



UEFA

**UNDER21**<sup>™</sup>  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**DENMARK 2011**

**Final tournament draw**

***Press kit***

Aalborg, 9 November 2010

### Final Draw Procedure

UEFA European Under-21 Championship 2009-11  
9 November 2010  
15:00 – 15:30



<b>Place:</b>	Aalborghallen, Aalborg / Denmark
<b>Duration of draw:</b>	approximately 30 minutes
<b>Number of teams involved:</b>	Eight (Denmark, Finalists 2-8)
<b>Number of top-seeded teams:</b>	Two (Denmark as A1, Finalist 2 as B1)
<b>Number of seeded teams:</b>	Two (Finalists 3 and 4)
<b>Number of non-seeded teams:</b>	Four (Finalists 5-8)
<b>Groups:</b>	Two groups of four teams
<b>Final Tournament:</b>	11 – 25 June 2011

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### Competition Regulations (excerpt)

*Paragraphs 8.01 and 8.02:* eight teams participate in the final tournament: the seven winners of the play-off matches and Denmark, the host association's team. A draw will divide the teams into two groups of four.

### Draw principles

- *Paragraphs 8.03-8.04:*
  - The seeded teams will be
    - Denmark as the host association's team,
    - the three best-ranked teams (finalists 2, 3 and 4) of the coefficient ranking list established on the basis of the results achieved in the qualifying competition for the 2009-11 UEFA European Under-21 Championship;
  - Finalist 5 to 8 are the non seeded teams, based on their coefficients (see next page for the ranking)

<b>Final Draw Coefficient Ranking</b>					
<b>No</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Coefficient (Points (Pts) divided by Matches (M))</b>	
1	Denmark	-	-	<b>Host country</b>	<b>A1</b>
2	Czech Republic	28	10	<b>2.800</b>	<b>B1</b>
3	Spain	25	10	<b>2.500</b>	<b>Pot 1</b>
4	Iceland	22	10	<b>2.200</b>	
5	England	21	10	<b>2.100</b>	<b>Pot 2</b>
6	Switzerland	24	12	<b>2.000</b>	
7	Belarus	20	10	<b>2.000</b>	
8	Ukraine	19	10	<b>1.900</b>	

### Draw pots

- The host association's team, Denmark, is top-seeded and placed as A1.
- Finalist 2, is top-seeded and placed as B1.
- The two remaining seeded teams, Finalists 3 and 4 are placed in pot 1.
- The four remaining non seeded teams, Finalists 5 to 8, will be placed in pot 2.
- There will be two further pots to determine the positions within the groups A and B: pot A will contain three balls specifying positions A2, A3, A4 and pot B will contain three balls for the positions B2, B3, B4.

### Draw Procedure

- The draw starts with the seeded teams in pot 1 from where the first ball is taken.
- To determine the position of the first-drawn team in group A, a ball is drawn from pot A.
- Then, the remaining ball from pot 1 will be taken followed by a ball from pot B to determine the position of this team in group B.
- The draw continues with pot 2 from where the first ball is drawn.
- To determine the position of this team in group A, a ball is drawn from pot A.
- Then, another ball from pot 2 will be drawn followed by a ball from pot B to determine the position of this team in group B.
- This procedure is repeated with the second-last team to be assigned to group A and the last team to be assigned to group B.

## Graphic Illustrations

Six teams are allocated to two pots:

Pot 1 (red balls)	Pot 2 (blue balls)
Spain	England
Iceland	Switzerland
	Belarus
	Ukraine

Two pots are used to determine the positions within each group:

Pot A (green balls)	Pot B (yellow balls)
A2	B2
A3	B3
A4	B4

The draw will create two groups of four teams:

Group A	Group B
A1 - Denmark	B1 - Czech Republic
A2 -	B2 -
A3 -	B3 -
A4 -	B4 -

## Provisional Match Schedule

STADIUM	MATCH DAY 1		MATCH DAY 2		MATCH DAY 3		SEMI-FINAL		FINAL						
	Sat 11.06	Sun 12.06	Mon 13.06	Tue 14.06	Wed 15.06	Thu 16.06	Fri 17.06	Sat 18.06	Sun 19.06	Mon 20.06	Tue 21.06	Wed 22.06	Thu 23.06	Fri 24.06	Sat 25.06
<b>Centre A</b> Aalborg Stadium, Aalborg	1 DEN - A2 :			6 A2 - A4 :				9 A4 - DEN 20:45							15 Loser SF1 Loser SF2
	2 A3 - A4 :			5 DEN - A3 :				10 A2 - A3 20:45							16 Win. SF1 Win. SF2 20:45
Viborg Stadium, Viborg		3 CZE - B2 :			7 CZE - B3 :				11 B4 - CZE 20:45			14 Win. Gr. B R-up Gr. A :			
		4 B3 - B4 :			8 B2 - B4 :				12 B2 - B3 20:45			13 Win. Gr. A R-up Gr. B :			
Herning Stadium, Herning															

Match numbers to be finalised once the kick-off times have been determined

15 Potential play-off match to determine the qualified team for the 2012 Men's Olympic Football tournament if NO team from Great Britain is in the SF



Committed to the future of European football

### Draw preview

Twenty months after qualifying for the 2011 UEFA European Under-21 Championship began, the eight finalists meet in Aalborg on Tuesday 9 November for the final tournament draw.

Joining hosts Denmark are seven battle-hardened sides who progressed through a gruelling group stage then held their nerve in the play-offs to seal their place. Given the pedigree of some of the teams that fell along the way there is no doubting the quality of those that made it this far.

The Czech Republic, Spain and Iceland are seeded, along with hosts Denmark, based on their results in qualifying. England, runners-up in 2009, Switzerland, Belarus and Ukraine are the four unseeded sides. They will be drawn into two groups of four, with matches to be played in Aarhus, Aalborg, Herning and Viborg from 11 June 2011, and the final in Aarhus a fortnight later.

The Czech Republic are the only team to have remained undefeated and, after stopping holders Germany in their tracks in Group 5, they have high hopes of winning the tournament for the first time since 2002. Tomáš Pekhart finished qualifying as the nine-goal top scorer, but it was Iceland, runners-up to the Czech Republic, who really caught the eye in front of goal. They struck a tournament-leading 33 times, including a stunning 4-1 rout of Germany, to reach their first finals.

It is a measure of just how tough qualifying was that only three of the countries that contested the 2009 finals in Sweden are back this time – Belarus, England and Spain – and that of the eight finalists just England (twice), Spain (twice) and the Czechs (once) have won it before.

