

UEFA EURO 2008™

Final tournament draw
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Qualifying competition - Facts and figures

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More detailed information about the final round participants are currently available on UEFA's official website, uefa.com. In the first quarter of 2008, UEFA will also launch a new portal fully dedicated to the final round of UEFA EURO 2008™. On euro2008.com, the football fans from all over the world will find comprehensive and up-to-date information about the tournament, from the training camps of the 16 participating teams, and from the two host countries, both in text and video.

The attached document includes information about 16 qualified teams and their head coaches, as well as a summary of the past head-to-head meetings with the twelve possible opponents for the final round. These records include all matches played in UEFA European Championship and FIFA World Cup qualifying competitions and final rounds. Only results during normal playing time and extra-time are taken into account.

More complete lists with all head-to-head encounters in these two competitions, as well as additional information regarding all other past meetings between the 16 final round participants can be downloaded from the Media Services page inside the UEFA EURO 2008™ section on uefa.com.

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PROFILES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

AUSTRIA

Austria face steep learning curve

How are their preparations going for UEFA EURO 2008™?

- With only friendly games to prepare themselves for co-hosting the finals, Austria have endured some tough times.
- Charged with the task of building a new Austria side for 2008, coach Josef Hickersberger knew the process was likely to be a painful one, saying: "It goes without saying that this process means facing and overcoming obstacles and setbacks."
- Hickersberger lost his first three games in charge before a 2-2 draw against Costa Rica in September 2006 helped ease the pressure. He finally earned a first win at the fifth attempt, 2-1 against Liechtenstein thanks to a late Thomas Prager goal, and followed that up with a 2-1 victory against fellow hosts Switzerland.
- René Aufhauser struck a hat-trick in a 4-1 success against Trinidad & Tobago in October 2006, but it was to be another year – and another ten games – before Austria won again, beating Ivory Coast 3-2 in Innsbruck.
- Hickersberger continues to blood young talent, and said: "I'm convinced we will see a very different national team at the European Championship. Both Austria and Switzerland will be excellent hosts. They will put on a sensational tournament and I am convinced that both teams will reach the quarter-finals."

How did they perform in 2006 FIFA World Cup qualifying?

- A third-placed finish in Group 6 meant Austria missed out on their second successive FIFA World Cup finals, having last appeared at the 1998 event in France.
- Hans Krankl's Austria made a bright start, holding section favourites England to a 2-2 draw in Vienna, after two goals in four minutes from Roland Kollman and Andreas Ivanschitz cancelled out efforts from Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard.
- However, a 3-1 home defeat by Poland in their fourth game was a disappointment from which they never quite recovered.
- A second defeat against Poland ended any realistic hopes of qualification, and Krankl resigned with two qualifiers still to play, angry at the news that he was to be replaced by Hickersberger - then coach of SK Rapid Wien.
- Austria subsequently lost 1-0 in England and beat Northern Ireland 2-0 at home.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™ qualifying?

- The Czech Republic and the Netherlands proved too strong for Austria as they finished third in Group 3, well out of the qualifying picture.
- Successive 2-0 wins in their opening qualifiers against Moldova and Belarus augured well, but a 3-0 home defeat against the Dutch followed by a 4-0 mauling in the Czech Republic represented the writing on the wall.
- Both the section's big names would inflict further defeats on Krankl's side before the end of the campaign, and to add insult to injury, Austria also lost 1-0 in Moldova.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Austria have never qualified for a UEFA European Championship final tournament, and so will be playing in the finals for the first time when they co-host UEFA EURO 2008™. They came within one round of the four-team final tournament of the inaugural 1960 competition, but lost 9-4 on aggregate to France in the quarter-finals.

Key facts

- Austria will be one of two first-time contenders at the UEFA European Championship finals along with Poland. However, they have played at seven FIFA World Cup final tournaments.

All-time record

- UEFA EURO 2008™ will see Austria appear in their 13th UEFA European Championship. Going into the finals, their record in the tournament was 80 matches played, with 33 wins, 13 draws and 34 defeats, and 146 goals scored and 125 conceded.

Head coach: Josef Hickersberger

One of the most successful figures in Austrian football history, Josef Hickersberger has appeared at the FIFA World Cup finals both as a player and a coach. He will need all of his vast experience now, however, as he looks to plot a successful course for the co-hosts at UEFA EURO 2008™ following some mixed results during the early stages of Austria's preparations.

His footballing career began in 1966 when he first signed for FK Austria Wien, and he won national titles with the club in 1968/69 and 1969/70 before moving to the German Bundesliga, initially joining Offenbacher Kickers 1901 before moving on to Fortuna Düsseldorf.

After winning the last of his 39 Austria caps at the 1978 FIFA World Cup, starring in a famous 3-2 win against West Germany, Hickersberger returned to his homeland to play for SSW Innsbruck. He ended his career with two seasons at SK Rapid Wien, where he won the Austrian title again in 1981/82.

'Hicke' was quickly picked out as a potential coach, taking charge of the Austria Under-21 side before taking command of the senior squad in 1988. He earned Austria a place at the 1990 World Cup finals and oversaw memorable 3-2 friendly wins against Spain and a Netherlands side who were then reigning European champions.

However, his 29-match spell as national coach came to an ignominious end with his dismissal after Austria lost their opening UEFA EURO '92 fixture 1-0 against the Faroe Islands. Hickersberger's former club Düsseldorf were more forgiving, handing him a return to club coaching, and after a spell at Austria Wien, he tried his luck in the Middle East.

He had spells at Al Ahli, Arab Contractors, Al Shabab and Al Wasl, while also taking charge of the Bahrain national team. Hickersberger then finished his Arabian odyssey with Qatar's Al Etehad before returning to Rapid in 2002. There he won the 2003/04 Austrian title and took his team to the group stages of the UEFA Champions League before being reappointed as national coach of Austria.

Past record against possible opponents

Austria vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Austria vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	0	2	4	9
World Cup	4	1	0	3	3	6

Austria vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	3	4
World Cup	4	0	0	4	1	5

Austria vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	1	2	4	5
World Cup	2	1	1	0	9	1

Austria vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Austria vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	1	1
World Cup	8	4	1	3	9	7

Austria vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	0	2	2	7
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Austria vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	0	3
World Cup	8	1	0	7	7	20

Austria vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	2	0	0	2	3	6

Austria vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	0	4
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Austria vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	0	0	4	3	17
World Cup	3	1	1	1	3	6

Austria vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	5	3
World Cup	6	3	0	3	5	11

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

L – Lost

W – Won

F – Goals for

D – Drawn

A – Goals against

CROATIA

Croatia pack a mean punch

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- The most consistent performers in a competitive Group E, Croatia qualified with a game to spare thanks to Russia's defeat in Israel – news of which filtered through to the team halfway through their 2-0 defeat in F.Y.R. Macedonia.
- It was the only defeat suffered by Croatia during an impressive first campaign under former international defender Slaven Bilić.
- They began with a useful 0-0 draw in Russia and took off the next month with a 7-0 win against Andorra, Mladen Petrić's four goals helping Croatia equal their previous record win, 7-0 against Australia in 1998.
- Four days later, on 11 October 2006, Croatia got an even better result, 2-0 at home against England.
- Having scored against England, Brazilian-born striker Eduardo da Silva netted a hat-trick as Croatia won 4-3 in Israel in their next game.
- With ten goals overall, Eduardo finished as the second top scorer in qualifying behind Northern Ireland's David Healy.
- Croatia saved the best for last, their 3-2 win against England at Wembley on 21 November 2007 confirming first place in the section and ending their hosts' hopes of qualifying. "We are good – very good," said Bilić.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Croatia topped their group with seven wins and three draws from their ten 2006 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. Although Sweden also finished with the same points total, the Croatians held the stronger record in direct matches involving the two group principals. In total, Croatia scored 21 times with five goals conceded.
- Their key victory came in their second match in the qualifying competition. Having dismissed Hungary's challenge with a 3-0 win in Zagreb in their opener after opposing defender Szabolcs Huszti was dismissed after eleven minutes, Croatia won in Sweden thanks to Darijo Srna's 64th-minute free-kick.
- Although Croatia would be held to draws at home against Bulgaria (2-2) and away against Malta (1-1), they won the return matches against those opponents as well as defeating Iceland home and away.
- This set up their crucial second meeting with Sweden in Zagreb in their penultimate fixture, a match the Croatians won thanks to Srna's 56th-minute penalty. Their final fixture ended in a scoreless draw away against Hungary, enough to confirm their first-place finish.
- Croatia lost 1-0 to Brazil before 0-0 and 2-2 draws against Japan and Australia respectively in the group stage of the finals.
- Josip Šimunić and Dario Šimić were both sent-off in Croatia's final game against Australia as they went out of the tournament at the first hurdle.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Croatia advanced to the UEFA EURO 2004™ final tournament via the play-offs after finishing second to Bulgaria in the qualification phase. With five victories and a draw from their eight matches, the Croatians trailed the group winners by a point, but finished ahead of Belgium due to their superior goal difference in the direct matches between the two teams.
- It was in their first match against Belgium, their third in the qualifying campaign, that the Croatians finally found their feet. Having opened the competition with a scoreless home draw against Estonia, the Croatians were then on the receiving end of a 2-0 defeat away against Bulgaria. Belgium then bore the full brunt of Croatian wrath in Zagreb as the home side ran out 4-0 winners thanks to goals from Srna (9), Dado Pršo (55), Tomislav Marić (70) and Jerko Leko (76).
- They would not concede a goal for 448 consecutive minutes before a brace from Wesley Sonck (35, 43) in Brussels helped Belgium to avenge their earlier defeat with Marco Rapaic (37) scoring Croatia's goal.
- The Croatians then held their nerve in their final game, defeating the already-qualified Bulgaria thanks to Ivica Olić's 48th-minute goal at Zagreb's Maksimir stadium.
- Their reward was a two-legged play-off against Slovenia, the Croatians winning 2-1 on aggregate, despite being held to a 1-1 draw at home in the opening leg. They took the lead through Pršo after five minutes only for Ermin Siljak to equalise midway through the half. But Croatia would go on to stun Slovenia in Ljubljana, Pršo scoring the only goal of the game shortly after the hour mark.
- Croatia failed to advance beyond the group stage in Portugal, recording two draws and a defeat from their three outings. Those draws came in their opening two engagements against Switzerland (0-0) and France (2-2) before they were outgunned by England (4-2) in their last match.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Croatia's best performance to date came in their first involvement in the competition. Having topped their qualification round group for UEFA EURO '96™ with 23 points from ten games, the Croatians were pitched against Denmark, Portugal and Turkey in the final tournament group phase. Opening with two victories against Turkey (1-0) and Denmark (3-0), the Croatians qualification for the knockout phase was guaranteed prior to their 3-0 defeat against Portugal in their last match. Facing eventual winners, Germany, in the quarter-final phase, the Croatians exited following a 2-1 defeat.

