred card of the 2010 UEFA European Futsal Championship.

3) Arena offices

15-30 January, from 10.00CET until kick-off (matchdays) or until 17.00CET (non-matchdays)

Customer service

Tel: +36 1 5779500 or +36 1 2660000

email: mlsz@mlsz.hu or interticket@interticket.hu

Open Mon-Fri, 09.00-18.00CET

QUALIFYING PHASE

Preliminary Round

Group A

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/02	Kazakhstan	5 - 2	England
19/02	Republic of Ireland	0 - 2	Cyprus
20/02	Cyprus	0 - 3	Kazakhstan
20/02	Republic of Ireland	2 - 0	England
22/02	England	4 - 2	Cyprus
22/02	Kazakhstan	5 - 0	Republic of Ireland

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Kazakhstan	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
England	3	1	0	2	6	9	3
Cyprus	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Republic of Ireland	3	1	0	2	2	7	3

Group B

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/02	Latvia	5 - 0	Estonia
19/02	Bulgaria	2 - 2	Armenia
20/02	Armenia	0 - 7	Latvia
20/02	Bulgaria	4 - 0	Estonia
22/02	Estonia	5 - 8	Armenia
22/02	Latvia	3 - 2	Bulgaria

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Latvia	3	3	0	0	15	2	9
Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Armenia	3	1	1	1	10	14	4
Estonia	3	0	0	3	5	17	0

Group C

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/02	Greece	3 - 0	Albania
19/02	Malta	1 - 3	Georgia
20/02	Malta	2 - 5	Albania
20/02	Georgia	0 - 5	Greece
22/02	Albania	0 - 3	Georgia
22/02	Greece	5 - 1	Malta

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Greece	3	3	0	0	13	1	9
Georgia	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Albania	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Malta	3	0	0	3	4	13	0

Group D

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/02	Israel	1 - 1	Turkey
19/02	Finland	4 - 2	Montenegro
20/02	Israel	2 - 3	Montenegro
20/02	Turkey	0 - 2	Finland
22/02	Montenegro	4 - 1	Turkey
22/02	Finland	2 - 3	Israel

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Finland	3	2	0	1	8	5	6
Montenegro	3	2	0	1	9	7	6
Israel	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Turkey	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

Qualifying Round

Group 1

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/03	Ukraine	4 - 2	Andorra
19/03	Romania	4 - 3	Netherlands
20/03	Netherlands	1 - 4	Ukraine
20/03	Romania	3 - 3	Andorra
22/03	Andorra	1 - 7	Netherlands
22/03	Ukraine	2 - 2	Romania

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Ukraine	3	2	1	0	10	5	7
Romania	3	1	2	0	9	8	5
Netherlands	3	1	0	2	11	9	3
Andorra	3	0	1	2	6	14	1

Group 2

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/03	Slovakia	6 - 4	Kazakhstan
19/03	Spain	7 - 0	Moldova
20/03	Moldova	1 - 5	Slovakia
20/03	Spain	7 - 0	Kazakhstan
22/03	Kazakhstan	1 - 1	Moldova
22/03	Slovakia	0 - 4	Spain

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	18	0	9
Slovakia	3	2	0	1	11	9	6
Kazakhstan	3	0	1	2	5	14	1
Moldova	3	0	1	2	2	13	1

Group 3

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/03	Czech Republic	4 - 4	Bosnia-Herzegovina
19/03	Croatia	2 - 0	Latvia
20/03	Czech Republic	2 - 0	Latvia
20/03	Bosnia-Herzegovina	2 - 3	Croatia
22/03	Latvia	2 - 0	Bosnia-Herzegovina
22/03	Croatia	2 - 3	Czech Republic

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Czech Republic	3	2	1	0	9	6	7
Croatia	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Latvia	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Bosnia-Herzegovina	3	0	1	2	6	9	1

Group 4

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/03	Italy	10 - 1	Georgia
19/03	Lithuania	0 - 6	Belarus
20/03	Belarus	0 - 3	Italy
20/03	Lithuania	0 - 4	Georgia
22/03	Georgia	0 - 2	Belarus
22/03	Italy	6 - 0	Lithuania

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	19	1	9
Belarus	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
Georgia	3	1	0	2	5	12	3
Lithuania	3	0	0	3	0	16	0

Group 5

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/03	Serbia	5 - 2	Greece
19/03	Belgium	6 - 0	F.Y.R. Macedonia
20/03	F.Y.R. Macedonia	2 - 3	Serbia
20/03	Belgium	4 - 1	Greece
22/03	Greece	2 - 2	F.Y.R. Macedonia
22/03	Serbia	3 - 4	Belgium

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Belgium	3	3	0	0	14	4	9
Serbia	3	2	0	1	11	8	6
Greece	3	0	1	2	5	11	1
F.Y.R. Macedonia	3	0	1	2	4	11	1

Group 6

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/03	Poland	0 - 5 (f)	Finland
19/03	Portugal	3 - 3	Azerbaijan
20/03	Azerbaijan	4 - 3	Poland
20/03	Portugal	2 - 1	Finland
22/03	Finland	1 - 5	Azerbaijan
22/03	Poland	1 - 8	Portugal

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Portugal	3	2	1	0	13	5	7
Azerbaijan	3	2	1	0	12	7	7
Finland	3	1	0	2	7	7	3
Poland	3	0	0	3	4	17	0

Group 7

Date	Home	Score	Away
19/03	Russia	7 - 1	Montenegro
19/03	France	2 - 3	Slovenia
20/03	Slovenia	0 - 2	Russia
20/03	France	4 - 6	Montenegro
22/03	Montenegro	1 - 7	Slovenia
22/03	Russia	2 - 0	France

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Russia	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
Slovenia	3	2	0	1	10	5	6
Montenegro	3	1	0	2	8	18	3
France	3	0	0	3	6	11	0

WARM-UP FRIENDLY MATCHES

The 12 contenders at the UEFA European Futsal Championship are warming up for the tournament with a busy programme of friendlies; uefa.com looks at all the results since qualifying finished in March. Not all details of all fixtures are confirmed and all are subject to change.

(**Key:** h - home, a - away, n - neutral)