If Iceland were the surprise package of qualifying then Belarus pulled off the most astonishing result – overturning a 2-0 play-off first-leg defeat by five-times champions Italy with a 3-0 triumph in Borisov. Two goals within the first five minutes from Vladimir Yurchenko set up that win, and he will be one of many rising stars attempting to follow a line of illustrious predecessors in gracing the U21 finals stage.

Among the talent on display next summer, Spain can boast two FIFA World Cup winners in Javi Martínez and Juan Mata; England, the only nation to have qualified for the finals for a third successive time, can call on the blossoming Jack Wilshere, while Switzerland will look to Xherdan Shaqiri to continue the significant strides he has made this year.

Ukraine, finalists in 2006, have a squad brimming with UEFA Champions League pedigree and will want to build on the promise of their UEFA European U19 Championship triumph in 2009. It is over two years since Denmark played a competitive match, but given the hosts' success in recent years – with the Netherlands victorious in 2007 and Sweden getting to the last four in 2009 – with home support, Keld Bordinggaard's side have plenty to look forward to.

## **2011 UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying statistics**

### **Most goals scored (average per game)**

33: Iceland (3.3)  
30: Czech Republic (3)  
26: Germany (3.25)  
24: Romania (2)

### **Fewest goals conceded (average per game)**

4: Czech Republic (0.4)  
5: Belgium (0.62)  
6: Russia (0.6), Spain (0.6), France (0.75), Wales (0.75)

### **Goal attempts**

152: Germany  
140: Netherlands  
120: Romania  
107: Republic of Ireland

### **Biggest win**

San Marino 0-11 Germany, 17/11/2009

### **Leading scorers**

9: Tomáš Pekhart (Czech Republic)  
7: Edgars Gauračs (Latvia)  
6: Atdhe Nuhiu (Austria), Henrik Mkhitaryan (Armenia), Johann Gudmundsson (Iceland), Chris Maguire (Scotland), Jakub Sylvestr (Slovakia)

### **Most assists**

4: Alexander Grünwald (Austria), Felix Bastians (Germany), Diego Biseswar (Netherlands), Paul Caddis (Scotland)  
3: Tom Cleverley (England), Irakli Klimiashvili (Georgia)

### **Most goals in a game**

4: Erton Fejzullahu (Sweden 5-1 Kazakhstan, 15/11/2009)

### **Highest attendance**

33,833 – England 1-0 Portugal, Wembley, 14/11/2009

### **Youngest player**

Romelu Lukaku (Belgium) – Born: 13/05/1993  
16 years, 4 months, 26 days; Ukraine v Belgium, 09/10/2009

## UEFA European Under-21 Championship historical statistics

### **Biggest win**

All-time

14-0: Spain v San Marino, 08/02/2005

2006 qualifying group stage, Santo Domingo, El Ejido

Final tournament

6-0: England v Turkey, 29/05/2000

2000 final tournament group stage, Tehelné Pole Stadium, Bratislava

Final

4-0: Germany v England, 29/06/2009

2009, Swedbank Stadium Malmö, Sweden

### **Most goals in a game**

14: Spain 14-0 San Marino, 08/02/2005

2006 qualifying group stage, Santo Domingo, El Ejido

### **Final tournament**

7: Czech Republic 4-3 Croatia, 01/06/2000

2000 group stage, Mestský Stadium, Trenčín, Slovakia

### **Final**

8: Yugoslavia 4-4 German Democratic Republic 31/05/1978

(second leg, Yugoslavia won 5-4 on agg), Mostar, Yugoslavia

### **Record attendance**

42,000: Turkey 1-1 Germany, 18/11/2003

2004 qualifying play-off, Sükrü Saraçoğlu Stadium, Istanbul

### **Final tournament**

35,500: Italy 1-1 Spain (Italy win 5-4 on pens), 31/05/1996

1996 final, Olímpico de Montjuïc, Barcelona

### **Leading scorers**

15 Lampros Choutos (Greece)

14 Roy Makaay (Netherlands), Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands)

### **In a final tournament since 2000**

7 Marcus Berg (Sweden, 2009)

4 Andrea Pirlo (Italy, 2000), Alberto Gilardino (Italy, 2004),

Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands, 2006), Maceo Rigters (Netherlands, 2007),

Johan Elmander (Sweden, 2004)



### **Competition format**

The UEFA European Under-21 Championship is held every two years and has become one of the national-team calendar's premier competitions. It consists of a qualifying stage and an eight-team final tournament, usually held in June.

Qualifying is open to all UEFA member associations. Teams initially competed in a group stage, with the section winners and the four best runners-up paired off in two-legged play-offs to determine the seven sides that will join the tournament hosts, Denmark in 2011, in the finals.

The final tournament consists of two groups of four, with the top two from each progressing to the semi-finals where it becomes a knockout competition. The 2011 finals also serve as qualification for the 2012 Olympic Football Tournament with three sides set to join hosts Great Britain at the London Olympics.

The regulations can be read on UEFA.com at:

[http://en.uefa.com/MultimediaFiles/Download/Regulations/competitions/Regulations/84/52/29/845229\\_DOWNLOAD.pdf](http://en.uefa.com/MultimediaFiles/Download/Regulations/competitions/Regulations/84/52/29/845229_DOWNLOAD.pdf)

Players are eligible for the 2011 UEFA European Under-21 Championship if they were born on or after 1 January 1988.

## Team profiles and qualifying results

### **Belarus**

#### **Coach: Georgi Kondratyev**

An aggressive striker in the Soviet Top League throughout the 1980s, Kondratyev spent his best years with FC Dinamo Minsk, winning the title in 1982. Scorer of four goals in 14 appearances for the USSR, Kondratyev initially joined the U21 set-up as assistant coach before taking the reins in December 2008.

#### **Leading scorers: Maksim Skavysh, Pavel Nekhaychik, Vladimir Yurchenko, Dmitri Rekish (all 3)**

#### **Team profile: Belarus issue early warning**

Belarus caused an upset with a sensational comeback to defeat five-time champions Italy 3-2 on aggregate in the play-offs and reach the 2011 UEFA European Under-21 Championship finals. Denmark 2011 will be their third participation after 2004 and 2009 and the goal now is to progress from the group stage for the first time.