Key facts

- Croatia have missed only one UEFA European Championship final tournament since independence, missing out on a trip to UEFA EURO 2000™.

All-time record

- Up until the end of qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™, Croatia had appeared in the UEFA European Championship on four occasions, and had played 47 matches. In that time, they had won 28, drawn eleven and lost eight with 86 goals scored and 38 conceded.

Head coach: Slaven Bilić

With Croatia finishing top of Group E in qualifying, former international defender Slaven Bilić has already rewarded the Croatian Football Federation for the faith they showed in him when hiring him as national team coach in July 2006 at the age of 37. Bilić is determined their achievements will not end there, saying: "This is one of the best national teams I have seen in the last five years."

Bilić, who has a law degree, began as a coach during the 2002/03 season with HNK Hajduk Split, the hometown club where he first made his name. He had gone back to the capital after several years playing abroad and it was soon clear that he had loftier ambitions. He was appointed to lead Croatia's Under-21 side in summer 2004 and the team would go on to top their qualifying group for the 2006 UEFA European Under-21 Championship, only to miss out on the finals after defeat in a play-off by Serbia and Montenegro.

Unfortunately, Bilić was absent for that two-legged tie as he was in hospital after surgery on a back problem. Bilić began as a defender with Hajduk and spent six years there before moving to the Bundesliga club Karlsruher SC ahead of the 1993/94 campaign. West Ham United FC paid a then club-record fee of €2.3m for his services in January 1996 and his form in England earned him a place in Croatia's team at EURO '96™, where he helped them reach the quarter-finals.

Everton FC came calling with a €6.6m bid in March 1997 but Bilić would not leave West Ham until ensuring their Premiership survival. Capped 44 times by his country, his greatest achievement came at the 1998 FIFA World Cup when he helped Croatia to a third-place finish in their debut appearance on the world stage. During the 1999/2000 campaign, he returned home to Hajduk and fans in Split could see him indulge his other passion, heavy metal, when playing guitar in a band called Rawbau.

Past record against possible opponents

Croatia vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Croatia vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	1	0	2	2
World Cup	1	0	0	1	1	2

Croatia vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	1	2
World Cup	1	1	0	0	3	0

Croatia vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	2	1	1	0	2	1

Croatia vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	1	1	0	0	2	1

Croatia vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Croatia vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	0	3
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Croatia vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	1	1	0	0	1	0

Croatia vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	2	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Croatia vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Croatia vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	1	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Croatia vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	1	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

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Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czechs make it four in a row

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- With Group D settling quickly into a two-horse race between Germany and the Czech Republic, Karel Brückner's side never looked unlikely to qualify, but finished the job in some style.
- The two frontrunners met for the first time in Prague on 24 March 2007, when two goals from Kevin Kuranyi rendered Milan Baroš's 77th-minute effort redundant and sent Joachim Löw's side three points clear at the top of the section.
- The Czechs held their nerve in subsequent games, however, and spoiled Germany's qualification celebrations by beating their neighbours 3-0 in Munich on 17 October 2007 to seal their place in the finals with two games to spare.
- Victory was all the sweeter for having been achieved without a number of top players. Libor Sionko, Marek Matějovský and Jaroslav Plašil scored the goals that silenced the Bavarian crowd and centre-back David Rozehnal said: "Qualifying is nice but the way we did it is even better."
- They went on to win the group with a 2-0 triumph in Cyprus in their final qualifier.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Finished five points behind runaway group winners the Netherlands in qualifying group action for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, but one point ahead of third-placed Romania. Advanced to one of the three play-off fixtures where they overcame Norway 2-0 on aggregate, winning both legs by the minimum margin.
- Won their opening five home matches in qualifying before losing 2-0 in Prague to the Netherlands in their penultimate fixture in the competition, a result that decided the fate of group honours.
- One of those victories included an 8-1 defeat of Andorra, to date the Czechs widest margin of victory in a competitive international.
- Got off to a fine start at the finals with a 3-0 victory against the United States in their opening group game.
- Defeats by Ghana and Italy, both 2-0, in their remaining games meant the Czechs, who suffered several injuries in Germany, were eliminated in the opening stage.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Eliminated at the semi-final stage of the competition by eventual winners, Greece. The only goal of the game after 105 minutes from Greek defender Traianos Dellas, a silver goal which gave the Czechs virtually no time to muster a response.
- Earlier in the competition, the Czechs accounted for Denmark (3-0) in the quarter-finals after earlier winning all of their three engagements in the group stage against Latvia (2-1), the Netherlands (3-2) and Germany (2-1).
- They topped their group in qualifying round action with seven wins and a draw from eight matches to finish three points clear of the Netherlands with Austria a further ten points in arrears in third position.
- All four home matches ended in victory by an aggregate margin of 14 goals scored with only one conceded. Away from home, the Czechs dropped their only points of the campaign in Rotterdam when they shared a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- The golden goal made its debut in senior international competition at UEFA EURO '96™ and accounted for the Czech Republic in the final of the tournament when Oliver Bierhoff scored the winning goal five minutes into extra time after the sides remained deadlocked at 1-1 after 90 minutes. The Czechs had earlier defeated France and Portugal in the knockout phase of the competition after finishing second to Germany in the group stage at the expense of Italy and Russia.
- As part of the former state of Czechoslovakia, Czech players were involved in winning the 1976 UEFA European Championship against the Federal Republic of Germany. The final ended in a 2-2 stalemate in Belgrade before the Czechoslovak side won 5-3 on penalties with Antonín Panenka cheekily chipping in the final spot-kick for Václav Ježek's side.

Key facts

- Although Pauleta ended up as the highest scorer in the European zone of the 2006 World Cup qualifying round competition with eleven goals, Czech Republic striker Jan Koller was second on nine with Zlatan Ibrahimović (Sweden) and Aleksei Eremenko Jr. (Finland) a further goal behind.

All-time record

- Up until the end of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying, the Czech Republic had played 54 matches in the UEFA European Championship, winning 39, drawing eight and losing seven. In that time, they scored 117 goals and conceded 37.
- From independence up until the end of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying the Czechs' record in the qualifying round of the UEFA European Championship reads - won 25, drawn six and lost two.
- They secured their biggest victory in UEFA European Championship qualification by beating San Marino 7-0 in Liberec on 7 October 2006.
- The Czechs retain a 100 per cent qualification record for the UEFA European Championship finals with four appearances from four attempts.

Head coach: Karel Brückner

Karel Brückner seems to know exactly what makes one of Europe's most enigmatic football nations tick. Having worked with many of the Czech Republic squad for a decade now, first as Under-21 coach and now with the seniors, Brückner has an impressive record of achievement that he maintained during qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™. The Czechs advanced to Austria and Switzerland as winners of Group D, finishing ahead of a Germany side whom they defeated 3-0 in Munich to secure qualification in style.

With a population of just over ten million, the Czechs have been punching well above their weight in Europe ever since they narrowly missed out on victory at UEFA EURO '96™ in England. Under Brückner's guidance, they came close to reaching the final of UEFA EURO 2004™ too, losing to Greece in the semi-finals. Despite their first-round exit at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, where their prospects were hit by injury problems, few were surprised when Brückner immediately agreed a new two-year contract.

By no means an outstanding player, Brückner made his name as a coach with hometown team SK Sigma Olomouc, leading them to the top division in the former Czechoslovakia in 1984. He took Sigma to the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup in 1991/92 where they succumbed to Real Madrid CF. Spells at FK Drnovice and Slovakian side AŠK Inter Bratislava followed before he returned to Olomouc in 1995, leading them to second place in the Czech top flight - their best ever finish - before being hired by the Football Association of the Czech Republic in 1997.