GROUP A

Azerbaijan

18 December: **W 7-0** v Georgia (Baku tournament)

21 December: **W 4-3** v Turkey (Baku tournament)

Czech Republic

28 June: **D 5-5** v Mozambique (Grand Prix, Goiania, Brazil)

29 June: **W 7-3** v Peru (Grand Prix, Goiania, Brazil)

30 June: **L 0-7** v Brazil (Grand Prix, Goiania, Brazil)

2 July: **D 3-3 (aet, W 4-2 pens)** v Paraguay (Grand Prix quarter-final, Anapolis, Brazil)

3 July: **D 4-4 (aet, L 1-4 pens)** v Iran (Grand Prix semi-final, Goiania, Brazil)

4 July: **L 2-4** v Romania (Grand Prix third-place play-off, Anapolis, Brazil)

19 September: **D 3-3 (aet, L 2-3 pens)** v Slovakia (Debrecen tournament, semi-final)

20 September: **L 3-4** v Poland (Debrecen tournament, third-place play-off)

27 October: **D 4-4** v Netherlands (a, Den Bosch)

28 October: **D 4-4** v Netherlands (a, Den Bosch)

1 December: **L 1-2** v Russia (h, Chrudim)

2 December: **L 0-3** v Russia (h, Teplice)

Hungary

6 April: **W 5-3** v Croatia (Futsal Cup, Budapest)

7 April: **L 1-4** v Slovakia (Futsal Cup, Budapest)

8 April: **L 1-8** v Brazil (Futsal Cup, Budapest)

28 June: **W 6-2** v Guatemala (Grand Prix, Goiania, Brazil)

29 June: **D 1-1** v Angola (Grand Prix, Anapolis, Brazil)

30 June: **L 3-4** v Paraguay (Grand Prix, Goiania, Brazil)

2 July: **W 3-1** v Mozambique (Grand Prix, play-off, Goiania, Brazil)

3 July: **L 2-5** v Costa Rica (Grand Prix, play-off, Anapolis, Brazil)

4 July: **L 2-3** v Peru (Grand Prix, eleventh-place play-off, Goiania, Brazil)

19 September: **W 5-1** v Poland (Debrecen tournament, semi-final)

20 September: **D 1-1 (aet, L 4-5 pens)** v Slovakia (Debrecen tournament, final)

28 October: **W 3-1** v Greece (h, Budapest)

29 October: **W 2-1** v Greece (h, Ullo)

15 November: **L 0-6** v Brazil (a, Montes Claros)

16 November: **L 1-9** v Brazil (a, Guarulhos)

15 December: **W 1-0** v Croatia, (h, Gyongyos)

16 December: **D 2-2** v Croatia (h, Gyor)

12 January: v Finland (h, 5-5)

13 January: v Finland (h, 5-0)

Group B

Belgium

22 September: **D 2-2** v Romania (a, Deva)

23 September: **L 1-3** v Romania (a, Deva)

24 October: **W 3-2** v Slovenia (h, Liege)

25 October: **W 2-1** v Slovenia (h, Hasselt)
28 December: **L 0-4** v Serbia (Four Nations Tournament, Hasselt)
29 December: **L 0-5** v Russia (Four Nations Tournament, Hasselt)
14 January: v Iran (h, Lommel)
15 January: v Iran (h, Lommel)

Italy

15 June: **D 1-1** v Serbia (a, Kragujavec)
16 June: **W 3-1** v Serbia (a, Kragujavec)
23 September: **D 0-0** v Japan (a, Nagoya)
24 September: **W 4-3** v Japan (a, Osaka)
27 October: **W 7-2** v Belarus (h, Pesaro)
28 October: **W 5-2** v Belarus (h, Pesaro)
17 November: **W 2-0** v Poland (a, Tychy)
18 November: **W 3-2** v Poland (a, Katowice)
15 December: **W 2-0** v Romania (h, Montesilvano)
16 December: **W 4-2** v Romania (h, Chieti)

Ukraine

28 June: **W 4-0** v Ecuador (Grand Prix, Anapolis, Brazil)
29 June: **D 2-2** v Venezuela (Grand Prix, Anapolis, Brazil)
30 June: **L 1-3** v Argentina (Grand Prix, Anapolis, Brazil)
2 July: **D 1-1 (aet, L 3-5 pens)** v Iran (Grand Prix, quarter-final, Goiania, Brazil)
3 July: **W 4-2 (aet)** v Paraguay (Grand Prix, play-off, Goiania, Brazil)
4 July: **D 1-1 (aet, L 3-4)** v Argentina (Grand Prix, fifth-place play-off, Anapolis, Brazil)
26 November: **W 7-5** v Romania (a, Buzau)
27 November: **L 1-2** v Romania (a, Buzau)
11 January: v Poland (h, Lviv)
12 January: v Poland (h, Lviv)

Group C

Russia

18 October: **L 1-3** v Brazil (a, Campo Grande)
19 October: **L 0-6** v Brazil (a, Marechal Candido Rondon)
1 December: **W 2-1** v Czech Republic (a, Chrudim)
2 December: **W 3-0** v Czech Republic (a, Teplice)
28 December: **W 5-2** v Belarus (Four Nations Tournament, Hasselt)
29 December: **W 4-0** v Belgium (Four Nations Tournament, Hasselt)

Serbia

15 June: **D 1-1** v Italy (h, Kragujavec)
16 June: **L 1-3** v Italy (h, Kragujavec)
12 December: **W 6-1** v FYR Macedonia (a, Kumanovo)
13 December: **W 2-1** v FYR Macedonia (a, Veles)
28 December: **W 5-0** v Belgium (Four Nations Tournament, Hasselt)
29 December: **W 2-0** v Belarus (Four Nations Tournament, Hasselt)
14 January: v Brazil (h, Belgrade)
16 January: v Brazil (h, Kragujevac)

Slovenia

24 October: **L 2-3** v Belgium (a, Liege)
25 October: **L 1-2** v Belgium (a, Hasselt)
23 November: **L 2-3** v Iran (a, Tehran)
24 November: **L 2-3** v Iran (a, Tehran)
26 December: **W 6-1** v FYR Macedonia (h, Celje)

28 December: **L 2-5** v FYR Macedonia (h, Lasko)
14 January: v Romania (h, Tolmin)
15 January: v Romania (h, Tolmin)

Group D

Belarus

16 September: **W 2-1** v Libya (a, Tripoli)
17 September: **D 1-1** v Libya (a, Tripoli)
27 October: **L 2-7** v Italy (a, Pesaro)
28 October: **L 2-5** v Italy (a, Pesaro)
8 November: **L 0-8** v Brazil (a, Rio de Janeiro)
9 November: **L 0-9** v Brazil (a, Rio de Janeiro)
28 December: **L 2-5** v Russia (Four Nations Tournament, Hasselt)
29 December: **L 0-2** v Serbia (Four Nations Tournament, Hasselt)

Portugal

22 September: **W 1-0** v Thailand (h, Guarda)
23 September: **W 5-2** v Thailand (h, Guarda)
27 October: **L 1-4** v Brazil (a, Tondela)
28 October: **L 1-3** v Brazil (a, Viseu)

Spain

14 June: **W 7-0** v Guatemala (h, Ciudad Real)
29 September: **W 4-0** v Thailand (h, Pinto)
27 October: **W 6-2** v Romania (a, Brasov)
28 October: **W 3-1** v Romania (a, Targu Secuiesc)
28 December: **W 14-2** v Uzbekistan (h, Ibiza)
29 December: **W 9-1** v Uzbekistan (h, Santa Eulalia)
13 January: v Netherlands (h, Madrid)

AZERBAIJAN

The sport of mini-football, similar to futsal, was popular in the former Soviet Union and after independence Azerbaijan organised leagues. The national team entered the 1996 FIFA Futsal World Cup, but did not qualify, a constant theme until the 2009 UEFA European Futsal Championship.

They did have some useful results over the years, with narrow friendly defeats by Spain and Portugal, and they were unbeaten in 2007 qualifying, drawing with the Netherlands and eventual finalists Serbia and beating Finland 8-3. They only missed out on the 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cup play-off with a 3-2 loss to the Czech Republic, and under Alesio, a Brazilian coach who had much success at Kairat Almaty, Azerbaijan made it to Hungary this time around. On the domestic scene, Araz Naxçivan are dominant, while former Azerbaijan player Rafigu Alizade coached Russian giants MFK Dina Moskva.

How they qualified

Azerbaijan travelled to Portugal for Group 6 games and opening against the hosts only a last-minute Joel Queirós goal denied them victory in a **3-3** draw. The next day it was the other way round as Thiago Rodrigues's strike three minutes from time defeated Poland **4-3**. Finland were then beaten **5-1**, Thiago scoring two goals for the third game running. Portugal topped the group on goal difference but Azerbaijan comfortably qualified as one of the four best runners-up.

Key players

Naturalised Brazilian **Thiago Rodrigues** is one of a clutch of Araz players and leads the line. The pace of **Radzhab Faradzhzade**, a footballer with FK Standard Bakı, is vital and there is foreign-based talent in the shape of **Vitaliy Borisov**, who originally held a scholarship in Azerbaijani mini-football and now plays for Dina Moskva.