Pavel Nekhaychik and Vladimir Yurchenko were their men for the big occasion. Winger Nekhaychik, who impressed in the UEFA Champions League with FC BATE Borisov in 2008/09, scored crucial goals in the last two group games against Scotland and Azerbaijan to earn a play-off place. Yurchenko, a diminutive and skilful striker with great pace, took over from there, his two goals in the first five minutes of the second leg against Italy creating the shock of the qualifying stage.

Before that, Belarus finished second in Group 10 behind Scotland, reaching the play-offs as one of the best four runners-up. They started with victories against Austria and Azerbaijan and despite suffering a defeat in Scotland in October 2009, succumbing to a 92nd-minute goal, they bounced back with two victories against Albania. Belarus received an even bigger boost in their opening game of 2010 in Austria when, trailing 3-1 to the then group leaders, substitute Dmitri Rekish scored twice in the last 15 minutes to salvage a point.

Nekhaychik resistered in both of Belarus's final games, earning a 1-1 home draw with Scotland and then hitting the 76th-minute winner against Azerbaijan that secured the three points needed to book a play-off berth. Having posted five wins and two draws from their eight games, Belarus finished level on 17 points with Scotland but second on head-to-head record.

Drawn against Italy in the play-offs, Belarus suffered a major setback when they lost the away leg 2-0, but they made the perfect start to the return in Minsk. Yurchenko struck twice in the first five minutes to level the tie and with no further goals forthcoming the game went into extra time, during which defender Oleg Veretilo turned goalscoring hero with the winner that allowed coach Georgi Kondratyev to open the champagne he had brought along just in case.

Yurchenko's double took him level with Maksim Skavysh, Nekhaychik and Rekish on three strikes for the campaign, as Belarus spread the goals around their squad. Yurchenko and fellow play-off hero Veretilo can now look forward to another U21 finals, having appeared in Sweden in 2009 along with current team captain Mikhail Sivakov of Cagliari Calcio. Whether they can conjure another champagne moment remains to be seen.

## Belarus

### Qualifying results






#### Play-offs

08/10/2010 Italy 2-0 Belarus

12/10/2010 Belarus 3-0 Italy (aet)

*Belarus win 3-2 on aggregate*

#### Group 10

Teams	Pld	Home			Away			Total			F	A	+/-	Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L				
1  <a href="#">Scotland</a>	8	3	1	0	2	1	1	5	2	1	16	7	9	17
2  <a href="#">Belarus</a>	8	3	1	0	2	1	1	5	2	1	16	11	5	17
3  <a href="#">Austria</a>	8	3	1	0	1	1	2	4	2	2	17	11	6	14
4  <a href="#">Albania</a>	8	1	1	2	0	0	4	1	1	6	11	20	-9	4
5  <a href="#">Azerbaijan</a>	8	1	0	3	0	1	3	1	1	6	8	19	-11	4

28/03/2009 Albania 0-1 (W) **Scotland**

01/04/2009 **Scotland** 5-2 (W) Albania

05/09/2009 Austria 1-0 (L) **Scotland**

10/10/2009 **Scotland** 1-0 (W) **Belarus**

14/11/2009 Azerbaijan 0-4 (W) **Scotland**

02/03/2010 **Scotland** 2-2 (D) Azerbaijan

03/09/2010 **Belarus** 1-1 (D) **Scotland**

07/09/2010 **Scotland** 2-1 (W) Austria

12/08/2009 **Belarus** 2-1 (W) Austria

09/09/2009 Azerbaijan 2-3 (W) **Belarus**

10/10/2009 Scotland 1-0 (L) **Belarus**

14/10/2009 **Belarus** 4-2 (W) Albania

17/11/2009 Albania 1-2 (W) **Belarus**

11/08/2010 Austria 3-3 (D) **Belarus**

03/09/2010 **Belarus** 1-1 (D) **Scotland**

07/09/2010 **Belarus** 1-0 (W) Azerbaijan

## Czech Republic

### **Coach: Jakub Dovalil**

Dovalil took charge of SK Slavia Praha's junior sides in 1997 then joined the national-team set-up five years later, guiding the U17s to the 2006 European Championship final then the U19s to the last four in 2008. It earned Dovalil the U21 job, and he extended his contract to 2014 before this season's play-offs.

### **Leading scorer: Tomáš Pekhart 9**

### **Team profile: Czechs take lead from class of 2002**

2022 and runners-up two years before that, the Czech Republic return to the UEFA European Under-21 Championship finals in Denmark this summer expecting to improve on their last showing in 2007.

Then they were unable to get out of their group, but optimism is high that after winning nine out of ten qualifiers – ending the campaign as the only undefeated side and knocking out holders Germany en route – they could go a lot further this time.

The Czech Republic conceded just four goals to qualify with the best defensive record and the best record overall. Germany came closest to beating them, in a 1-1 draw in their penultimate Group 5 game in Mlada Boleslav, yet Jakub Dovalil's team had already won the section.

Petr Čech was the star in 2002 and his successor between the posts, Tomáš Vaclík, has proved equally vital to the Czech cause. Despite starting the campaign as a largely unknown quantity at second division FC Viktoria Žižkov, his six clean sheets laid the foundations for the run to the finals, including two superb performances in the play-off against Greece which were ultimately decisive.

While Vaclík was shutting up shop at the back, Tomáš Pekhart, on Tottenham Hotspur FC's books as a teenager, supplied the goals. The 21-year-old FK Jablonec forward got nine of his side's 30 goals to finish as the leading scorer in qualifying, despite playing just six matches because of injury. Pekhart did net six times in heavy wins against San Marino, but the striker – reminiscent of Jan Koller at 1.87m tall – also proved his worth against stronger opposition. Witness a goal in each leg of the 5-0 aggregate victory over play-off rivals Greece.

Dovalil has built his squad patiently and for the long term. He led some of this crop, including Pekhart, to the 2006 UEFA European U17 Championship final and then to the U19 semi-finals two years later. His selection for Denmark could be even stronger than the one that ended qualifying, with three players from the seniors eligible to play.

FC Spartak Moskva defender Marek Suchý captained the side before his promotion to the full squad; PFC CSKA Moskva forward Tomáš Necid, with seven goals for the seniors already, remains available for U21 duty; while 18-year-old AC Sparta Praha striker Václav Kadlec scored on his senior debut in October despite never having appeared for the U21s.