He moulded the Czech U21 side into a force, but by the time they won the UEFA European Under-21 Championship in Switzerland in 2002, Brückner - nicknamed Klekí Petra for his resemblance to a native American teacher in a popular Czech television show - had replaced Jozef Chovanec as senior national team coach. Since then, Brückner's judgement has rarely failed him. Still living in Olomouc, the veteran continues to incorporate the best of the young talent at his disposal into a side which shone at UEFA EURO 2004™ and will hope to do the same four years on.

Past record against possible opponents

Czech Republic vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	2	0	0	7	2
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Czech Republic vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	1	2
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Czech Republic vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	5	2	0	3	7	7
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Czech Republic vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	0	1
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Czech Republic vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	6	3	2	1	10	6
World Cup	2	0	0	2	0	4

Czech Republic vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Czech Republic vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	1	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Czech Republic vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	2	1	0	1	1	2

Czech Republic vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	1	0	3	3
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Czech Republic vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	2	0	1	1	0	1

Czech Republic vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Czech Republic vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Key

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L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

FRANCE

France seek famous treble

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- France's Group B campaign proved more of an ordeal than many would have anticipated although Italy's 2-1 win in Scotland did them a big favour by making their final game in Ukraine a formality.
- A rematch with Italy, the team who had denied them the 2006 FIFA World Cup, was the big treat for the neutrals and France took first blood at the Stade de France in their second qualifier with goals from Sidney Govou (2) and Thierry Henry earning a 3-1 win.
- However, Raymond Domenech's team lost 1-0 to Scotland in Glasgow in their next game to put a surprising complexion on the section.
- France settled themselves with a run of four wins and then drew 0-0 with Italy in Milan.
- However, once more a good result against Italy was followed by a shock against the Scots as James McFadden's strike in Paris consigned the French to a second 1-0 loss against the group's surprise contenders.
- Henry subsequently broke Michel Platini's record of 41 goals for France in the 2-0 win against Lithuania and fears that France might need a result in Ukraine in their final game were to prove unfounded.
- Les Bleus finished second in the section behind Italy.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- One of three teams in their group that remained unbeaten through the qualifying round process, France emerged in first position as their form improved during the competition following a sluggish start.
- The French split their victories and draws in the ten-match campaign to finish two points clear of Switzerland and Israel.
- Although they struggled for goals in their opening five games by only scoring four times in away defeats of the Faroe Islands and Cyprus, the French also recorded five consecutive clean sheets as 0-0 home draws against Israel, the Republic of Ireland and Switzerland testify.
- They would remain undefeated at home with subsequent victories against the Faroes and Cyprus, but their 1-0 defeat of the Republic of Ireland in Dublin ultimately put them in control of their own destiny in the group standings.
- After a slow start in the group stage at the finals against Switzerland (0-0), the Korean Republic (1-1) and Togo (2-0), France gradually improved.
- Victory against Spain in the second round (3-1) was followed by the 1-0 defeats of holders Brazil and then Portugal as they marched on to the final.
- In the showpiece match, France narrowly lost to Italy. Their opponents won 5-3 on penalties after the match, which saw captain Zinedine Zidane sent-off, had finished 1-1.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Advanced to the quarter-finals of the competition before exiting to eventual winners, Greece. The only goal of the game came after 65 minutes through Angelos Charisteas. The defeat ensured that after twelve UEFA European Championship final rounds, the Henri Delaunay trophy remains undefended by the holders.
- Prior to that, France came through the group stage unscathed with victories against England (2-1) and Switzerland (3-1), sandwiched by a 2-2 draw against Croatia.
- Eight wins from eight outings in the qualifying campaign ensured a fault-free passage for the UEFA European Championship holders to the final tournament. Slovenia finished as runners-up ten points adrift as France scored 29 goals but only conceded on two occasions. In total, 19 of those goals were scored in their four matches at home with none conceded.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- France are the only other country apart from three-time winners Germans to have won the competition more than once following successes in 1984 and 2000.
- The victory in 1984 came on home soil as hosts with Spain defeated 2-0 in the final at Parc des Princes in Paris.
- The French won all their matches in the competition, defeating Denmark (1-0), Belgium (5-0) and Yugoslavia (3-2) in the group phase before Portugal (3-2 after extra-time) were accounted for in the semi-finals at Marseille's Stade Vélodrome.

- France edged out Ukraine and Russia by one and two points respectively to book an automatic spot at the UEFA EURO 2000™ finals which were co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands.
- Roger Lemerre's side were second to the Dutch through the three-match group phase, but they overcame Spain (2-1) and Portugal (2-1 after extra-time) in the knockout phase before defeating Italy in the final.
- The endgame also went to extra-time with Marco Delvecchio putting the Italians ahead after 55 minutes only for Sylvain Wiltord to equalise in stoppage time. France went on to win the game thanks to David Trezeguet's goal after 103 minutes.

All-time record

- France have qualified for the last five UEFA European Championship final tournaments having first qualified to host the inaugural four-team final round in 1960.

Key facts

- France have been involved in all 13 UEFA European Championship competitions to date. Up until the end of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying, they had played 117 matches, with 67 wins, 29 draws, 21 losses, 236 goals scored and 109 conceded.
- Before defeating Azerbaijan 10-0 on 6 September 1995 in Auxerre, France's record victory came in their first-ever match in the competition at the expense of Greece.
- France were humbled 5-1 by Yugoslavia at the quarter-final stage of the 1968 UEFA European Championship. To date, that result is their record defeat in the competition.

Head coach: Raymond Domenech

Passionate about astrology and theatre as well as football, France coach Raymond Domenech has a well-deserved reputation as a maverick, and has proved as contrary and effective as a coach as he was as a player.

A tough full-back, Domenech was capped eight times by France during a career in which he won the French Cup with his hometown side Olympique Lyonnais in 1972/73, and then titles with RC Strasbourg in 1978/79 and FC Girondins de Bordeaux in 1983/84. His interest in the psychological aspects of the game emerged early, as he once said: "When I was playing for Lyon in the derby at [AS] Saint-Etienne, I loved warming up alone near the fans who booed me. I stuck close to the advertising hoardings around the stadium and they booed more and more. I needed that."

Domenech made the transition from player to coach at FC Mulhouse, and subsequently won the Ligue 2 title with Lyon in 1988/89 before becoming France Under-21 coach. His biggest achievement during over a decade as U21 coach came when France claimed second place at the 2002 UEFA European Under-21 Championship and his efforts in the post were enough for the French Football Federation to appoint him as senior national coach – despite competition from Laurent Blanc and Jean Tigana – on 12 July 2004, the day his daughter Victoire was born.

After a shaky start, Zinedine Zidane, Lilian Thuram and Claude Makelele came out of retirement to help Domenech's side qualify for the 2006 FIFA World Cup and then reach the final, only to lose 5-3 on penalties to Italy after a 1-1 draw. Domenech nonetheless earned a new contract until after UEFA EURO 2008™, and while France's two defeats against Scotland made qualifying more awkward than many had anticipated, he guided them through in the end.

Past record against possible opponents

France vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	2	0	0	9	4
World Cup	4	3	0	1	6	3

France vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	1	0	2	2
World Cup	1	1	0	0	2	1

France vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	2	1
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

France vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	3	1	1	1	9	8

France vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	1	1	8	3
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

France vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	2	1	0	5	2
World Cup	5	1	2	2	5	6

France vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	2	3
World Cup	2	1	0	1	2	1

France vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	2	0	0	5	3
World Cup	1	1	0	0	1	0

France vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	2	1	0	4	1
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

France vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	5	4	1	0	10	4
World Cup	1	1	0	0	3	1

France vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	2	0	6	4
World Cup	4	2	1	1	6	4

France vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	3	1
World Cup	3	0	3	0	1	1

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

GERMANY

Germany keen to remain on top

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- Germany were the first side to secure qualification for the finals with a 0-0 draw in the Republic of Ireland on 13 October 2007, although a couple of aberrations took some of the gloss off a generally impressive campaign by Joachim Löw's side.
- Germany broke the record for the biggest ever UEFA European Championship win, beating San Marino 13-0 away on 6 September 2006, with Lukas Podolski scoring four goals – only the second German player after Gerd Müller put four past Albania in 1967 to manage that feat.
- They were held to a surprising 1-1 draw by Cyprus in Nicosia on 15 November, but made amends in their next game, beating Czech Republic, the eventual Group D winners, 2-1 in Prague through two Kevin Kuranyi goals.
- They met the Czechs again after they had secured qualification, but left the pitch to catcalls after losing 3-0 in Munich – a result which saw Karel Brückner's visitors through to the finals.
- They finished second in their group after a 0-0 draw against Wales in their final qualifier.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Germany did not feature in the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification round as they were the hosts of the final tournament.
- Germany won all three of their games in the group stage of the finals against Costa Rica (4-2), Poland (1-0) and Ecuador (3-0).
- In the knockout phase they progressed to the semi-finals with victories against Sweden (2-0) and Argentina (4-2 on penalties after the match had ended 1-1).
- The hosts were then eliminated by Italy (2-0) but did finish third after a 3-1 win against Portugal.
- Striker Miroslav Klose ended the tournament as leading scorer, winning the Golden Shoe with five goals.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Germany were involved in the finals for the ninth successive time, qualifying for the eighth successive occasion having hosted the final tournament in 1988. In those eight qualifications, they have finished top of their qualification round group every time.
- In qualifying for UEFA EURO 2004™, Germany won five and drew their remaining three matches to finish four points clear of Scotland. Nevertheless, their only comprehensive victory came in their final match, a 3-0 defeat of Iceland in Hamburg with Michael Ballack (9), Fredi Bobic (60) and Kevin Kuranyi (79) on target.
- Two two-goal victories were recorded home and away against the Faroe Islands, with their other successes coming away against Lithuania (2-0) and at home against Scotland (2-1).
- In their three draws at home against Lithuania (1-1), away against Scotland (1-1) and away against Iceland (0-0), Germany never trailed.
- But their performance in the final tournament disappointed with only two points from three group stage outings. Draws were recorded against the Netherlands (1-1) and Latvia (0-0) before Germany exited the competition following their 2-1 defeat at the hands of the Czech Republic in a repeat of the UEFA EURO '96™ final.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Germany have won the competition once since reunification (1996) but three times overall having earlier won the competition in 1972 and 1980 as West Germany. The Czech Republic were defeated in the 1996 final at Wembley, Oliver Bierhoff scoring the golden goal winner five minutes into extra-time after having earlier scored their equaliser 17 minutes from time. Patrik Berger had given the Czechs a 59th-minute lead from the penalty spot.
- Germany advanced from the group stage with defeats of the Czech Republic (2-0) and Russia (3-0) before holding Italy to a scoreless draw. Their reward was a quarter-final match against Croatia which Germany won 2-1 before they defeated England in the semis on penalties after the match ended 1-1 after extra-time.