Tournament record

2007: Did not qualify
2005: Did not qualify
2003: Did not qualify
2001: Did not qualify
1999: Did not qualify
1996: Did not enter

Head coach: Alesio

Date of birth: 27 September 1968

Nationality: Brazilian

Playing career: Voltorantin Pernambuco, FC Barcelona (twice), Inter Ulbra Porto Alegre, CR Vasco de Gama, MFK Spartak Moskva, TTG-Java Yugorsk

Coaching career: MFK Spartak Moskva (player-coach), TTG-Java Yugorsk (player-coach), Kairat Almaty, Araz Naxçivan, Azerbaijan

José Alesio da Silva had plenty of success as a futsal player and is now making his name as a coach. His playing career began in his native Brazil with Voltorantin Pernambuco, winning two state championships before a 1993 transfer to FC Barcelona. In his first season in Spain he was voted the league's best player, but returned to Brazil in 1998 with Inter Ulbra Porto Alegre, helping his team win both the national and Rio de Janeiro state titles followed by the Interclubes international tournament. In 2000, he joined CR Vasco de Gama and again

immediately won Rio state and Brazilian titles before returning to Barcelona, then joining MFK Spartak Moskva, where he lifted the 2003/04 Russian Super Cup.

Alesio was appointed player-coach at Spartak and although he then went home to rejoin Ulbra, he was soon back in Russia in another player-coach role with TTG-Java Yugorsk. In 2007, Alesio was appointed coach of Kairat Almaty, leading them to the Kazakhstan title and the UEFA Futsal Cup finals before moving on to lead Azerbaijan, and securing their first qualification for a major tournament. He also coaches the nation's leading club, Araz Naxçivan, who beat Kairat 4-3 in November to reach the 2009/10 UEFA Futsal Cup finals, to be held in April.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Marat	Salyanski	29.05.1974	3	
GK	Andrey	Tveryankin	06.03.1967	3	1
DF	Vitaliy	Borisov	05.07.1982	1	
DF	Rizvan	Farzaliyev	01.09.1979	3	
DF	Felipe Ribeiro	Dos Santos	05.10.1978		
DF	Biro Jade Nilson Mashado	Dos Santos	24.01.1973	3	2
DF	Thiago Gabriel	Rodrigues Paz	26.08.1981	3	6
DF	Sergio ' Serjão ' Luis	Maciel Lucas	18.09.1979	3	2
FW	Sergey	Chuykov	04.09.1980		
FW	Edigleuson Alves	De Sousa	26.06.1984		
FW	Rajab	Farajzadeh	19.12.1980	3	
FW	Namig	Mammadkarimov	21.07.1980	3	

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

BELARUS

The sport of mini-football, similar to futsal, was popular in the former Soviet Union and in 1990, when FIFA codified the sport, the first Belarussian national competition was organised, won by FC Pagonya-Mensk Minsk. The Belarus Futsal Association was founded two years later and the national team made their bow on 5 June 1994, losing 2-1 to Ukraine in a Minsk friendly.

They were rarely close to major tournament qualification until the 2001 UEFA European Futsal Championship, denied 4-3 by Italy, and for the 2004 FIFA Futsal World Cup they made the play-offs but lost to Ukraine, similarly in 2008 against Russia. Their wait has been ended this time around.

How they qualified

Belarus gave notice of their intentions in their Group 4 opener in Kaunas when they dispatched hosts Lithuania **6-0**. They challenged Italy before losing **3-0** to the 2007 runners-up, but a **2-0** win against Georgia with goals from Aleksei Popov and Aliaksandr Haiduk ensured they were one of the four best runners-up to book places in Hungary.

Key players

Teamwork was the key to Belarus making it to the finals and they are not a squad of stars, but do have a solid backbone. **Aleksandr Savintsev** is their record cap-holder while FC Mapid Minsk colleague **Vladimir Levus** is the captain and top scorer. **Vadim Lushkovsk**, the Belarus league's best player of 2008/09, **Sergei Kuznetsov**, **Aleksei Popov** and **Dmitri Eliseev** are also among the key performers.

Tournament record

2007: Did not qualify
2005: Did not qualify
2003: Did not qualify
2001: Did not qualify
1999: Did not qualify
1996: Did not qualify

Head coach: Valeri Dosko

Date of birth: 17 June 1963

Coaching career: FC Stroyzakaz Minsk/FC Akademia Minsk, FC Dorozhnik Minsk, Belarus

Though 45-year-old FC Dorozhnik Minsk and Belarus coach Valeri Dosko never played at a professional level, he succeeded immediately as a coach. After taking charge of FC Stroyzakaz Minsk, later renamed FC Akademia Minsk, in 1992 Dosko led them to Belarussian title in his first season at the helm, and again in 1996/97.

Following that victory he moved to Dorozhnik securing title wins in 1998/99 and every season from 2001/02 until 2005/06. He has also led his current club in five UEFA Futsal Cup campaigns, making the eight-team second qualifying round in 2004/05. In 2002 he added the role of national coach to his Dorozhnik position, and has overseen a gradual improvement; the expansion of the UEFA European Futsal Championship finals to 12 teams for the 2010 edition proved an opportunity Belarus were more than willing to accept.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Andrei	Halauniou	04.09.1983		
GK	Artur	Navoichik	21.08.1984	3	
DF	Sergei	Kuznetsov	30.12.1973	3	
DF	Aleksandr	Savintsev	08.03.1974	3	
DF	Dmitri	Yeliseev	15.04.1978	3	1
DF	Aleksei	Yuraga	28.03.1983	3	
FW	Aleksandr	Chernik	30.10.1977		
FW	Aleksandr	Gayduk	17.05.1986	3	2
FW	Oleg	Gorbenko	15.10.1987		
FW	Anton	Gusakov	24.07.1989	1	
FW	Aleksandr	Komarov	05.06.1981	3	2
FW	Vladimir	Levus	10.09.1972	1	
FW	Andrei	Miranovich	12.08.1980		
FW	Aleksei	Popov	09.07.1982	3	2

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

BELGIUM

Belgium are one of the longest-serving futsal nations and have ended their seven-year exile from the finals by reaching the 2010 UEFA European Futsal Championship. The team made their bow as early as 22 April 1977, beating the Netherlands 7-2 in Genk, and the two nations played regularly before other countries entered the fray. Belgium took part in the early FIFA unofficial tournaments, finishing runners-up in the second in 1987, and two years later lost on penalties to Brazil in the inaugural FIFA Futsal World Cup semi-finals. After the Belgian Football Association took over the sport in 1991/92, the team reached the World Cup second group stage in 1996 and 2000.

They took bronze in the initial UEFA tournament of 1996, but their only UEFA European Futsal Championship qualifications have been in 1999 and 2003, both times securing just a single point. They missed out in 2005 and 2007, but are back this time, while at club level Action 21 Charleroi were a strong force in the early history of the UEFA Futsal Cup, reaching the first two finals in 2001/02 and 2002/03 before winning the trophy in 2004/05. In all there are around 1,100 futsal clubs in Belgium.

How they qualified

Belgium staged Group 5 in Antwerp and qualified in impressive style. They opened with a **6-0** defeat of FYR Macedonia, aided by a Karim Chaibai hat-trick. He scored twice as Belgium came from behind to beat Greece **4-1**, meaning they only needed a draw with Serbia, and they triumphed **4-3**.

Key players

Futsal Topsport Antwerpen's **Karim Bachar** has been the dominant player in recent years, already Belgium's all-time leading scorer and closing in on becoming the first player to 100 caps. Namesake **Karim Chaibai**, who joined Bachar at Antwerp in 2008 from former European champions Action 21 Charleroi, scored six of Belgium's 14 goals in qualifying.