## Czech Republic

### Qualifying results




#### Play-offs

08/10/2010 Czech Republic 3-0 Greece

12/10/2010 Greece 0-2 Czech Republic

*Czech Republic win 5-0 on aggregate*

### Group 5

Teams	Pld	Home			Away			Total			F	A	+/-	Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L				
1  <a href="#">Czech Republic</a>	8	3	1	0	4	0	0	7	1	0	25	4	21	22
2  <a href="#">Iceland</a>	8	3	0	1	2	1	1	5	1	2	29	11	18	16
3  <a href="#">Germany</a>	8	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	26	10	16	12
4  <a href="#">Northern Ireland</a>	8	1	1	2	1	0	3	2	1	5	12	16	-4	7
5  <a href="#">San Marino</a>	8	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	8	0	51	-51	0

09/06/2009 San Marino 0-8 (W) **Czech Republic**

12/08/2009 **Iceland** 0-2 (W) **Czech Republic**

04/09/2009 **Czech Republic** 2-0 (W) Northern Ireland

08/09/2009 Germany 1-2 (W) **Czech Republic**

17/11/2009 Northern Ireland 1-2 (W) **Czech Republic**

11/08/2010 **Czech Republic** 5-0 (W) San Marino

03/09/2010 **Czech Republic** 1-1 (D) Germany

07/09/2010 **Czech Republic** 3-1 (W) Iceland

12/08/2009 Iceland 0-2 (L) **Czech Republic**

08/09/2009 Northern Ireland 2-6 (W) **Iceland**

09/10/2009 **Iceland** 8-0 (W) San Marino

13/10/2009 **Iceland** 2-1 (W) Northern Ireland

13/11/2009 San Marino 0-6 (W) **Iceland**

02/03/2010 Germany 2-2 (D) **Iceland**

11/08/2010 **Iceland** 4-1 (W) Germany

07/09/2010 **Czech Republic** 3-1 (L) **Iceland**

## Denmark

### **Coach: Keld Bordinggaard**

A title winner with Odense BK and Silkeborg IF as an attacking midfielder, Bordinggaard was appointed assistant to Denmark coach Morten Olsen in 2002. The team reached the UEFA European Championship quarter-finals two years later and he took the U21 post in 2006 but suffered disappointment in the 2009 play-offs, losing to Serbia.

### **Team profile: Denmark hope to exploit home advantage**

Denmark have not graced a UEFA European Under-21 Championship finals since 2006 and, as hosts, coach Keld Bordinggaard's side will have added motivation to impress upon their return.

Boasting a promising crop of young talent, they will be confident of leaving their mark too, particularly since Sweden reached the semi-finals on home soil in 2009 and the Netherlands won the competition as hosts two years before that.

Denmark have not contested a competitive fixture since October 2008, when they lost to Serbia in the play-offs for the 2009 finals, but Bordinggaard has used their long series of friendly internationals to bring on a group of players already knocking on the door of the senior side. Indeed, with Morten Olsen calling up the likes of goalkeeper Jonas Lössl and central defender Mathias Zanka Jørgensen, Bordinggaard has had to juggle his resources as he seeks a winning blend in time for next summer's finals.

This team may have been fed a diet of friendlies, but that should not suggest they lack a competitive edge, with more players than ever featuring in the Superliga and Jørgensen boasting UEFA Champions League experience with FC København. The 20-year-old centre-back is known for his physical and mental strength and is already deemed a veteran by his peers, having broken into the FCK side aged 16.

Behind Jørgensen, FC Midtjylland's 21-year-old Lössl is considered one of the Superliga's most consistent goalkeepers and was recently drafted into the senior squad as cover for the injured Thomas Sørensen. At 1.95m, he is an imposing presence at the back, while at the other end big things are expected of striker Nicki Bille Nielsen.

The 22-year-old recently earned a move to Villarreal CF from FC Nordsjælland, helped in part by a run of five goals in four U21 friendlies in May. Like the senior side, the U21s play in a 4-3-3 formation, with Nielsen as the central striker.

## Denmark

### Friendly results since being appointed hosts

17/01/09 Panama 1-0 (L) Denmark  
20/01/09 Guatemala 1-1 (D) Denmark  
10/02/09 Malta 1-0 (L) Denmark  
26/03/09 Turkey 0-2 (W) Denmark  
05/06/09 Denmark 3-2 (W) Iceland  
09/06/09 Denmark 0-4 (L) Italy (U23)  
12/08/09 Denmark 2-4 (L) Sweden  
04/09/09 Silkeborg IF 2-2 (D) Denmark  
13/10/09 Denmark 3-1 (W) Georgia  
13/11/09 Denmark 0-1 (W) Poland  
18/11/09 Denmark 1-3 (L) Serbia  
17/01/10 Mexico 1-0 (L) Denmark  
24/01/10 Mexico 1-1 (D) Denmark  
03/03/10 Austria 0-3 (W) Denmark  
19/05/10 Denmark 3-1 (W) Russia  
21/05/10 Denmark 3-1 (W) Qatar  
23/05/10 Denmark 1-1 (D) Chile  
25/05/10 France 2-3 (W) Denmark  
27/05/10 Ivory Coast 3-2 (D) Denmark  
11/08/10 Italy 2-2 (D) Denmark  
03/09/10 Denmark 1-1 (D) Lithuania  
12/10/10 Denmark 1-3 (L) France

## England

### **Coach: Stuart Pearce**

A left-back who rose to prominence under Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest FC, Pearce earned 78 England caps in a career which featured semi-finals at the 1990 FIFA World Cup and EURO '96. Appointed U21 coach in February 2007, he led England to the last four of that year's European Championship then the 2009 final.

### **Leading scorers: Daniel Sturridge, Danny Welbeck, Kieran Gibbs, Andy Carroll, Zavon Hines (all 2)**

### **Team profile: New-look England hold same ambition**

Semi-finalists in 2007 then runners-up at the 2009 UEFA European Under-21 Championship in Sweden, England bounced back from the disappointment of their heavy 4-0 final loss to Germany by qualifying for their third consecutive finals. They clinched their place courtesy of a play-off victory over Romania after finishing runners-up to Greece in Group 9.

Stuart Pearce's new-look side took time to gel, but enjoyed the happy knack of securing the right result when required, starting with a 2-1 comeback win in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in September 2009. Only four of Pearce's first XI had started the 2009 final in Malmo, but one of that quartet, Lee Cattermole, buried the 83rd-minute winner after substitute Jack Wilshere, the exciting young Arsenal FC midfielder, had won a penalty.