Key facts

- Germany have not won a match in the final tournament of a UEFA European Championship since winning the competition in 1996. Since then, Germany have played six matches, drawing three and losing three with three goals scored and eight conceded.

All-time record

- Germany lead the way with three tournament victories to date. In 1972 and 1980, they won the competition as West Germany, but their 1996 success came after reunification. France are the only other country to have won the competition more than once following successes in 1984 and 2000.
- Up until the end of qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™, Germany had appeared in the UEFA European Championship on eleven occasions, and had played 110 matches. In that time, they won 67, drawn 29 and lost 14 of those fixtures with 224 goals scored and 77 conceded.

Head coach: Joachim Löw

Not many eyebrows were raised when Joachim Löw stepped up from his position as Germany assistant coach to take centre stage after Jürgen Klinsmann stood down after the 2006 FIFA World Cup. The former midfielder had heavily influenced tactics and lineups, and was a major force behind Germany's attacking approach, with Klinsmann saying: "He has always been much more than an assistant coach to me."

The Schonau-born Löw proved that he was the right man for the job in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying, with Germany the first nation apart from the two co-hosts to book a place in the finals. Löw was promptly handed an extension to his original two-year contract, which takes him through until 2010, and German Football Association president Theo Zwanziger declared the move "a clear signal that we are heading towards UEFA EURO 2008™ and the 2010 World Cup with confidence in his philosophy". Affectionately known as Jogi, Löw is widely regarded for his innovative training methods and his pride in seeing young players fulfil their potential.

Löw played for VfB Stuttgart, SC Freiburg and Eintracht Frankfurt, making 57 Bundesliga appearances as well as appearing 181 times in the second division. He hung up his boots in summer 1995, but had already been coaching part-time at Swiss side FC Winterthur. He took the reins at Stuttgart in July 1995 and guided them to the 1996/97 German Cup, and the final of the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in the following season where they lost 1-0 to Chelsea FC. He then won the Austrian championship with FC Wacker Tirol [then known as FC Tirol Innsbruck] in 2001/02 before a spell at FK Austria Wien. He also had stints in Turkey at Fenerbahçe SK and Adanaspor AS.

Past record against possible opponents

Germany vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	3	0
World Cup	8	7	0	1	20	7

Germany vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	2	1
World Cup	1	0	0	1	0	3

Germany vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	5	3	0	2	7	7
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Germany vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	3	1	1	1	8	9

Germany vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	0	3	0	3	3
World Cup	4	4	0	0	11	3

Germany vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	2	0	1	1
World Cup	5	0	2	3	4	9

Germany vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	1	2	6	8
World Cup	5	2	3	0	7	5

Germany vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	3	1
World Cup	3	2	1	0	2	0

Germany vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	3	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Germany vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	3	2
World Cup	9	6	2	1	21	10

Germany vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	4	2	1	1	10	6

Germany vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	8	4	3	1	14	3
World Cup	2	2	0	0	11	3

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

GREECE**Greece seek to retain top prize****How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?**

- The European champions were winners of Group C, qualifying with two games to spare thanks to Ioannis Amanatidis's strike in a 1-0 win against Turkey in Istanbul. They finished the campaign with 31 points – more than any other team in qualifying.
- Otto Rehhagel broke new ground as Greece's longest-serving coach, overseeing his 75th match in the final qualifier in Hungary.
- Greece's great start – three wins without conceding a goal – came to a shocking end as they went down 4-1 to Turkey in Athens, despite taking a fifth-minute lead through Sotirios Kyrgiakos. "Although we got an early goal, we couldn't keep up with Turkey's tempo and they got better by the minute," said Rehhagel.
- Greek heads did not drop, however, and they duly won seven out of their next eight qualifiers, the only dropped points coming in the credit-worthy 2-2 draw in Norway, where Kyrgiakos scored twice.
- Kyrgiakos played in all 1,080 minutes of Greece's 12-game qualifying campaign.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification round?

- Failed to follow up on their UEFA EURO 2004™ success after missing out on a place at the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals in Germany by finishing fourth in their seven-team group with six wins and three draws from their 12 qualifying matches.
- Recorded four wins and a draw from their six outings at home. Their only home defeat came against eventual group winners, Ukraine, who scored the only goal of the game via Andriy Husin eight minutes from time at the Georgios Karaiskakis stadium.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Proved to be the surprise package of the UEFA EURO 2004™ finals in Portugal by ending the competition as winners.
- Qualified for the competition for the second time in their history by winning their group with six wins and two losses from their eight outings to finish ahead of Spain and Ukraine.
- Won their last six matches in the qualifying round by a total margin of eight goals scored and none conceded – the last four games all ending 1-0.
- Finished second behind Portugal in the group stage of the final tournament despite defeating the hosts 2-1 in the opening game.
- Continued to put faith in their defence as 1-0 results proved in the remainder of the competition. Greece overcame France at the quarter-final stage with Angelos Charisteas on target after 65 minutes. Then beat the Czech Republic in the semis thanks to Trianiotis Dellas' silver goal after 105 minutes.
- Greece then defeated Portugal in the final at the Estádio da Luz with Charisteas' 57th-minute goal separating the sides.
- Ended the competition without conceding a goal in their final 358 minutes of competitive play.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Football Championship?

- Won UEFA EURO 2004™.

Key facts

- Greece refused to play Albania in their first match in the UEFA European Championship in March 1963 as the countries had officially been at war since 1912.
- Greece have played at two UEFA European Championship finals having featured at EURO 1980 in Italy before triumphing at UEFA EURO 2004™.

All-time record

- Up until the end of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying, Greece had played 100 games in the UEFA European Championship (including the forfeit 3-0 defeat to Albania in 1963) winning 48, drawing 19 and losing 33 times with 146 goals scored and 115 conceded.
- Their greatest margin of victory came in the qualifying round for EURO 1980 when Finland were on the receiving end of a 8-1 thrashing with Thomas Mavros scoring a hat-trick.
- Their greatest margin of defeat came in their opening tie in the competition in 1958 when the Greeks were on the receiving end of a 7-1 loss against France in Paris with Just Fontaine, Jean Vincent and Thadée Cisowski scoring two goals apiece for the home side.

Head coach: Otto Rehhagel

Greece's final game in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying marked another milestone for their German coach Otto Rehhagel as he surpassed Alketas Panagoulis's record of 74 games in charge of the national team. "Nobody could have predicted that I would be at the helm for so many matches," said the veteran trainer, whose side qualified for Austria and Switzerland with more points than any other.

Speaking of predictions, nobody would have guessed just what 'King Otto' would achieve after he took the Greece job in August 2001. Indeed the prognosis might have been gloomy when his first game ended in a 5-1 defeat against Finland, yet the tactics and discipline that had made him a legend in German football soon began to tell. Rehhagel led his team to the finals of UEFA EURO 2004™ and a month few Greeks will ever forget, culminating in a 1-0 win against hosts Portugal which earned them their first major title.

Failing to reach the finals of the 2006 FIFA World Cup may have taken some of the gloss off that triumph, but Rehhagel has got Greece back on track. Despite losing 4-1 at home against neighbours Turkey, they finished the UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying campaign comfortably clear at the top of their section.

A player for Hertha BSC Berlin and 1. FC Kaiserslautern in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Rehhagel's coaching career took in spells at Kickers Offenbach, Werder Bremen, BV Borussia Dortmund, DSC Armenia Bielefeld and Fortuna Düsseldorf - where he won the 1979/80 German Cup - before he returned to second division Bremen in early 1981.

He was hugely successful during this second spell with the club, which lasted 14 years and took in triumphs in the Bundesliga (1986/87 and 1992/93), German Cup (1990/91 and 1993/94) and UEFA Cup Winners' Cup (1991/92). Rehhagel subsequently took the manager's job at FC Bayern München and led them to the 1995/96 UEFA Cup final. He was later dismissed, but soon got his revenge when he led Kaiserslautern to the 1997/98 German title before leaving the club in October 2000. He was the first man to have been involved - as a player and a coach - in more than 1,000 Bundesliga games.