Tournament record

2007: Did not qualify
2005: Did not qualify
2003: Group stage
2001: Did not qualify
1999: Group stage
1996: Third place

Head Coach: Benny Meurs

Date of birth: 26 June 1963

Playing career: (football) Stade Louvaniste, K. Berchem Sport, (futsal) TL Mortsel, Isola Hoeselt, ZVC Hove, GP Aartselaar

Coaching career: (football) K. Berchem Sport youth, KFC Sint-Job, SKR Leest, SC Merksem, (futsal) ZVK Affligem, Belgium Under-21, Belgium

Benny Meurs played in all of Belgium's national football divisions, including the top-flight with K. Berchem Sport, and appeared 12 times for the Belgium military team, with Luc Nilis among his colleagues, before taking up futsal aged 30.

He may have come to the small-sided sport late but his career burnt brightly. In 1995 he helped TL Mortsel to the Belgian Cup and a year later he was in the national side for UEFA's first European futsal tournament and converted a double

penalty to score the golden goal to earn third place against Italy for the highlight of his six caps. By 1998 he was already a qualified futsal coach and in 2000 he took the helm at ZVK Affligem, within two years taking them to the top division.

In 2000 he has also earned the UEFA A licence and became a futsal instructor at the Belgian Football Association academy. In 2002 he joined the Belgium set-up full time as U21 coach as assistant to national chief Damien Knabben and took over the senior side a year later. Moulding a well-organised team quick on the counterattack, his wait to reach a major final tournament was ended in 2009 with qualification for the following year's UEFA European Futsal Championship. Since 2005 he has also been a FIFA Futsal instructor, and initiated courses in Malaysia, Iceland, Germany, Tunisia, Zambia and Belarus.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	David	Morant	24.12.1977	3	
GK	Jonathan	Pagetta	10.03.1977	3	
DF	Mustapha	Aabbassi	20.03.1978	3	1
DF	Jonathan	Fossé	28.12.1985		
DF	Rodrigo Angelo	Marques Coimbra ' Zico '	13.04.1976	3	2
DF	Jonathan	Neukermans	14.04.1983	3	
DF	Ahmed	Sababti	10.12.1985		
FW	Yassine	Achahbar	26.10.1988	3	1
FW	Karim	Bachar	11.08.1975	3	2
FW	Karim	Chaibai	05.10.1982	3	6
FW	André Luiz	De Oliveira Vanderlei	27.06.1978	1	
FW	Marco	Ferrian	10.05.1985	3	1
FW	Lúcio Carlos	Lima Rosa	04.07.1975	3	
FW	Saad	Salhi	14.05.1987		

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The former Czechoslovakia were among the earliest nations to play futsal competitively, and in recent years their successor nation to the west have risen to the highest European level. Czechoslovakia's first international was an 8-2 defeat by Belgium in 1983, but they were never a top-class force.

The Czech Republic, however, began life in October 1992 by winning an international tournament against Russia, Poland and Latvia, and indeed were victorious in their first six matches. However, it was not until Michal Stříž became coach that they qualified for a major event, the 2001 UEFA European Futsal Championship, and in Russia they drew 3-3 with the Netherlands before losing to Italy and the hosts. Two years later they reached the semi-finals, losing 5-1 to Ukraine and qualified for the 2004 FIFA Futsal World Cup. As European hosts in 2005 they missed out on the last four but they also qualified in 2007 and for the 2008 World Cup.

How they qualified

For the second European Championship running, it all came down to a qualifying decider against Croatia for the Czech Republic. They trailed Bosnia-Herzegovina 3-1 and 4-2 during their Group 3 opener in Ostrava, and needed late Lukáš Rešetár and Marek Kopecký goals for a **4-4** draw. Martín Dlouhý and Rešetár struck in a **2-0** defeat of Latvia, but a win was now needed against Croatia, who the Czech Republic beat 5-1 in Split to make the 2007 finals. It was 1-1 with a minute to go when Croatia's Tihomir Novak rolled the ball into an empty net. It seemed over, but in the dying seconds Dlouhý struck twice, either side of Novak being sent off for a foul on Marek Kopecký, for an incredible **3-2** victory.

Key players

The hero of that decisive qualifier, **Martin Dlouhý**, captains the side and is the all-time most-capped player and record scorer. **Marek Kopecký** showed good form in the recent Grand Prix in Brazil, claiming six goals to help the Czech Republic to the semi-finals, while brothers **Roman Mareš** and **Michal Mareš** remain important to the team as do **Lukáš Rešetár** and **Tomáš Sluka**.

Tournament record

2007: Group stage
2005: Group stage
2003: Semi-finals
2001: Group stage
1999: Did not qualify
1996: Did not qualify

Head coach: Tomáš Neumann

Date of birth: 22 September 1970

Playing career: FK Viktoria Žižkov

Coaching career: FK Viktoria Žižkov, Czech Republic Under-21, Czech Republic

Tomáš Neumann, born on 22 September 1970, was one of the most popular futsal players in the Czech Republic before becoming a respected coach. A former AC Sparta Praha football trainee before his switch to futsal, he played for FK Viktoria Žižkov from 1991 to 2000, winning the league title in 1996 and 1999. Neumann was Czech player of the year in 1993, 1995 and 1997, capping that a couple of years later when he was named Czech futsal player of the century. The

top Czech league goalscorer in 1994, 1995 and 1996, he struck 288 goals in 195 domestic games, and 26 in 46 international caps.

Neumann retired from playing to step up to become Viktoria coach in 2000, and two years later was appointed to the helm of the Czech Under-21 team. In 2005 he succeeded senior coach Michal Stříž after the UEFA European Futsal Championship and at his first attempt guided his country to the 2007 European finals, a tournament he never graced as a player, and the next year they went to the 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Libor	Gerčák	22.07.1975		
GK	Tomáš	Meller	11.11.1975	3	
DF	Vít	Blažej	15.12.1978		
DF	David	Frič	17.02.1983	2	
DF	Josef	Havel	12.02.1982		
DF	Marek	Kopecký	19.02.1977	3	1
DF	Radovan	Kroulík	30.07.1977	2	
DF	Jiří	Novotný	12.07.1988	3	
FW	Michal	Belej	16.11.1982		
FW	Martin	Dlouhý	03.03.1975	3	4
FW	Jan	Janovský	20.06.1985	3	
FW	Radek	Polášek	02.08.1984		
FW	Lukáš	Rešetár	28.04.1984	3	2
FW	Zdeněk	Sláma	28.12.1982	3	1

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

HUNGARY

Hungary bring nearly 25 years' history in the sport to the hosting of the 2010 UEFA European Futsal Championship. Their debut international was on 18 November 1986, beating Peru 8-3 in Budapest in FIFA's first unofficial futsal tournament, which Hungary went on to win, beating the likes of Spain and Italy. A decade later their first league was set up with two divisions, and in 2001/02 Cső-Montage Budapest FC reached the eight-team final tournament of the first UEFA Futsal Cup.

In modern competitions, Hungary were at the first FIFA Futsal World Cup in 1989, opening with a 3-2 win against eventual champions Brazil but falling in the second group stage. It was some time before their next qualification, for the 2005 European Championship with 4-2 defeats of Latvia, Greece and Croatia, though they did not secure a point in the finals. Undergoing an intense programme of 2009 friendlies, Hungary hope to do better on home territory.

Key players

Most of the players, certainly the starting five, will be familiar from the 2005 finals. **Zoltán Balázs** is a top-class goalkeeper while **Zsolt Gyurcsányi** and **Tamás Lódi** are the leading players. **János Madarász** and **Szabolcs Tóth** have Romanian league experience.