A fifth-minute effort from Chelsea FC's Daniel Sturridge got England off to a flying start in Greece in their next outing but they had to settle for a 1-1 draw. England's frustration did not last long as they earned a 6-3 home win against FYROM – Zavon Hines and Andy Carroll both plundered doubles while Kieran Gibbs scored at either end – before Danny Rose thrilled a 33,833 Wembley crowd by helping dispatch Portugal 1-0.

Victory in Lithuania would have lifted England top alongside Greece yet the game finished goalless and Pearce's men then suffered a damaging 2-1 loss to the group leaders in Doncaster. Fortunately, a 1-0 success in Portugal rekindled their chances, Chelsea FC forward Sturridge firing the 32nd-minute decider, though the goal's architect was Manchester United FC midfielder Tom Cleverley, the only player to appear in all ten qualifiers.

A pair of strikes plus an assist from Daniel Welbeck then saw off Lithuania 3-0 and earned England a play-off place as one of the four best group runners-up. Welbeck is one of four players to have graduated so far from the England side that reached the UEFA European Under-19 Championship final in Ukraine, along with Nathan Delfouneso, Henri Lansbury and Kyle Walker.

And so to Carrow Road, Norwich for the first leg of the play-off against Romania, where Manchester United FC defender Chris Smalling earned the hosts a slender 2-1 lead via a scrambled 83rd-minute finish from a corner, Ioan Hora having earlier cancelled out a volley by highly regarded Sunderland AFC midfielder Jordan Henderson. Smalling's late contribution looked even more telling five days later when England sealed their ticket to Denmark with a 0-0 stalemate, goalkeeper Frank Fielding making a string of saves.



## ENGLAND

### Qualifying results



#### Play-offs

08/10/2010 England 2-1 Romania

12/10/2010 Romania 0-0 England

*England win 2-1 on aggregate*

#### Group 9

Teams	Pld	Home			Away			Total			F	A	+/-	Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L				
1  <a href="#">Greece</a>	8	3	1	0	3	0	1	6	1	1	13	7	6	19
2  <a href="#">England</a>	8	3	0	1	2	2	0	5	2	1	15	7	8	17
3  <a href="#">Portugal</a>	8	3	0	1	1	1	2	4	1	3	12	8	4	13
4  <a href="#">Lithuania</a>	8	1	1	2	0	1	3	1	2	5	3	11	-8	5
5  <a href="#">FYR Macedonia</a>	8	0	2	2	0	0	4	0	2	6	9	19	-10	2

28/03/2009 **Greece** 3-1 (W) FYR Macedonia

06/06/2009 Lithuania 0-1 (W) **Greece**

08/09/2009 **Greece** 1-1 (D) England

09/10/2009 **Greece** 2-1 (W) Portugal

13/10/2009 **Greece** 1-0 (W) Lithuania

17/11/2009 Portugal 2-1 (L) **Greece**

03/03/2010 **England** 1-2 (W) **Greece**

04/09/2010 FYR Macedonia 1-2 (W) **Greece**

04/09/2009 FYR Macedonia 1-2 (W) **England**

08/09/2009 **Greece** 1-1 (D) **England**

09/10/2009 **England** 6-3 (W) FYR Macedonia

14/11/2009 **England** 1-0 (W) Portugal

17/11/2009 Lithuania 0-0 (D) **England**

03/03/2010 **England** 1-2 (L) **Greece**

03/09/2010 Portugal 0-1 (W) **England**

07/09/2010 **England** 3-0 (W) Lithuania

## Iceland

### **Coach: Eyjólfur Sverrisson**

A midfielder, Sverrisson enjoyed a distinguished playing career, winning titles with VfB Stuttgart and Beşiktaş JK as well as earning 66 international caps. Having impressed as U21 coach he was rewarded with the senior job in October 2005, but after two wins in 14 games he stepped back to the U21s two years later.

### **Leading scorer: Johann Gudmundsson 6**

### **Team profile: Iceland relishing 'start of an exciting era'**

Now known as 'Our Boys' in Iceland, Eyjólfur Sverrisson's side will compete in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship finals for the first time in Denmark. "The start of an exciting era," is how senior coach Ólafur Jóhannesson described their qualification feat and understandably so after a campaign in which Iceland finished as top scorers in the group stage with 29 goals and eliminated reigning champions Germany en route to claiming second spot in their section. Seeded despite finishing as one of the best four runners-ups, they were handed a play-off with Scotland and their scoring power told once again in a 4-2 aggregate triumph.

Sverrisson's commitment to attacking football paid handsome dividends with goals running through the side, Jóhann Gudmundsson scoring six times and both Alfred Finnbogason – Iceland's player of the year – and Gylfi Thór Sigurdsson adding five each. With many of the squad playing abroad, including Gudmundsson (AZ Alkmaar), Sigurdsson (TSG 1899 Hoffenheim) and Rúrik Gíslason (Odense BK), and seven having already represented the senior team, Iceland are not short on experience either as they look to spring another surprise next June. As Sigurdsson said: "We will not go to [Denmark] just to be there; we have high goals."

Though their Group 5 programme was bookended by home-and-away losses to the Czech Republic, Iceland barely put a foot wrong. They did the double against Northern Ireland and San Marino, including a record 8-0 victory, before making their mark in two pivotal meetings against Germany.

The first took them to Magdeburg in March 2010 and they twice had to come back from behind to earn a 2-2 draw, their KV Mechelen-based captain Bjarni Vidarsson registering the second equaliser with 13 minutes remaining. What happened next ensured that nobody will be taking Iceland lightly in Denmark as they dethroned Germany courtesy of a 4-1 win in the return, Birgir Bjarnason, Sigurdsson, Kolbeinn Sigthórsson and Finnbogason getting the goals.

The final step – a play-off against Group 10 winners Scotland – arguably proved the hardest. With tension running high in front of 7,255 at Reykjavik's Laugardalsvöllur national stadium, Iceland fell behind in the first leg before Gudmundsson equalised and Almarr Ormarsson made it 2-1 with a spectacular late effort from distance. In the return in Edinburgh, goalkeeper Arnar Darri Pétursson and defender Andrés Már Jóhannesson led the way as Iceland withstood their hosts' pressure, before Sigurdsson struck twice to secure another 2-1 success and a finals berth.