Past record against possible opponents

Greece vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	2	0	1	1	1	2

Greece vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	1	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Greece vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	1	1	3	8
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Greece vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	0	3	0	3	3
World Cup	4	0	0	4	3	11

Greece vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	3	0	1	2	1	7

Greece vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	2	2
World Cup	2	0	0	2	2	7

Greece vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	3	0	1	6	4
World Cup	2	1	1	0	6	4

Greece vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	6	0	3	3	4	11

Greece vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	0	0	3	2	7
World Cup	2	1	1	0	2	1

Greece vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	1	1	2	3
World Cup	2	0	0	2	3	6

Greece vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Greece vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	2	4
World Cup	2	0	2	0	0	0

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

ITALY**Italy ready for second triumph****How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?**

- Replacing Marcello Lippi after Italy's success at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, coach Roberto Donadoni made a shaky start in qualifying but his team eventually did enough to qualify as Group B winners.
- A 1-1 home draw with Lithuania in their opening tie in Naples was a shock, but perhaps not as big a setback as the 3-1 defeat in France in their second qualifier, when Raymond Domenech's side avenged their defeat on penalties in the World Cup final.
- That would prove to be the only reverse the Azzurri suffered and Luca Toni's two goals in a 2-0 win at home against Scotland in March 2007 provided an important reminder of the world champions' credentials.
- Italy won nine of their last ten qualifiers but were denied revenge against France with a goalless draw in Milan.
- They eventually secured qualification both for themselves and France by beating Scotland 2-1 in Glasgow thanks to another goal from Toni and an added-time winner from defender Christian Panucci.
- A 3-1 win against the Faroe Islands in their final fixture earned them top spot in the section at France's expense.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Eventual winners Italy won their 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification round group with seven wins and two draws from their ten engagements. In that time, they scored 17 goals and conceded eight.
- Their only blip came away against Slovenia in their third match in the competition. Having narrowly won their first two games at home against Norway (2-1) and away against Moldova (1-0), Italy succumbed to Boštjan Cesar's 82nd-minute goal for Slovenia in their meeting at Celje on 9 October 2004.
- The Italians bounced back with home victories against Belarus (4-3) and Scotland (2-0) before protecting their lead in the standings with away draws in Oslo against Norway (0-0) and later in Glasgow against Scotland (1-1), although they required a Fabio Grosso goal 15 minutes from time to make their point at Hampden Park.
- Belarus were defeated 4-1 in Minsk with Luca Toni (6, 13, 55) scoring a hat-trick before the Italians rounded off their campaign with two home victories against Slovenia (1-0) and Moldova (2-1). Those two successes also provided Italy with five wins from five on home soil in the qualifying round.
- Italy claimed their fourth World Cup triumph after going undefeated in their seven games at the finals in Germany.
- After group games against Ghana (2-0), the United States (1-1) and the Czech Republic (2-0) they progressed to the last four with wins against Australia (1-0) and Ukraine (3-0).
- An extra-time victory over hosts Germany (2-0) was followed by a 5-3 penalty win in the final against France after the game in Berlin had finished 1-1.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Italy won their five-team qualification round group by four points from Wales having won five and drawn two of their eight matches in the competition. But their time at the UEFA EURO 2004™ finals lasted only three matches as they finished in third place in their group behind both Sweden and Denmark despite remaining unbeaten.
- The Italians' only defeat in the entire competition came in their third match of the qualifying round when they lost 2-1 away against Wales on 16 October 2002. Simon Davies opened the scoring for the home side after eleven minutes, and though Alessandro Del Piero equalised for the visitors shortly after the half-hour mark, Wales prevailed thanks to Craig Bellamy's 70th-minute winner.
- Italy won two of their home matches by four-goal margins, firstly avenging their loss to Wales (4-0) before defeating Azerbaijan by the same scoreline. A second half hat-trick from Filippo Inzaghi (58, 62 and 69) unhinged the Welsh, and he added two more goals after 23 and 86 minutes to help defeat the Azeris.
- But Italy's UEFA EURO 2004™ finals involvement proved unsuccessful despite draws against Denmark (0-0), Sweden (1-1) and a 2-1 victory against Bulgaria in their last match, a game in which they fought back from a one-goal interval deficit to win thanks to strikes from Simone Perrotta (48) and Antonio Cassano (90+4). However, their goal difference was weaker in comparison to their two Nordic rivals who also finished the group stage with five points while Bulgaria propped up the standings, pointless from their three games in the competition.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Italy won the 1968 UEFA European Championship, defeating Yugoslavia 2-0 in a final replay after the two sides had shared a 1-1 draw at Rome's Stadio Olimpico. Italy forced a replay when Angelo Domenghini's 80th-minute goal cancelled out Dragan Dzajić's opener after 39 minutes. The tournament hosts made no mistake in the replay played two days later as first-half goals from Luigi Riva (12) and Pietro Anastasi (31) sealed a 2-0 win.

Key facts

- Italy have qualified for the last four UEFA European Championship final tournaments.

All-time record

- Up until the end of qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™, Italy had appeared in the UEFA European Championship on twelve occasions, and had played 111 matches. In that time, they won 59, drew 35 and lost 17 of those fixtures with 175 goals scored and 77 conceded.

Head coach: Roberto Donadoni

Appointed in the wake of Italy's 2006 FIFA World Cup success, former national team midfielder Roberto Donadoni inherited a huge burden of expectation when he succeeded Marcello Lippi. The Italian Football Federation's then vice-president Demetrio Albertini said on his appointment: "We decided to gamble on a young man who could become truly great."

Italy may have stumbled at the start of their UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying campaign - drawing with Lithuania and losing to France - but they eventually advanced as group winners and the experience will doubtless serve Donadoni well for the challenges ahead. Donadoni has been passing his knowledge on to players since 2001 when he took charge of Serie C club Calcio Lecco 1912. He temporarily quit midway through that season before going back and leading them to a ninth-place finish.

The following season he moved on to AS Livorno Calcio, then of Serie B, and secured tenth place before heading to Genoa 1893. He was sacked after three games in charge and would resurface at Livorno midway in January 2005, with the Tuscany club in the top flight. A very respectable ninth-place finish served notice of Donadoni's potential. Things got even better in 2005/06 with Livorno up to sixth in the standings before Donadoni resigned that February following a disagreement with the club president. It would be his last job before Italy came calling.

As a player, Donadoni served Italy with distinction on 63 occasions. He twice suffered penalty heartache at two FIFA World Cups, missing in the semi-final shoot-out defeat by Argentina in 1990 and then watching as Brazil won on spot-kicks in the final four years later. At club level, Donadoni made his Serie A debut with hometown club Atalanta BC before joining AC Milan in 1986. He was a key component of a side which won five Serie A league titles (1988, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996) and three European Champion Clubs' Cups (1989, 1990, 1994) under illustrious coaches such as Arrigo Sacchi and Fabio Capello. Before retiring, he had spells in the United States and Saudi Arabia with New York/New Jersey MetroStars and Al Ittihad respectively.

Past record against possible opponents

Italy vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	4	3
World Cup	4	4	0	0	5	1

Italy vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	0	1	2	2	5
World Cup	5	2	2	1	6	5

Italy vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	2	0	1	1
World Cup	5	3	2	0	9	4

Italy vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	3	2	1	0	7	1

Italy vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	1	1	2	3
World Cup	1	0	0	1	1	2

Italy vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	2	0	0	0
World Cup	7	3	3	1	12	3

Italy vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	2	0	0	4	0
World Cup	4	3	0	1	7	4

Italy vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	5	3	1	1	6	2
World Cup	2	2	0	0	5	0

Italy vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	2	1
World Cup	2	1	1	0	2	1

Italy vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	1	0
World Cup	3	2	1	0	4	2

Italy vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	6	3	3	0	11	4
World Cup	7	2	2	3	9	9

Italy vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	3	0	0	9	1
World Cup	2	1	1	0	1	0

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

NETHERLANDS

Strength gives Dutch courage

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- The Netherlands rarely looked in trouble in Group G and qualified with a game to spare.
- Romania proved to be the Netherlands' most serious rivals, holding them to a 0-0 draw in Rotterdam and then progressing to the finals with a 1-0 win against Marco van Basten's side in challenging conditions in Constanta.
- Qualification was assured with a 1-0 home win against Luxembourg. The minnows withstood a Dutch onslaught but went down to a solitary Danny Koevermans goal.
- They finished second in the section after an unexpected 2-1 defeat in Belarus in their final qualifier.
- Besides qualification for Austria and Switzerland, another major positive from the Dutch campaign was the opportunity given the stars of their 2006 and 2007 UEFA European Under-21 Championship winning squads to impress at senior level.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Controlled their group in the qualifying round phase of the 2006 FIFA World Cup by winning ten and drawing two of their 12 outings in the competition. Topped the group standings by five points from the Czech Republic with Romania a further two points behind in third.
- Their 32 points from 12 matches provided the highest points per match haul in the competition (2.67 points per match – England and Portugal were tied for second with 2.5 points per match).
- The Dutch progressed through a difficult group at the finals after meeting Serbia and Montenegro (1-0), Ivory Coast (2-1) and Argentina (0-0).
- Their tournament ended in the second round though after a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Portugal in a game that saw both sides finish with nine men.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Having finished as runners-up to the Czech Republic in the qualifying round, the Netherlands defeated Scotland 6-1 on aggregate to book their place in the final tournament in Portugal. In the group stage, the Dutch played second fiddle to the Czechs once more, but advanced to the knockout stages where they overcame Sweden on penalties in the quarter-finals before losing 2-1 to Portugal in the semis.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Football Championship?