Tournament record

2007: Did not qualify

2005: Group stage

2003: Did not qualify

2001: Did not qualify

1999: Did not qualify

1996: Did not qualify

Head coach: Mihály Kozma

Date of birth: 7 November 1956

Playing career: Debrecen VSC

Coaching career: Debrecen VSC, Hungary (assistant), Cső-Montage Budapest FC, Hungary, ACS Odorheiu Secuiesc

Not only is Mihály Kozma a futsal expert, but also a professional art historian. He began coaching in his home town of Debrecen, where the UEFA European Futsal Championship final will be played, and in 1997 became the Hungary assistant. Kozma then took over Cső-Montage Budapest FC, leading them to the 2000/01, 2001/02 and 2002/03 Hungarian doubles, also reaching the eight-team finals of the inaugural UEFA Futsal Cup in the middle season.

In 2003 he was appointed to the Hungary helm and took them to their European finals debut in Ostrava in 2005 where they performed admirably in a group containing holders Italy, eventual winners Spain and Portugal. He also now coaches ACS Odorheiu Secuiesc in a Hungarian-speaking region of Romania, where with several national-team charges in the ranks they won the 2007/08 league title. Kozma's sides are well-organised and play on the counter, in Hungary's case based around central striker János Madarász holding the ball up.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB
GK	Zoltán	Balázs	29.06.1979
GK	Zoltán	Reveland	31.05.1980
DF	András	Angyalos	21.02.1982
DF	Norbert	Lovas	28.04.1985
DF	Gábor	Nagy	21.12.1974
DF	Tamás Norbert	Nagy	10.03.1986
DF	Péter Pál	Sivák	14.08.1985
DF	Szabolcs	Tóth	30.04.1975
DF	János	Trencsényi	02.07.1980
FW	Zoltán	Dróth	14.09.1988
FW	Zsolt	Gyurcsányi	28.04.1980
FW	Tamás	Lódi	02.09.1982
FW	János	Madarász	14.05.1974
FW	Csaba	Peczár	30.01.1985

ITALY

Italy was one of the first countries in Europe to embrace futsal as a competitive sport so it is appropriate that in 2003 they were added to the roll of honour as continental champions. The Italian championship began in 1983, won by Roma Barilla, although the first Azzurri team in the international ranks did beat Libya 9-2 in the capital, Rome, in July 1974. However, they began playing in earnest in 1981 and the following year were eighth in the inaugural unofficial world cup. They also entered the first FIFA event in 1989, reaching the second group stage.

However, things really took off when the 32-year-old Alessandro Nuccorini became coach in July 1997. Two years later they reached the semi-finals of the inaugural UEFA European Futsal Championship and repeated the trick a year later, losing to Spain and Ukraine respectively. In 2003 Italy were chosen as hosts and took full advantage of that honour with victory in Caserta. The next year Spain beat them in the 2004 FIFA World Cup final, a feat they replicated in the 2007 European decider. Nuccorini stepped down this year, replaced by assistant Roberto Menichelli.

How they qualified

Italy travelled to Kaunas for Group 4 and opened with a comfortable **10-1** defeat of Georgia, Baptistella scoring a hat-trick as one of six players to find the target. That included Saad Assis and Assad Fabiano, who along with Baptistella secured a **3-0** win against Belarus and qualification with a game to spare. Hosts Lithuania were then dispatched **6-0**, Baptistella taking his personal mini-tournament tally to six goals with two more.

Key players

Baptistella stole the headlines during qualifying as the Arzignano Grifo C/5 striker, who helped Italy to 2008 World Cup bronze, scored six goals in three matches. Veteran goalkeeper **Alexandre Feller** remains a stalwart while Menichelli also expects much from captain **Nando Grana**, the most capped player, and another 2003 veteran, **Luca Ippoliti**.

Tournament record

2007: Runners-up
2005: Third place
2003: **Winners** (hosts)
2001: Fourth place
1999: Third place
1996: Fourth place

Head coach: Roberto Menichelli

Date of birth: 14 January 1963

Playing career: Almas Roma (football), Torino SC, Roma Barilla, Helios, Villa Aurelia

Coaching career: Italy B, Italy Under-21, Italy

Roberto Menichelli had 13 years' experience, the whole of his coaching career, at the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) before stepping up to lead the national team last spring. A useful fourth-tier footballer with Almas Roma, he found most success in the small-sided game. He helped Torino SC to the Italian title in 1993 and 1994 as well as five cup successes and was called 28 times, playing for the Azzurri at the 1992 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Hong Kong.

A graduate in Motor Science and a teacher at the Coverciano coaching school and the University Foro Italico in Rome, he has worked for the FIGC since 1996 in a number of roles. He was assistant and fitness coach of the senior futsal team under Alessandro Nuccorini, winners of the 2003 UEFA European Futsal Championship, and was technical assistant of the host nation at the football UEFA European Under-17 Championship in Italy. He also led the Under-21 side before stepping up to coach the senior squad after Nuccorini's departure on the eve of qualifying for this tournament. Initially in caretaker charge, victories against Georgia, Belarus and Lithuania took Italy to the finals and ensured Menichelli's own presence in Hungary.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Alexandre	Feller	28.09.1971	3	
GK	Stefano	Mammarella	02.02.1984	3	
DF	Vincenzo	Botta	03.09.1984		
DF	Gabriel	De Oliveira Lima	19.08.1987		
DF	Marco	Ercolessi	15.05.1986	2	2
DF	Marcio Venicius	Forte	23.04.1977	3	
DF	Luca	Ippoliti	31.10.1979		
DF	Patrick	Nora	16.05.1979	3	2
DF	Vinicius	Omori Duarte	13.12.1982	2	1
FW	Saad	Assis	26.10.1979	3	2
FW	Vinicius	Bácaro	20.08.1978		
FW	Clayton Renato	Baptistella	07.12.1983	3	6
FW	Cristian	Rizzo	02.02.1991		
FW	Sergio	Romano	28.09.1987	3	

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

PORTUGAL

Portuguese futsal dates back to the late 1980s, with the national league – a cup competition for the first two campaigns – kicking off in the 1990/91 season. The national team made their bow in February 1987 in a FIFA tournament in La Coruna, losing to Spain in their opener but defeating the United States among their four games. However, it was not until 1999 that they finally made a major finals, the UEFA European Futsal Championship, where they drew with Belgium and Italy but lost to eventual champions Russia.

Their finest hour, under new coach Orlando Duarte, came a year later in the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Guatemala, where they reached the semi-finals, losing 8-0 to Brazil but beating Russia 4-2 for bronze. Duarte has remained in charge since, leading them to the 2004 and 2008 World Cup second group stage and the 2007 European semi-finals as hosts in Porto.

How they qualified

Portugal had a rude awakening in their opening Group 6 game in Viana Castelo, needing a last-minute Joel Queirós goal to hold Azerbaijan **3-3**. The next day they trailed Finland at the break before Joel Queirós's penalty and Leitão's winner with four minutes left made it **2-1**. It was more comfortable in the last match, though, as Poland were beaten **8-1** to ensure first place on goal difference, Joel Queirós taking his qualifying tally to five.

Key players

The strength starts at the back where Sporting Clube de Portugal goalkeeper **João Benedito** ensures plenty of quality and experience. SL Benfica have a strong presence in the team with **Arnaldo, Gonçalo Alves, Pedro Costa** and the revelation of the 2007 finals, **Ricardinho**. The Spanish league provides more depth with CD Burela FS striker **Israel** and MRA Navrara's **Joel Queirós**.

Tournament record

2007: Fourth place (hosts)
2005: Group stage
2003: Group stage
2001: Did not qualify
1999: Group stage
1996: Did not qualify

Head coach: Orlando Duarte

Date of birth: 5 April 1957

Playing career:

Coaching career: Atlético Clube de Portugal, Sporting Clube de Portugal, Portugal

A Portuguese Football Federation coach since 1994 and responsible for the national squad since 2000, 52-year-old Orlando Duarte is widely regarded as the man behind their rise to European futsal's élite. Duarte's club coaching career dates back to the 1987/88 season when he joined Lisbon's Atlético Clube de Portugal, winning two regional titles. Sporting Clube de Portugal came knocking on his door in 1991 and Duarte went on to win five Portuguese championships in nine seasons, with his growing reputation also earning him a role as a FIFA instructor.