## Iceland

### Qualifying results



#### Play-offs

07/10/2010 Iceland 2-1 (W) Scotland

11/10/2010 Scotland 1-2 (W) Iceland

*Iceland win 4-2 on aggregate*

#### Group 5

Teams	Pld	Home			Away			Total			F	A	+/-	Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L				
1  <a href="#">Czech Republic</a>	8	3	1	0	4	0	0	7	1	0	25	4	21	22
2  <a href="#">Iceland</a>	8	3	0	1	2	1	1	5	1	2	29	11	18	16
3  <a href="#">Germany</a>	8	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	2	26	10	16	12
4  <a href="#">Northern Ireland</a>	8	1	1	2	1	0	3	2	1	5	12	16	-4	7
5  <a href="#">San Marino</a>	8	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	8	0	51	-51	0

09/06/2009 San Marino 0-8 (W) **Czech Republic**

12/08/2009 **Iceland** 0-2 (W) **Czech Republic**

04/09/2009 **Czech Republic** 2-0 (W) Northern Ireland

08/09/2009 Germany 1-2 (W) **Czech Republic**

17/11/2009 Northern Ireland 1-2 (W) **Czech Republic**

11/08/2010 **Czech Republic** 5-0 (W) San Marino

03/09/2010 **Czech Republic** 1-1 (D) Germany

07/09/2010 **Czech Republic** 3-1 (W) Iceland

12/08/2009 Iceland 0-2 (L) **Czech Republic**

08/09/2009 Northern Ireland 2-6 (W) **Iceland**

09/10/2009 **Iceland** 8-0 (W) San Marino

13/10/2009 **Iceland** 2-1 (W) Northern Ireland

13/11/2009 San Marino 0-6 (W) **Iceland**

02/03/2010 Germany 2-2 (D) **Iceland**

11/08/2010 **Iceland** 4-1 (W) Germany

07/09/2010 **Czech Republic** 3-1 (L) **Iceland**

## Spain

### **Coach: Luis Milla**

A midfielder for FC Barcelona, Real Madrid CF and Valencia CF, Milla began his coaching career in the Spanish third tier in 2006. Capped by three times by Spain, he moved on to an assistant role at Getafe CF before taking charge of Spain U19s in 2008, guiding them to the 2010 UEFA European Championship final.

### **Leading scorers: Daniel Parejo, Diego Capel, Adrián (all 3)**

### **Team Profile: Hungry Spain budding with promise**

Despite finishing second best to the Netherlands in UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying Group 4, Spain earned the chance to challenge for their third title at this level after coming through a play-off against Croatia. An enforced coaching change midway through the campaign and the commitment of FIFA World Cup winners Juan Mata and Javi Martínez served La Roja well as they reached their second successive U21 finals.

Already in his fourth campaign with Valencia CF, winger Mata shared the U21 captaincy role with Athletic Club's Martínez, both providing important experience and leadership. The emergence of Club Atlético de Madrid goalkeeper David de Gea and defender Álvaro Domínguez offered defensive solidity, while Sevilla FC's Diego Capel offered a goal threat from his wide midfield berth. Despite scoring just once in qualification, FC Barcelona's Bojan Krkić brought vast experience to the front line, with Real Madrid CF's Sergio Canales blossoming behind the striker.

Under Juan Ramon López Caro, Spain enjoyed a bright start to qualification as Joselú and Daniel Parejo earned a 2-0 home triumph against Poland. Victories against Liechtenstein and Finland followed to set up a crucial meeting with the Netherlands, who also went into the encounter in Rotterdam with a perfect record.

The visitors ultimately came up short in what proved their penultimate match under López Caro, succumbing 2-1 with future Olympique de Marseille defender César Azpilicueta hitting their consolation effort. That outcome invariably handed their rivals control of the group and Spain were made to wait before sealing a 3-1 success against Liechtenstein in their next outing.

Having lost out on the 2010 UEFA European U19 Championship title to hosts France, Luis Milla was then promoted to lead Spain's U21 push and he kicked off with a 1-1 draw in Finland, Krkić netting from the spot to earn a draw after the home side had taken an early lead.

Knowing two positive results from their final group games against the Netherlands and Poland were essential to reach the play-offs as one of the best runners-up, Milla's men duly obliged with Canales, promoted from the U19s, and pacy winger Capel responsible for the goals in back-to-back triumphs.

Confidence now high, Spain took a slender 2-1 home lead in their play-off against Croatia, Adrián and Mikel San José on target. In the return match in Varazdin three days later, the 1986 and 1998 winners posted a highly impressive performance and sealed a 3-0 success in which defender Álvaro Domínguez, Adrián and promising Barcelona forward Jeffren all found the net.






**Spain**

**Qualifying results**

**Play-offs**

09/10/2010 Spain 2-1 (W) Croatia  
 12/10/2010 Croatia 0-3 (W) Spain  
 Spain win 5-1 on aggregate

**Group 4**

	Teams	Pld	Home			Away			Total			F	A	+/-	Pts
			W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L				
1	 <a href="#">Netherlands</a>	8	4	0	0	3	0	1	7	0	1	19	5	14	21
2	 <a href="#">Spain</a>	8	4	0	0	2	1	1	6	1	1	15	5	10	19
3	 <a href="#">Finland</a>	8	2	1	1	1	0	3	3	1	4	11	7	4	10
4	 <a href="#">Poland</a>	8	2	0	2	1	0	3	3	0	5	11	13	-2	9
5	 <a href="#">Liechtenstein</a>	8	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	8	1	27	-26	0

04/09/2009 **Spain** 2-0 (W) **Poland**  
 07/09/2009 Liechtenstein 0-4 (W) **Spain**  
 13/11/2009 **Spain** 1-0 (W) **Finland**  
 17/11/2009 Netherlands 2-1 (L) **Spain**  
 02/03/2010 **Spain** 3-1 (W) Liechtenstein  
 11/08/2010 Finland 1-1 (D) **Spain**  
 02/09/2010 **Spain** 2-1 (W) **Netherlands**  
 07/09/2010 Poland 0-1 (W) **Spain**  
 04/09/2009 **Netherlands** 2-0 (W) **Finland**  
 09/10/2009 Finland 0-1 (W) **Netherlands**  
 13/10/2009 Poland 0-4 (W) **Netherlands**  
 13/11/2009 **Netherlands** 3-0 (W) Liechtenstein  
 17/11/2009 **Netherlands** 2-1 (W) **Spain**  
 03/03/2010 [Netherlands](#) [3-2 \(W\) Poland](#)  
 11/08/2010 [Liechtenstein](#) [0-3 \(W\) Netherlands](#)  
 02/09/2010 [Spain](#) [2-1 \(L\) Netherlands](#)

## Switzerland

### **Coach: Pierluigi Tami**

After limited success during his playing career, Tami had spells in charge of former sides FC Lugano and FC Locarno before joining Jakob Kuhn's coaching staff in the national-team set-up. He took over as U19 coach after UEFA EURO 2008, stepping up to the U21s in March 2009 after Pierre-André Schürmann left for Neuchâtel Xamax FC.