- The Netherlands won the competition in 1988, their only appearance in the final to date. They defeated the Soviet Union 2-0 at Munich's Olympiastadion on 25 June 1988 thanks to goals from Ruud Gullit (32 minutes) and current coach Marco van Basten (54).
- The Dutch have also appeared in four additional semi-finals (2004, 2000, 1992 and 1976) and one additional quarter-final (1996).

Key facts

- The Dutch have qualified for the last five UEFA European Championship final tournaments.

All-time record

- Up until the end of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying, the Netherlands had played 117 matches in the UEFA European Championship. Their record read: 72 wins, 22 draws and 23 losses with 241 goals scored and 91 conceded.
- The Dutch did not participate in the 1960 UEFA European Championship.

Head coach: Marco van Basten

One of the great strikers of his age, Netherlands coach Marco van Basten seems the ideal choice to bring an exciting new generation of Dutch attacking talent to their peak at UEFA EURO 2008™. "We have a lot of players with good attacking qualities and that is a luxury, but most of them are young boys who need to mature," Van Basten said. "With more experience, we will have a chance to clinch a major title."

Van Basten was a wild-card choice when he replaced Dick Advocaat as Netherlands coach after the Oranje reached the semi-finals of UEFA EURO 2004™. His only previous coaching role had been working with the AFC Ajax youth team but with the Dutch going unbeaten for 15 games after he took charge - before losing 3-1 against Italy in a November 2005 friendly - Van Basten proved he had plenty of potential.

His side breezed through 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification but bowed out in the second round in Germany after a disappointing, bad-tempered 1-0 defeat against Portugal. UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying proved largely straightforward, the Netherlands progressing as the second-placed team in Group G behind Romania, and Van Basten was able to continue his policy of bringing young players into his senior squad from the sides that won the 2006 and 2007 UEFA European Under-21 Championships.

Van Basten's successful playing career has been well-documented. His talents as a striker were there for all to see as early as the 1983 FIFA World Youth Championship, and he had scored 128 goals for Ajax - including the winner in the 1986/87 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup final - by the time he made a €2.5m move from Amsterdam to AC Milan in 1987.

His memorable volley against the Soviet Union helped the Netherlands win the 1988 UEFA European Championship final and he then took the ultimate club honours as he lifted the UEFA European Champion Clubs' Cup twice in successive years with Milan in 1988/89 and 1989/90.

Past record against possible opponents

Netherlands vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	1	0	0	1	1	2

Netherlands vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	3	2
World Cup	2	1	0	1	1	2

Netherlands vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	1	1	3	2
World Cup	1	1	0	0	2	1

Netherlands vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	0	2	2	3
World Cup	3	0	1	2	2	5

Netherlands vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Netherlands vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	1	0	0	0
World Cup	1	0	1	0	0	0

Netherlands vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	6	1	2	3	6	10
World Cup	2	2	0	0	4	0

Netherlands vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	2	1	1	8	6
World Cup	5	0	3	2	5	7

Netherlands vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	6	2	2	2	7	7
World Cup	4	2	1	1	7	5

Netherlands vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	0	1
World Cup	2	2	0	0	4	0

Netherlands vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	2	2
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Netherlands vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	4	2	1	1	6	3

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

POLAND

Poland ready for first finals

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker led Poland to their first ever UEFA European Championship finals, with nine-goal striker Euzebiusz Smolarek securing their qualification with a game to spare when he struck both goals in a 2-0 home win over Belgium.
- A 3-1 home defeat by Finland in their opening game in Group A – the only section to contain eight teams, rather than seven – was a shock and when a 1-1 draw against Serbia followed, things looked grim.
- They found the perfect response, however, by embarking on six-game winning run that included a 2-1 victory over Portugal, Smolarek registering twice.
- A 1-0 defeat in Armenia threw a spanner in the works, but Poland recovered. A late Jacek Krzynówek goal earned them a 2-2 draw in Portugal and after taking another point in Finland, they completed the job with wins against Kazakhstan and Belgium.
- The Poles secured first place in Group A by holding Serbia to a 2-2 draw in their final qualifier in Belgrade – a result that ended their hosts' hopes of qualifying.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Two defeats against England denied Poland top spot in their 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification round group, but they advanced as one of the strongest runners-up having won the remainder of their ten engagements.
- Poland recorded home and away victories against Austria, Azerbaijan, Northern Ireland and Wales in finishing second to England. Their most notable win was their 8-0 home defeat of the Azeris on 26 March 2005 with Tomasz Frankowski (12, 63 and 66) scoring a hat-trick.
- Their first 2-1 defeat against England came at home in their second outing in the competition on 8 September 2004 in Chorzow.
- By the time the two sides met in their final match, they were both guaranteed a place in the finals. A Polish draw at Old Trafford would have given them group honours after England had lost away to Northern Ireland, but the home side prevailed 2-1.
- Poland were eliminated at the first stage of the finals following 2-0 and 1-0 defeats in group games against Ecuador and Germany respectively before a 2-1 triumph against Costa Rica.
- Finishing third in their section, Poland's only goals in Germany were scored by Bartosz Bosacki in their final game.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Although they had appeared at the 2002 FIFA World Cup finals, Poland again struggled in their subsequent UEFA European Championship qualifying campaign, finishing third in their group behind Portugal-bound Sweden and Latvia. The Swedes topped the five-team group with 17 points from their eight matches, one point ahead of Latvia and four clear of Poland.
- The Poles recorded four wins and a draw from their eight matches to end two points clear of Hungary. San Marino propped up the standings with no goals scored and no points to show from their campaign.
- Their home form proved to be their undoing as they lost at home to Latvia (0-1) and Sweden (0-2) as well being held to a scoreless draw by Hungary. All of their goals on home soil came in their 5-0 defeat of San Marino in Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski with Marcin Kuzba (54, 90+3) scoring twice.
- Poland won their final two games away against Latvia (2-0) and Hungary (2-1), but by then it was too late to salvage at least a second-placed finish.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Prior to securing their first qualification this time around, Poland's best campaign saw them come close to qualifying for the 1980 UEFA European Championship final round in Italy, finishing one point behind the Netherlands in their qualifying round group.

Key facts

- The number 13 proved to be a luck one for Poland as they secured their first UEFA European Championship final round appearance at the 13th attempt in for UEFA EURO 2008™.

All-time record

- Up until the end of qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™, Poland had appeared in all 13 UEFA European Championship qualifying competitions, and had played 90 matches. In that time, they had won 38, drawn 24 and lost 28 of those fixtures with 131 goals scored and 100 conceded.

Head coach: Leo Beenhakker

"This is definitely one of the biggest successes of my career," said Leo Beenhakker after leading Poland to UEFA EURO 2008™. Given the Dutchman is entering his fifth decade as a coach, that is saying something but then consider that Poland, Group A winners ahead of Portugal, had never before reached the UEFA European Championship finals. Beenhakker came to the job in July 2006 following a fairy-tale ride with Trinidad & Tobago, whom he led to their first FIFA World Cup. Not surprisingly, his initial contract with the Polish Football Association has already been extended to take him through to the end of 2010 World Cup qualifying.

Beenhakker committed to coaching at an early age and got an assistant's job at Go Ahead Eagles in 1967. He then made the step up to full coaching duties at BV Veendam, SC Cambuur and Go Ahead before accepting a youth coaching job at Feyenoord. He moved on to the AFC Ajax youth department in 1978 and became head coach in 1979. In 1979/80, he guided Ajax to the Dutch title and the European Champion Clubs' Cup semi-finals. His first foray abroad followed in March 1981 with a three-year stay at Real Zaragoza.

He then went via FC Volendam to the Netherlands job in 1985 but lasted just seven matches before embarking on a successful period with Real Madrid CF with whom he won three successive Primera División titles and one Spanish Cup. He went back to Ajax and captured the Dutch title in 1988/90 before a brief return to the Netherlands post for the 1990 World Cup, where the Oranje reached the second round.

After a short-lived return to Madrid, he had spells in Switzerland (Grasshopper-Club), Saudi Arabia, Mexico (Club America and CD Guadalajara) and Turkey (Istanbulspor). He headed home to BV Vitesse in 1996 and on to Feyenoord a year later, winning the Dutch title there in 1998/99. Between 2000 and 2003, he worked as Ajax's technical director but then returned to Mexican club América for a second spell. He resurfaced in the Eredivisie as De Graafschap's technical adviser before starting his Trinidad and Tobago adventure in May 2005.