In 2000 he took over the national team and in his competitive bow in the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Guatemala led Portugal to their first semi-final, eventually beating European champions Russia 4-2 for third place. Although missing out on the next year's UEFA European Futsal Championship finals, they made it in 2003, drawing with Spain, losing to Ukraine and beating Belgium. Pipped to the last four in the following year's World Cup and the 2005 European finals, they hosted the continental event in 2007 and only fell in the semis on penalties against Spain. Duarte also led them to the 2004 and 2008 World Cups.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals	
GK	André	Melo	Bandeira Almeida Sousa	25.02.1986		
GK	João	Paulo	Feliciano N. Benedito	01.10.1978	2	
GK	Euclides	Gomes Vaz 'Bebé'	19.05.1983	3		
DF	Joaão	Nuno	Alves Matos	21.02.1987		
DF	Gonçalo	Nuno	Borges F. Gomes Alves	01.07.1977	3	1
DF	Israel	Fernando	Da Costa Alves	31.01.1977	2	1
DF	Pedro	Miguel	Fangueiro São Payo Cary	10.05.1984		
MF	Paulo Jorge	Camões Martins 'Paulinho'	12.03.1983			
MF	Arnaldo	Augusto	Rodrigues Pereira	16.06.1979	3	
MF	Pedro	Alexandre	Silva Da Costa	18.12.1978	3	
MF	Evandro		Vieria De Souza	10.11.1981		
FW	Fernando Alberto	Dos Santos Cardinal	26.06.1985	3	3	
FW	Fernando	Gomes Leitão	03.01.1981	3	2	
FW	Joel	Ricardo	Ribeiro Queirós	21.05.1982	3	5

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

RUSSIA

Mini-football developed in the Soviet Union during the 1950s in the Latvian Republic. It soon boomed as a winter sport but until the 1980s there were no unified rules or official status, though pan-Soviet competitions were organised. The modern game 'futsal' was introduced in 1990 with the formation of a committee inside the Soviet Football Federation and then the Russian Football Union after the end of the USSR, though before that a league championship was held, won by MFC KSM-24 Moskva, with MFK Dina Moskva then gaining victory in a Commonwealth of Independent States competition in 1992.

At club level, Dina dominated from 1993 until 2000, but after the Russian Super League began in 2003, MFK Dinamo Moskva took every title until MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg's 2008/09 success, that duo also winning the UEFA Futsal Cup in 2006/07 and 2007/08 respectively. On the international stage, Russia made their FIFA Futsal World Cup debut in 1992 and took the bronze medal four years later. They reached the final of the first European Futsal Tournament in 1996, but three years later they turned the tables on Spain to claim the renamed UEFA European Futsal Championship in Granada on penalties, after a superb performance by Russian legend Konstantin Eremenko, who is now president of Dinamo. They also reached the 2005 final, losing to Spain, and made the last four in 2007 and in the 2008 World Cup, after which Oleg Ivanov stepped down as coach, replaced by Sergey Skorovich.

How they qualified

Skorovich took the helm in time for Group 7 in France, and Montenegro were dispatched **7-1** with Aleksandr Fukin, Vladislav Shayakhmetov and Cirilo all striking twice. A **2-0** win against Slovenia then sealed qualification with a game to spare, Pula scoring both goals, and it was also **2-0** against France thanks to Shayakhmetov and Konstantin Maevski.

Key players

With one of the strongest leagues in the world, Russia have plenty of talent to pick from. Skorovich's MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg supply the likes of goalkeeper **Sergei Zuev**, **Aleksei Mokhov**, **Pavel Chistopolov** and **Damir Khamadiev** while from MFK Dina Moskva come **Vladislav Shayakhmetov**, **Konstantin Maevski** and Brazilian-born duo **Cirilo** and **Pula**, top scorers respectively in the 2007 European and 2008 World Cup finals. **Aleksandr Prudnikov**, of Ekaterinburg, helped Russia win the inaugural UEFA European Under-21 Futsal Tournament in St Petersburg last year.

Tournament record

2007: Third place
2005: Runners-up
2003: Group stage
2001: Third place (hosts)
1999: **Winners**
1996: Runners-up

Other honours

2008: UEFA European Under-21 Futsal Tournament winners (hosts)

Head coach: Sergei Skorovich

Date of Birth: 05.04.1973

Nationality: Russian

Playing career: (football) FC Avtomobilist Kokand, FC Trion-Volga Tver, FC Uralets Nizhny Tagil, FC Uralmash Ekaterinburg; (futsal) MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg

Coaching career: MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg (reserves), MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg, Russia

Russia coach Sergei Skorovich made his name with huge success in his debut managerial role at MFK Viz-Sinara Ekaterinburg. Originally a football defender, Skorovich began his career with FC Avtomobilist Kokand in Uzbekistan, and at one point had trials with FC Spartak Moskva. That move never went through and he continued his career in the lower divisions, most notably with FC Uralmash Ekaterinburg. In 1995, Skorovich switched to futsal and signed for Viz-Sinara, helping them to league runners-up slots in 1997/98 and 1998/99.

Skorovich retired from playing in 2002, initially to coach Ekaterinburg reserves before taking over the first team in June 2005. In his first two seasons at Viz-Sinara the club were league runners-up behind MFK Dinamo Moskva and in 2006/07 they lifted the Russian Cup. As league champions Dinamo won the UEFA Futsal Cup that year, Ekaterinburg earned a European bow for last season and three second qualifying round wins took Skorovich's side into the final four, where they defeated Kairat Almaty and ElPozo Murcia FS to lift the trophy. They reached the final again in 2008/09, though were beaten by Interviú Madrid; by then Skorovich had been given the role of Russian national coach alongside his club position, aiding them through 2010 UEFA European Futsal Championship qualifying. He was confirmed as coach for the finals in August.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Gennadi	Garagulya	27.01.1981		
GK	Sergei	Zuev	20.02.1980	3	
DF	Vagner	Kaetano ' Pula '	02.12.1980	3	2
DF	Damir	Khamadiev	30.07.1981	3	
DF	Konstantin	Maevski	05.10.1979	3	1
FW	Denis	Abyshev	09.10.1978		
FW	Konstantin	Agapov	18.10.1986	3	
FW	Pavel	Chistopolov	15.03.1984	2	1
FW	Aleksandr	Fukin	26.03.1985	2	2
FW	Sirilo Tadeus	Kardozo Filo ' Cirilo '	20.01.1980	3	2
FW	Sergei	Sergeev	28.06.1983		
FW	Vladislav	Shayakhmetov	25.08.1981	3	3
FW	Konstantin	Timoschenkov	02.03.1983	3	

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

SERBIA

The former Yugoslavia entered the international futsal world in December 1987 with a two-game friendly series in Italy and although they lost their debut 4-2, a day later they won 5-1. Five years later they qualified for the 1992 FIFA Futsal World Cup, but international sanctions denied them a chance to compete. Returning to action in 1995, they made a final tournament debut at the 1999 UEFA European Futsal Championship

Subsequent results were mixed, and for three years from January 2004 they played just once, a 5-0 loss in Spain as Serbia and Montenegro in February 2006. But the separate Serbia entered 2007 EURO qualifying under former captain Aca Kovačević and earned a finals place, performing respectably by narrowly losing 5-3 to Russia, holding Spain 1-1 and beating Ukraine 3-2.