### **Leading scorer: Fabian Frei 3**

### **Team profile: Swiss enjoy rousing run to finals**

After winning the 2009 FIFA U-17 World Cup, more of Switzerland's best young talent will be showcased at the 2011 UEFA European Under-21 Championship.

So quick has been the rise of some of his players that one of coach Pierluigi Tami's biggest problems in qualifying was juggling his resources: François Affolter, Xherdan Shaqiri, Valentin Stocker, Moreno Costanzo and Eren Derdiyok divided their time between the U21 and senior sides.

Midfielders Stocker and Costanzo in particular were key figures during the first half of the campaign, yet even after their promotion to the senior ranks Tami remained confident in his squad. "It wasn't easy, but I always knew we could replace them with other, younger players," said the coach, whose team topped Group 2 before beating Sweden in their play-off.

He was referring to the likes of Nassim Ben Khalifa and Pajtim Kasami, U17 World Cup winners who were both on target in the 5-2 aggregate triumph over Sweden. While some faces changed, one stayed the same: goalkeeper Yann Sommer played 11 of the 12 matches and was a big influence, saving a penalty in the home first leg against Sweden with the score at 3-1. "Whenever we were under pressure or showing nerves he was there," Tami said. "He was an important part of our success."

Tami replaced Pierre-André Schürmann as coach with Switzerland having already beaten Armenia, yet they lost surprisingly to Estonia in his debut match in August 2009. That, however, was the low point of a campaign that gathered pace with away wins against Armenia and Estonia preceding a 1-1 draw in the Republic of Ireland. Stocker then scored twice in a crucial away victory over Turkey which was followed four days later by a success against Georgia.

The Swiss stumbled with the play-offs in sight – losing to Turkey then drawing in Georgia – but a win against the Republic of Ireland in their last game confirmed top spot. So to the play-offs against Swedish opponents who had got to the 2009 semi-finals as hosts. After a 4-1 first-leg triumph in Sion, with goals from Frei, Xavier Hochstrasser, Admir Mehmedi and Kasami, Switzerland finished the job by drawing 1-1 in Malmo.

It is the third time Switzerland have qualified for these finals – and the first since 2002 when they were semi-finalists on home soil. They will learn their group stage fate when the draw is made in Aalborg next Tuesday though they need fear nobody.

## Switzerland

### Qualifying results

#### Play-offs

07/10/2010 Switzerland 4-1 (W) Sweden

11/10/2010 Sweden 1-1 (D) Switzerland

*Switzerland win 5-2 on aggregate*

#### Group 2

Teams	Pld	Home			Away			Total			F	A	+/-	Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L				
1  <a href="#">Switzerland</a>	10	3	0	2	3	2	0	6	2	2	15	8	7	20
2  <a href="#">Turkey</a>	10	2	1	2	3	0	2	5	1	4	13	11	2	16
3  <a href="#">Georgia</a>	10	2	2	1	2	1	2	4	3	3	12	9	3	15
4  <a href="#">Armenia</a>	10	1	1	3	3	0	2	4	1	5	18	19	-1	13
5  <a href="#">Estonia</a>	10	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	4	9	16	-7	12
6  <a href="#">Republic of Ireland</a>	10	1	2	2	0	2	3	1	4	5	11	15	-4	7

05/06/2009	<b>Switzerland</b>	2-1 (W) Armenia
12/08/2009	<b>Switzerland</b>	0-1 (L) Estonia
04/09/2009	Armenia	1-3 (W) <b>Switzerland</b>
09/10/2009	Estonia	1-4 (W) <b>Switzerland</b>
13/10/2009	Republic of Ireland	1-1 (D) <b>Switzerland</b>
14/11/2009	Turkey	1-3 (W) <b>Switzerland</b>
18/11/2009	<b>Switzerland</b>	1-0 (W) Georgia
26/05/2010	<b>Switzerland</b>	0-2 (L) Turkey
30/05/2010	Georgia	0-0 (D) <b>Switzerland</b>
03/09/2010	<b>Switzerland</b>	1-0 (W) Republic of Ireland

## Ukraine

### **Coach: Pavlo Yakovenko**

An international midfielder, Yakovenko's playing career peaked when FC Dynamo Kyiv won the 1986 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup. Injury forced him to retire at 28, and he had spells at the helm of several Ukrainian and Russian clubs. He guided Ukraine U21s between 2002 and 2004 before returning to the post in June 2008.

### **Leading scorers: Yevhen Konoplyanka, Oleg Golodyuk, Yaroslav Rakitskiy, Volodymyr Chesnakov, Serhiy Kryvtsov (all 2)**

### **Team profile: Ukraine building for bright future**

Ukraine's young footballers could be forgiven for feeling glad it is the senior UEFA European Championship in 2012, rather than the Under-21 event in 2011 that is taking place on home soil. After all, they will travel to Denmark confident of their ability to prevail on foreign ground after winning three of their four Group 8 away fixtures – compared with just one at home. Those away successes came against Slovenia (2-0), Belgium (2-0) and Malta (3-0), and after topping their section ahead of Belgium, they then clinched qualification thanks to another win on the road, 3-1 in the Netherlands. Although they then lost the home leg 2-0, it was enough to advance on away goals.

Runners-up at the 2006 UEFA European U21 Championship in Portugal, Ukraine are playing in their first finals since then and many experts consider this team better than their predecessors four years ago. Some speculate that they are better even than the class of 1994/96 who, inspired by Andriy Shevchenko and Serhiy Rebrov, finished just a point behind eventual champions Italy in qualifying.

Certainly there are exciting young talents in Pavlo Yakovenko's squad, with the likes of Serhiy Kryvtsov and Denys Garmash having helped Ukraine win the 2009 UEFA European U19 Championship title. In addition, FC Dynamo Kyiv midfielder Roman Zozulya and forwards Andriy Yarmolenko and Artem Kravets have all played senior international and UEFA Champions League football, as has defender Yaroslav Rakitskiy of FC Shakhtar Donetsk.

The FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk forward Yevhen Konoplyanka, scorer of their third goal in the play-off win in Rotterdam, is already considered one of the leaders of the senior Ukraine team. Meanwhile, U21 captain Taras Stepanenko should make the step up to that level soon. "I would recommend our national coach [Yuriy Kalitvintsev] try all my players," Yakovenko told UEFA.com. "I will be happy if they succeed at the U21 finals in Denmark and then defend our country's honour at UEFA EURO 2012."

Whatever the potential of his players, Yakovenko is regarded by many as the principal architect of Ukraine's success. One distinctive feature of their play is the threat they pose from dead-ball situations, with almost two-thirds of their qualifying goals coming from set pieces. They showed their resolute nature at both ends of their qualifying campaign, coming back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with France in their first away test, and then when holding out for the final half-hour of the play-off with the Netherlands, when just one more opposition goal would have spelt elimination.



## Ukraine

### Qualifying results

#### Play-offs

09/10/2010 Netherlands 1-3 (W) Ukraine

12/10/2010 Ukraine 0-2 (L) Netherlands

3-3 on aggregate; Ukraine wins on away goals

#### Group 8

Teams	Pld	Home			Away			Total			F	A	+/-	Pts
		W	D	L	W	D	L	W	D	L				
1  <a href="#">Ukraine</a>	8	1	3	0	3	1	0	4	4	0	13	5	8	16
2  <a href="#">Belgium</a>	8	2	1	1	2	2	0	4	3	1	8	5	3	15
3  <a href="#">France</a>	8	2	1	1	2	2	0	4	3	1	12	6	6	15
4  <a href="#">Slovenia</a>	8	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	6	10	-4	8
5  <a href="#">Malta</a>	8	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	8	0	13	-13	0

09/06/2009 **Ukraine** 1-0 (W) Malta

08/09/2009 France 2-2 (D) **Ukraine**

09/10/2009 **Ukraine** 1-1 (D) Belgium

14/10/2009 Slovenia 0-2 (W) **Ukraine**

13/11/2009 Belgium 0-2 (W) **Ukraine**

29/05/2010 Malta 0-3 (W) **Ukraine**

03/09/2010 **Ukraine** 2-2 (D) France

07/09/2010 **Ukraine** 0-0 (D) Slovenia

### Tournament history

It is a measure of just how demanding the UEFA European Under-21 Championship is that for the second time in succession the holders will not be on hand to defend their trophy.

The Netherlands clinched the crown in 2006 and retained it on home soil in 2007, but were unable to qualify for the 2009 finals in Sweden. Germany became only the ninth team to claim the U21 title that year, but they too have fallen en route to the finals in Denmark next June.

The Jong Oranje's recent triumphs had taken them level with Spain, England and the USSR on two wins apiece. All four teams, however, are eclipsed by Italy who have claimed the title a record five times. Yugoslavia (1978), France (1988) and the Czech Republic (2002) are the only other nations to have tasted success at U21 level.

The first U21 Championship final in 1978 set the standard for the rest to follow. More than 25,000 crowded into the Pod Bijelim Bregom Stadium in Mostar to see if Yugoslavia could defend a 1-0 lead from the first leg in East Germany. They were not disappointed. Vahid Halilhodžić scored a first-half hat-trick in a breathtaking match that ended 4-4, giving the Balkan country the inaugural title 5-4 on aggregate. The competition has been living up to expectations ever since, as the continent's top young talents offer a glimpse into the future of European football; the stars of tomorrow did it here first.

The format has changed down the years, but the competition's raison d'etre has remained the same: to provide a stepping stone from youth football up to the full international stage. Watching 2009 U21 champions including Mesut Özil, Sami Khedira, Jerome Boateng and Manuel Neuer make such an impression at the 2010 FIFA World Cup for Germany is testament to that, while the roll call of greats who have graduated from European football's finishing school illustrates its enduring success.

Rudi Völler, Laurent Blanc, Davor Šuker, Luís Figo and Andrea Pirlo are among the players to have been named UEFA.com's Golden Player of the tournament (see below) down the years and all played their part in making the championship one of the highlights of the football calendar.

Today's prestigious eight-team final tournament enjoys worldwide acclaim, but it has evolved considerably since UEFA first put the idea to its member associations in January 1967. The concept then was for a "Challenge Cup for national representative teams aged under-23". It was not until 1976 that the age limit was changed to U21, by which time the Challenge Cup format had given way to qualifying groups followed by a knockout competition from the quarter-finals onwards.

Italy were first crowned champions in 1992 and successfully defended their title two years later when for the first time the semi-finals and final were played as a single tournament in France.

The final tournament was expanded to eight teams in Romania in 1998, when Spain interrupted Italy's run of success, but the Azzurrini were back on top in 2000, the year the group stage was introduced in the final tournament. The current format came into place in 2002 when the Czech Republic triumphed in Switzerland.

In 2007 the event was switched to odd years to avoid clashing with the UEFA European Championship and FIFA World Cup, and with the U21 Championship taking centre stage, the Netherlands put on a show on home soil beating Serbia 4-1 in the final. Two years later it was Germany's time to shine, Horst Hrubesch's team avenging the 1982 final defeat by England with a record 4-0 triumph in Malmo.

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Champions (hosts)</b>	<b>UEFA.com Golden Player</b>
<b>2007/09</b>	Germany (Sweden)*	Marcus Berg
<b>2006/07</b>	Netherlands (Netherlands)*	Royston Drenthe
<b>2004/06</b>	Netherlands (Portugal)*	Klass-Jan Huntelaar
<b>2002/04</b>	Italy (Germany)*	Alberto Gilardino
<b>2000/02</b>	Czech Republic (Switzerland)*	Petr Čech
<b>1998/00</b>	Italy (Slovakia)*	Andrea Pirlo
<b>1996/98</b>	Spain (Romania)	Francesc Arnau
<b>1994/96</b>	Italy (Spain)	Fabio Cannavaro
<b>1992/94</b>	Italy (France)	Luís Figo
<b>1990/92</b>	Italy	Renato Buso
<b>1988/90</b>	USSR	Davor Šuker
<b>1986/88</b>	France	Laurent Blanc
<b>1984/86</b>	Spain	Manuel Sanchís
<b>1982/84</b>	England	Mark Hateley
<b>1980/82</b>	England	Rudi Völler
<b>1978/80</b>	USSR	Anatoli Demianenko
<b>1976/78</b>	Yugoslavia	Vahid Halilhodžić

\* Current format

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