Past record against possible opponents

Poland vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	2	2	0	0	6	3

Poland vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Poland vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Poland vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	1	3
World Cup	3	0	1	2	0	2

Poland vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	2	2
World Cup	2	2	0	0	7	2

Poland vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	2	0	0	0
World Cup	7	1	3	3	3	12

Poland vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	6	2	2	2	7	7
World Cup	4	1	1	2	5	7

Poland vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	1	2	5	6
World Cup	4	2	1	1	4	5

Poland vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	1	2
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Poland vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	0	2	2	7
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Poland vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	0	0	4	0	8
World Cup	3	1	0	2	2	4

Poland vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	2	0	0	4	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Key

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W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

PORTUGAL

Point to prove for Portugal

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- Portugal lost only one game in Group A, the only section with eight teams, but had to endure a nervous finale before claiming their place in the finals as runners-up to Poland.
- After clinging on for a 1-1 draw with Finland with ten men in their opening game, Portugal won 3-0 against Azerbaijan but then lost 2-1 in Poland.
- Progress was to be sporadic thereafter, despite winger Cristiano Ronaldo contributing eight goals. Portugal dropped some unexpected points, drawing 1-1 home and away against Serbia, 2-2 at home against Poland and – worst of all – 1-1 away against a surprisingly troublesome Armenia.
- Incidents following the 1-1 home draw with Serbia led coach Luiz Felipe Scolari to be banned from the touchline for three games, but Portugal won all three matches with his assistant Flávio Teixeira on the bench, meaning they needed only to avoid defeat in their final game against Finland in Porto to progress.
- With Finland knowing a win would likely see them qualify in Portugal's place, it was a tense affair, but a 0-0 draw sufficed for the home side, with Scolari saying: "I know we have to improve for the finals."

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Advanced to their second successive FIFA World Cup finals by topping the standings in their qualifying round group ahead of Slovakia and Russia.
- Won nine and drew three of their 12 games in the qualifiers, winning all of their six games on home soil with 24 goals scored and two conceded.
- With 30 points from 12 outings, Portugal finished joint second with England (25 points from 10 matches) in terms of their average points per match ratio – 2.5 – with the Netherlands posting the best match average (2.67).
- Portugal enjoyed a successful campaign at the finals in Germany, finishing the tournament in fourth position.
- Group victories against Angola (1-0), Iran (2-0) and Mexico (2-1) were followed by the 1-0 second-round defeat of the Netherlands.
- Portugal made it to the semi-finals after a 3-1 penalty win against England but had their path halted by a 1-0 loss to France, before losing 3-1 in the third-place play-off to Germany.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Beaten finalists, having also hosted the event. Portugal lost their opening and closing matches to Greece but won all their other matches in between.
- Bounced back from their opening match loss to Greece to defeat Russia (2-0) and Spain (1-0) to top the group standings. Overcame England in the quarter-finals on penalties after the sides shared a 2-2 draw and then beat the Netherlands 2-1 to claim their place in the final.
- Greek striker Angelos Charisteas' 57th-minute goal separated the sides at the Estádio da Luz in the final as Portugal failed to follow the example of Spain (1964), Italy (1968) and France (1984) in winning the competition on home soil.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Portugal's best performance to date in the competition came in 2004 when they lost in the final to Greece. Prior to that, Portugal had appeared in two semi-finals where they lost on both occasions to France.
- The two sides met in 1984 where France won 3-2 in an extra-time thriller at the Stade Vélodrome in Marseille before defeating Spain in the final.
- Sixteen years later, on this occasion at Brussels' Roi Baudouin stadium, France prevailed 2-1 against Portugal, again after extra time, before defeating Italy in the final four days later.

Key facts

- Portugal have qualified for the last four UEFA European Championship final tournaments having first qualified for the finals in 1984.

All-time record

- Up until the end of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying, Portugal had played 108 matches in their 13 participations in the UEFA European Championship, winning 58, drawing 26 and losing 24 with 183 goals scored and 98 conceded.
- Portugal's record victories to date in the competition have come via two 8-0 defeats of Liechtenstein on 18 December 1994 and 9 June 1999. The latter match saw both João Pinto and Sá Pinto scoring hat-tricks.
- Their record defeats in the competition have come courtesy of 5-0 away defeats at the hands of Czechoslovakia (30 April 1975) and the Soviet Union (27 April 1983).

Head coach: Luiz Felipe Scolari

Credited by many as the man who rescued Brazilian football when the national team were at a low ebb, Luiz Felipe Scolari is hoping he can go one step better in his second UEFA European Championship campaign with Portugal.

The stage seemed set for the Brazilian to lead the Portuguese to glory on home soil when they breezed into the final of UEFA EURO 2004™, but just as they had done in the opening game of the finals, Greece spoiled the party, winning 1-0. Four years on, Portugal will return to the continental finals having finished second behind Poland in Group A. Although Scolari warned his squad would "have to improve" before June – words uttered after they qualified in low-key fashion with a goalless draw with Finland – their tournament record under 'Big Phil' augurs well.

The UEFA EURO 2004™ runners-up performed impressively at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, seeing off the Netherlands and England in the knockout stages before losing 1-0 to France in the semi-finals. It was the country's best showing since 1966 and Scolari, who prior to the finals had been courted by England, agreed a new two-year deal shortly after. For all his standing in the game, he was no great shakes as a player, and it took a change to coaching in 1982 for him to make an impact at the highest level. Respected in Brazil, his reputation was established when he won the Copa Libertadores with Grêmio FBPA in 1995 and SE Palmeiras four years later.

Strangely, his aggressive style was not such a big hit with the Brazilian public after he took charge of the national team. Indeed, after barely squeezing through qualifying for the 2002 World Cup, his promise that Brazil would reach the semi-finals was greeted with derision. However, he was to prove true to his word and more as, despite leaving Romário out of his squad, a side featuring Ronaldo, Ronaldinho and Rivaldo overcame Germany in the final in Japan.

Past record against possible opponents

Portugal vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	2	1	1	5	4
World Cup	2	0	1	1	1	9

Portugal vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	3	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Portugal vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	0	1
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Portugal vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	0	2	3	5
World Cup	1	0	0	1	0	1

Portugal vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	0	3	4	6
World Cup	2	0	1	1	4	6

Portugal vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	0	2	0	4
World Cup	4	1	0	3	4	7

Portugal vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	2	0	1	3	2
World Cup	3	2	1	0	5	2

Portugal vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	2	1	1	6	5
World Cup	4	1	1	2	5	4

Portugal vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	2	0
World Cup	2	1	1	0	7	1

Portugal vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	2	1	4	4
World Cup	4	1	0	3	3	8

Portugal vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	2	0	1	1
World Cup	7	3	2	2	9	8

Portugal vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	2	0	0	3	0
World Cup	2	2	0	0	6	1

Key

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W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

ROMANIA

Romania ready to return

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- Romania confirmed their progress to their first finals tournament since UEFA EURO 2000™ with two games to go, with a 2-0 win in Luxembourg completing a run of ten unbeaten games in Group G.
- It was vindication for coach Victor Pițurcă, who had also led Romania through qualifying for UEFA EURO 2000™ but was no longer in the post when the finals came round.
- Romania got their campaign off to a shaky start when they conceded two late goals in a 2-2 home draw with Bulgaria but that was to be their biggest setback.
- A 0-0 draw in the Netherlands in their fourth game sparked a run of six straight wins, with Dorin Goian scoring the only goal in the return against the Dutch in Constanta to leave Romania on the threshold of the finals.
- They took the final step by winning 2-0 in Luxembourg through goals from Florentin Petre and Ciprian Marica.
- Although Pițurcă's side let their unbeaten record slip in their next game, losing 1-0 in Bulgaria, they finished the campaign with a 6-1 victory over nine-man Albania to confirm their place as group winners.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification round?

- Excluding Germany, the hosts and automatic qualifiers for the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals, Romania are the only second seeds in the UEFA EURO 2008™ qualification round draw not to have advanced to at least the play-offs. They finished in third place behind the Netherlands and the Czech Republic in their efforts to advance to the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals.
- Romania had eight wins and a draw from their twelve-game campaign to finish seven points behind the Dutch, two points behind the Czechs and nine points clear of their closest pursuers, Finland.
- Three wins from their opening three games had Romania in pole position early in proceedings, but they finished off 2004 with a 1-0 loss away against the Czech Republic and were then held to a 1-1 draw away against Armenia despite holding an interval lead following Ciprian Marica's 29th-minute goal. Karen Dokhoyan equalised for the Armenians on the hour mark.
- They then opened 2005 with another defeat, this time a 2-0 reverse at home against the Netherlands, their only blemish on Romanian soil throughout the qualification round. Phillip Cocu scored the opening goal at the Giulesti stadium in the opening minute before Ryan Babel added a second six minutes from time.
- After defeating F.Y.R. Macedonia 2-1 in Skopje, the Romanians were defeated in Rotterdam with Arjen Robben (26) and Dirk Kuijt (47) on target for the home side.
- Nevertheless, Romania finished off their campaign in some style, winning four matches in a row and without conceding a goal in 403 minutes. Adrian Mutu scored their final five goals of the qualification round, enough to defeat Andorra (2-0) and the Czech Republic (2-0) at home before Finland (1-0) were overcome in Helsinki.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Romania finished third in their five-team group behind Denmark and Norway in the race to compete in the UEFA EURO 2004™ final round in Portugal. With four wins and two draws from their eight outings, Romania trailed group winners Denmark by a point, and although they finished level with Norway, they lost out due to an inferior head-to-head record. Bosnia-Herzegovina finished a further point behind in fourth with Luxembourg pointless in fifth.
- It was their home form that proved Romania's undoing, losing in their second outing of the competition in Bucharest to Steffen Iversen's 83rd-minute goal for Norway. Worse was to come as Denmark recorded a 5-2 victory in the Romanian capital despite the home side taking the lead on two occasions. Adrian Mutu had put Romania one-up after five minutes only for Dennis Rommedahl to equalise three minutes later. Dorinel Munteanu then restored Romania's advantage two minutes into the second half before the Danes responded with four goals of their own thanks to Thomas Gravesen (53), Jon Dahl Tomasson (71), a Cosmin Contra own goal (73) and Rommedahl (90+2).
- Victories against Luxembourg and Bosnia-Herzegovina were comfortable, the Romanians winning the four matches by a combined record of 16 goals scored and none conceded. Their greatest margin of victory came away to Luxembourg, a 7-0 win in which Contra (45+1, 47 and 86) netted a hat-trick.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Romania topped their qualification round group for UEFA EURO 2000™ with 24 points from their ten matches. Their reward was to be drawn against England, Germany and Portugal in the group stage of the final tournament. Romanian hopes were receding following one point from their opening two games, but a 3-2 defeat of England, with Ioan Ganea scoring the winner in the 89th minute, provided them with a place in the knockout stage. Italy ended their involvement in the competition, running out 2-0 winners following their quarter-final meeting with goals from Francesco Totti (33) and Filippo Inzaghi (43).