How they qualified

Serbia travelled to Antwerp for Group 5 and started by beating Greece **5-2**, Marko Perić claiming two of the goals. It proved tight against FYR Macedonia, as a two-goal lead was wiped out before Borko Surudžić ensured a **3-2** win. Victory against hosts Belgium was still required to top the group but Serbia were to lose **4-3**. However, by reducing arrears with three minutes left, Bojan Pavićević ensured Serbia pipped Slovakia to the finals as one of the four best runners-up by a single goal.

Key players

The key to the team is influential 25-year-old MFK Dina Moskva forward **Marko Perić**, who was inspired in the 2007 finals in Portugal. **Mladen Kocić** is also emerging as a fine prospect.

Tournament record (inc Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro)

2007: Group stage
2005: Did not qualify
2003: Did not qualify
2001: Did not qualify
1999: Group stage
1996: Did not qualify

Head coach: Aca Kovačević

Date of birth: 27 August 1955

Playing career: Mungosi (now KMF Marbo Beograd), Hellas Verona C/5

Coaching career: Serbia

Aca Kovačević was the greatest futsal player in the history of the former Yugoslavia. For 15 years he captained Belgrade side Mungosi – now KMF Marbo Beograd – and in 1994 had a season with Italian side Hellas Verona C/5. He also captained Yugoslavia from 1988 until 1996, qualifying for the 1992 FIFA Futsal World Cup before they were excluded from the finals.

Kovačević, who now runs a private futsal school in Belgrade and has also written a book on the game, was appointed Serbia coach on 1 December 2006. The team had played just once since their last UEFA European Futsal Championship qualifying campaign in January 2004, but Kovačević immediately masterminded a friendly draw with Ukraine and defeats of Poland and Moldova and in the spring they qualified for the 2007 finals, their first appearance since 1999 in the guise of

Yugoslavia. In Porto they exited in the group stage despite holding Spain 1-1 and beating Ukraine, but Kovačević has now led them to the finals again.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Vladimir	Ranisavljević	10.02.1975	3	
GK	Ivan	Stojanović	26.05.1977	3	
DF	Milan	Bogdanović	29.06.1975	2	
DF	Vidan	Bojović	27.06.1979	3	
DF	Bojan	Pavicević	20.10.1975	3	2
DF	Aleksandar	Tomin	17.06.1979		
FW	Željko	Borojević	18.11.1972	3	
FW	Slobodan	Janjić	17.02.1987		
FW	Mladen	Kocić	22.10.1988	2	
FW	Vladimir	Lazić	19.06.1984	1	
FW	Vladimir	Milosavac	01.12.1985		
FW	Marko	Perić	05.02.1984	3	2
FW	Slobodan	Rajčević	28.02.1985	3	1
FW	Milan	Rakić	12.02.1980	2	2

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

SLOVENIA

Slovenia are one of several nations to emerge from the former Yugoslavia with futsal as a popular winter sport and they are in their second final tournament at this level, following an impressive improvement in the last decade. They first played as an independent nation in September 1995, drawing 1-1 and losing 3-0 in Slovakia, and their competitive debut was a 3-2 defeat of Belarus in 1996 FIFA Futsal World Cup qualifying.

At the start of the decade they were getting closer to a maiden qualification, pipped 3-1 by Croatia to the 2001 UEFA European Futsal Championship finals, and two years later they made it by beating Greece, Armenia and the Netherlands, though lost all three games in Italy. For the 2005 finals, Slovenia were in a qualifying group with Spain but only missed out on goal difference after a 3-3 draw, and in 2007 were pipped in a three-way tie-break by Romania in a thrilling group. The expansion of the finals to 12 teams proved a bonus this time, though, while they also qualified for the first UEFA European Under-21 Futsal Tournament in 2008. At club level KMN Svea Lesna Litija were among the last eight of the 2004/05 UEFA Futsal Cup.

How they qualified

Slovenia travelled to France for Group 7, and at half-time against the hosts in their opener found themselves 2-0 down. Slaviša Goranović, Gašper Vrhovec and Gorazd Drobnič averted disaster by ensuring a **3-2** win, meaning a **2-0** loss to Russia the next day, although it ended their hopes of topping the group, did not kill off their chances of being one of the four best runners-up. And Slovenia ensured they were in that quartet by beating Montenegro **7-1** despite trailing until the 15-minute mark.

Key players

Captain **Benjamin Melink** is at the heart of the side and his club, Slovenian champions KMN Puntar, provide the core of the squad, including **Rajko Uršič**. Meanwhile KMN Gorica duo **Gorazd Drobnič** and **Slaviša Goranović** provide goals.

Tournament record

2007: Did not qualify
2005: Did not qualify
2003: Group stage
2001: Did not qualify
1999: Did not qualify
1996: Did not qualify

Head coach: Andrej Dobovicnik

Date of birth: 14 October 1967

Playing career: EM Pelikani, KMN Juventus, KMN Mizarstvo Širovnik, KMN Dobovec

Coaching career: EM Pelikani, Slovenia

Father-of-two Andrej Dobovicnik is an economics graduate and works for a leading telecommunications firm but his passion is sport, and especially futsal; indeed he continues to play in tournaments with his contemporaries.

Most of his playing career was spent at EM Pelikani of Celjem who he joined in 1981 and remained until 1995, when he moved to Mila club KMN Juventus, winning the Slovenian title in his first season. In 1997 he joined Kroselj side KMN Mizarstvo Širovnik and another league crown followed, and he performed the trick for the third time on his Pelikani return in 1999/00.

Dobovicnik ended his playing career in 2004 and was soon Pelikani coach. In November 2005 he took the helm of the national team and at his second attempt led them to the UEFA European Futsal Championship finals for 2010 after a narrow failure in 2007.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Aljoša	Mohorič	26.11.1980	3	
GK	Alan	Pertovt	15.08.1973	3	
DF	Gorazd	Drobnič	18.06.1977	3	2
DF	Igor	Kragelj	23.12.1980	2	
DF	Benjamin	Melink	15.11.1982	3	
DF	Miha	Osojnik	29.03.1980	3	1
DF	Boštjan	Uršič	18.10.1979	3	
FW	Siniša	Brkič	27.11.1983	2	
FW	Kristjan	Čujec	30.11.1988	3	1
FW	Slaviša	Goranovič	17.07.1978	3	3
FW	Igor	Osredkar	28.06.1986		
FW	Danijel	Pantič	02.12.1987		
FW	Damir	Pertič	10.07.1981		
FW	Jaka	Sovdat	02.06.1983	2	

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

SPAIN

Spain are the dominant futsal power in the continent and will be aiming for their third straight UEFA European Futsal Championship. It was in 1979/80 that the first league championship was introduced in Spain under the former Federación de Fútbol Sala, a cup competition following in 1983. The national league soon split into two divisions after the Liga Nacional de Fútbol Sala (LNFS) was founded in 1989, 16 clubs in the División de Honor and 47 in the División de Plata divided into three groups. Interviú Madrid have been the dominant club with 16 titles, including eight since the start of the LNFS, and ten cups, not to mention a record three UEFA Futsal Cups.

The national team, meanwhile, have vied with Brazil for the title of world's best for more than a decade. Under Javier Lozano, who took over in 1992, they won the UEFA European Futsal Championship in 1996, 2001 and 2005 and two FIFA Futsal World Cups in 2000 and 2004, breaking Brazil's stranglehold on the trophy. And when José Venancio López succeeded Lozano on the eve of the 2007 European Championship, they retained their title and only lost the 2008 World Cup final to hosts Brazil on penalties. They have not been beaten over 40 minutes in a competitive game since losing 3-1 to Italy in the 2005 European group stage, and still ended up as champions.

How they qualified

Spain have never lost a qualifier and on home territory in Badajoz in Group 2 were not about to start. Moldova were beaten **7-0**, Álvaro and Kike both scoring twice, and it was the same **7-0** scoreline against Kazakhstan, Fernandao doubling up. To make sure of a finals place, Spain defeated Slovakia **4-0**, Fernandao again striking twice with Kike and Dani Salgado on target.

Key players

Spain are blessed with an outstanding array of futsal talent. Goalkeeper **Luis Amado** is considered the best in his position in the world, with more than 100 caps, **Juanjo** providing back-up. **Javi Rodríguez** and **Kike** have both won three European titles and two World Cups, and the likes of **Jordi Torras** and **Borja** have ensured Spain have survived the retirement of stalwarts including Daniel and Andreu. **Fernandao** and **Álvaro** showed form in qualifying.

Tournament record

2007: **Winners**

2005: **Winners**

2003: Semi-finals

2001: **Winners**

1999: Runners-up (hosts)

1996: **Winners** (hosts)

Other honours

2000, 2004: FIFA Futsal World Cup winners

Head coach: José Venancio López

Date of birth: 27 June 1964

Playing career: Leioa Bilbao

Coaching career: Leioa Bilbao, FS Bilbao, Castro Urdiales Cantabria, Spain (assistant), Caja Segovia FS, Autos Lobelle de Santiago FS, Spain

José Venancio López was born on 27 June 1964 and played in Spain's top futsal division with hometown club Leioa Bilbao in the mid-1980s. In 1988/89 he stepped up as coach but suffered relegation in 1990. Venancio López left in 1991/92 and two seasons later took over at FS Bilbao before a spell with Castro Urdiales Cantabria, a period in which he also served on the Spanish national team technical staff. But it was when he took over at Caja Segovia in 1998/99 that he made his name, winning the domestic treble of league, Spanish Cup and Super Cup in 1998/99. He followed that up the year after by winning an unofficial European title as well as retaining the Spanish Cup and Super Cup. He then took the team to Moscow for an intercontinental competition and claimed the unofficial world crown, and won another Super Cup before leaving in 2002.

The following year he was appointed by Guatemala, but in 2004/05 returned to Spain with Autos Lobelle de Santiago FS as both coach and sporting director. In January 2006 his team beat Interviú Madrid on penalties to win the Spanish Cup and his record at the club earned him the role of Spain coach in September 2007, retaining his Lobelle role for the rest of the season. Two months after taking the national-team role, he helped his side successfully defend the UEFA European Futsal Championship title. Next up was the 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cup, and Spain lost the final on penalties to Brazil but Venancio López has proved a worthy successor to the great Javier Lozano, who he once assisted.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Luis	Amado Tarodo	04.05.1976	3	
GK	Juan José	Angosto Hernández ' Juanjo '	19.08.1985	2	
GK	Cristian	Domínguez Barrios	27.08.1982	1	
DF	Enrique	Boned Guillot ' Kike '	04.05.1978	3	4
DF	Javier	Eseverri Barace	28.08.1977	2	
DF	Carlos	Ortiz Jiménez	03.10.1983	3	1
DF	Jordi	Torrás Badosa	24.09.1980	3	1
FW	Álvaro	Aparicio Fernández	29.09.1977	3	3
FW	Borja	Blanco Gil	16.11.1984	3	1
FW	Juan Ramón	Calvo Rodríguez ' Juanra '	01.09.1982	2	1
FW	Daniel	Ibañes Caetano	06.07.1976		
FW	Fernando	Maciel Gonçalves ' Fernandao '	16.08.1980	2	4
FW	Javier	Rodríguez Nebreda	26.03.1974	3	
FW	Angel	Velasco Marugan ' Lin '	16.05.1986	3	1

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.

UKRAINE

Two-time UEFA European Futsal Championship runners-up Ukraine are aiming to go one better in 2010 and have a solid record at this level to back up their ambitions.

They set up as an independent national team in 1994 under Gennadiy Lysenchuk, who remains the coach, and in their very first tournament made the 1996 FIFA Futsal World Cup semi-finals. They went on to reach the 2001 and 2003 European finals, losing to Spain and hosts Italy respectively, and remain World Cup regulars as well as 2004 international university champions. Lysenchuk is now rebuilding after the retirement of several key players including Serhiy Koridze in recent years.

How they qualified

Drawn with 2007 qualifiers Romania, 2005 contenders the Netherlands and Andorra, not the minnows they are in football, Ukraine did not have an easy task. In their opener, Ukraine beat Andorra **4-2**, grateful for two second-half Dmytro Ivanov goals. They came from behind to defeat the Netherlands **4-1** with four goals in the last 12 minutes, and two early Mykhaylo Romanov strikes ensured a **2-2** draw with hosts Romania and first place.

Key players

Fedir Pylypiv remains from the squads that reached the 2001 and 2003 finals, having previously played in the amateur football 1999 UEFA Regions' Cup for Kyiv AMA. The key men in defence are **Valeri Zamyatin** and **Valeri Legchanov**, the latter helping FC Taim Lviv to the 2008/09 Ukrainian league title.

Tournament record

2007: Group stage

2005: Fourth place

2003: Runners-up

2001: Runners-up

1999: Did not qualify

1996: Fifth place

Head coach: Gennadiy Lysenchuk

Date of birth: 18 December 1947

Playing career: (football) FC Zorya Luhansk, FC Krylya Sovetov Samara and FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk

Coaching career: FC Kolos Nikopol, FC Sudostoitel Nikolaev, FC Vorskla Poltava, FC Krybas Kriviy Roh, Ukraine

That Ukraine are a world-class futsal force is down in no small part to coach Gennadiy Lysenchuk. Also the president of the Futsal Federation of Ukraine, Lysenchuk has been in charge of the national team since their 1994 debut and has led them to two UEFA European Futsal Championship finals and has also achieved success at world level. During his playing days he was a football goalkeeper for FC Zorya Luhansk, FC Krylya Sovetov Samara and FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk. Lysenchuk also graduated from the Moscow Coaches' High School and then became professor of football at the Kiev State University of Physical Culture and Sports.

In 1984 he took charge of FC Kolos Nikopol, and went on to coach FC Sudostoitel Nikolaev, FC Vorskla Poltava and FC Krybas Kriviy Roh before setting up the Ukraine side in 1994 and seeing his side win their opening game 2-1 against Belarus. Two years later they qualified for the 1996 FIFA Futsal World Cup at the first attempt, reaching the semi-finals, and they also played at the maiden UEFA tournament that season. Ukraine have continued to perform strongly, most notably in reaching the EURO finals in 2001 and 2003 when they were pipped by Spain and Italy respectively, and in 1998 and 2004 their student team were world champions. They missed out in the 2007 group stage, but Lysenchuk showed there was hope for the future when he coached Ukraine to the inaugural 2008 UEFA European Under-21 Futsal Tournament semi-finals.

Squad list

Pos.	First name	Surname	DoB	Matches	Goals
GK	Volodymyr	Kardash	18.07.1986		
GK	Vladyslav	Kornyeyev	23.08.1971		
GK	Vladyslav	Lysenko	13.08.1979	3	
DF	Serhiy	Cheporniuk	18.04.1982	3	1
DF	Valeriy	Legchanov	13.02.1980	3	
DF	Denys	Ovsyannikov	10.12.1984		
DF	Valeriy	Zamyatin	05.01.1979	3	
FW	Dmytro	Ivanov	15.12.1985	3	2
FW	Oleksandr	Kondratyuk	09.04.1983	3	1
FW	Maxym	Pavlenko	15.09.1975		
FW	Yevgen	Rogachov	30.08.1983	3	3
FW	Mykhaylo	Romanov	21.07.1983	3	2
FW	Dmytro	Silchenko	07.10.1982	3	
FW	Yevgen	Valyenko	01.11.1984	1	

Matches played and goals scored in qualifying phase.