Key facts

- Although Romania qualified for the 1984 and 1996 UEFA European Championship finals, they failed to win a match. Their first victory in the finals actually took place in their ninth match, defeating England 3-2 in the UEFA EURO 2000™ finals, a result that provided them with a place in the knockout stages of the competition.

All-time record

- Up until the end of qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™, Romania had appeared in all 13 UEFA European Championship qualifying competitions, and had played 105 matches. In that time, they had won 52, drawn 27 and lost 26 with 191 goals scored and 104 conceded.

Head coach: Victor Pițurcă

Victor Pițurcă must be doubly determined to make an impact with his Romania side at UEFA EURO 2008™ given what happened the last time he led his country to a major tournament. Pițurcă guided Romania through qualifying for UEFA EURO 2000™ but missed out on the finals in the Low Countries after he was dismissed from his post in December 1999 following a dispute with some senior players.

Romania have not featured on the big stage since then but Pițurcă, who returned in place of Anghel Iordănescu in December 2004, has done his bit to put that right, making amends for missing out on the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Romania qualified for Austria and Switzerland in style, three points ahead of the Netherlands at the top of their group. "It's a big achievement to qualify with two games to spare," said the coach after the 2-0 win against Luxembourg that secured their ticket.

Born on 8 May 1956, Pițurcă's playing career included stints with FC Universitatea Craiova, FC Dinamo Slatina, CS Pandurii Lignitul Târgu Jiu and FC Olt before he came to the fore with FC Steaua București. During six years there, he won the 1985/86 European Champion Clubs' Cup and the 1986 UEFA Super Cup and also collected a runners-up medal in the 1988/89 European Cup before leaving for RC Lens in France. Although limited to six goals in 13 international appearances, his record of 165 goals in 301 league games make him one of the most prolific strikers in Romanian football history.

After returning from France, he started his coaching career as an assistant at Steaua in 1991 and he was a senior coach there by 1992 when the club won the Romanian Cup. Pițurcă's first opportunity as a head coach came at Universitatea Craiova, between 1994 and 1995, before he was then handed the reins of the Romania Under-21 side. In July 1998 he made the step up to the senior national team, but following his dismissal returned to Steaua whom he led to the league title in 2000/01.

Past record against possible opponents

Romania vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	4	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Romania vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	1	0	0	1	0	1

Romania vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	2	1	0	1	2	1

Romania vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	0	1	2	1	4
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Romania vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	6	3	3	0	11	4

Romania vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	5	1	1	3	2	6
World Cup	2	0	0	2	0	5

Romania vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	1	0
World Cup	2	0	0	2	0	4

Romania vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	2	1
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Romania vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Romania vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	2	0	0	3	0
World Cup	1	0	1	0	2	2

Romania vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	2	1	1	6	9
World Cup	6	2	2	2	7	8

Romania vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	3	2
World Cup	4	3	0	1	10	3

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

RUSSIA**Russia ready to complete EURO treble****How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?**

- Guus Hiddink's maiden campaign as coach could hardly have had a more dramatic ending as Russia snatched second place in Group E at the death.
- After opening with home draws against Croatia and Israel, Russia won five of their next six games. Aleksandr Kerzhakov struck a hat-trick in a 4-0 home victory against Andorra and the only game of that sequence they did not win was a goalless draw in Croatia.
- Russia played back-to-back games against England in autumn 2007, losing 3-0 at Wembley but then staging a dramatic recovery in Moscow, where substitute Roman Pavlyuchenko scored twice in five second-half minutes – the first a penalty – to cancel out Wayne Rooney's opener.
- That result left Russia second in the section, needing six points from their final games in Israel and Andorra to be sure of qualifying.
- Hiddink said it was "simply impossible" to lose in Israel, against opponents already out of the running, but lose they did, their 2-1 defeat putting England back in pole position to qualify.
- However, the drama continued on the final day, with England unexpectedly losing 3-2 at home against group winners Croatia, allowing a ten-man Russia to seal their progress with a 1-0 win in Andorra, earned by Dmitri Sychev's goal.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification round?

- Russia finished in third place in their seven-team group behind Portugal and Slovakia following six victories, five draws and a defeat from their 12-match campaign. They ended seven points behind the first-placed Portuguese and an inferior goal difference denied them a second place finish ahead of Slovakia after both teams ended on 23 points.
- They dropped their first points of the competition in their opening match in Moscow against Slovakia after Robert Vittek's 87th-minute equaliser cancelled Dmitri Bulykin's opener on the quarter-hour.
- A subsequent 4-0 away victory against Luxembourg seemed to have steadied the ship thanks to a second-half Dmitri Sychev (56, 68 and 86) hat-trick, but only four days later, the Russians were on the receiving end of a 7-1 defeat away against Portugal with Cristiano Ronaldo and Petit both scoring twice at the José Alvalade stadium.
- It was to be Russia's only defeat of the campaign, but their away form remained inconsistent as they struggled to a 2-1 win in Liechtenstein before drawing away against Estonia (1-1) and Latvia (1-1) with Andrei Arshavin scoring in both games.
- Home victories against Estonia (4-0), Latvia (2-0) and Liechtenstein (2-0) still kept them in contention with three matches remaining, but they could not defeat Portugal (0-0) in Moscow, their plight not helped by Aleksei Smertin's dismissal on the stroke of half-time following a second bookable offence.
- Luxembourg were defeated 5-1 in Moscow in their penultimate match, but needing victory away against Slovakia in their final game, Russia were held to a scoreless stalemate and thus beaten to second spot by their opponents.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Russia finished second to Switzerland in their UEFA EURO 2004™ qualifying round campaign to ultimately book their place at the finals via the play-offs, but their involvement in Portugal would be for the minimum three games as they failed to negotiate a route beyond the group stage.
- The Russians recorded four wins and two draws from their eight matches, with all of their victories coming on home soil to the tune of 15 goals scored and five conceded. On the receiving end were group rivals the Republic of Ireland (4-2), Albania (4-1), Switzerland (4-1) and Georgia (3-1).
- Although the Russians endured some poor performances on the road, they managed to secure draws against their main rivals, Switzerland (2-2) and the Republic of Ireland.
- Russia faced Wales in a two-legged playoff for a place in the UEFA EURO 2004™ finals in Portugal, winning 1-0 on aggregate. Although they were held to a scoreless draw in Moscow's Lokomotiv stadium in the opening match, Russia scored the only goal of the return leg at Cardiff's Millennium stadium with Vadim Evseev on target after 21 minutes.
- Having lost against both Spain (1-0) and Portugal (2-0) in their opening two games at the final tournament, Russia were already eliminated from the competition prior to taking the field against Greece in their final match. Pride, however, was restored with a 2-1 victory at the Algarve stadium in Faro-Loulé thanks to goals from Dmitri Kirichenko (3) and Dmitri Bulykin (17).

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Russia's best performance since competing as an independent state came at UEFA EURO 2004™ although their best qualification round came in the run up to EURO '96™. From ten matches, Russia collected 26 points to claim first position from a group featuring Finland, Greece, Scotland, the Faroe Islands and San Marino. Their involvement in the UEFA EURO '96™ was less memorable with one point from three games, a 3-3 draw against the Czech Republic after earlier losing their opening two games to Italy (2-1) and Germany (3-0).

Key facts

- Prior to UEFA EURO '96™, Russia participated as part of the Commonwealth of Independent States during the 1992 UEFA European Championship having previously played as a member of the Soviet Union from the competition's inception in 1958. The Soviet Union appeared in the first four final rounds of the UEFA European Championship, winning the inaugural competition in 1960. They would end up as losing finalists in 1964, 1972 and 1988.

All-time record

- Up until the end of qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™, Russia had appeared in the UEFA European Championships on four occasions, and had played 48 matches. In that time, they had won 27, drawn ten and lost eleven of those fixtures with 100 goals scored and 48 conceded.
- Russia's first international since the dissolution of the Soviet Union came on 16 August 1992 when they defeated Mexico 2-0. Previously, Russia had played international matches as an independent state between 1912 and 1914.

Head coach: Guus Hiddink

The Russian press had dubbed Guus Hiddink a coaching wizard long before a magical sequence of results conspired to send his side to the finals of UEFA EURO 2008™. Winger Yuri Zhirkov said: "What else can you call him, given that he has taken so many teams to World Cups and European Championships?"

Hired in April 2006 after winning another Dutch title with PSV Eindhoven and before taking unfancied Australia to the knockout stages of the FIFA World Cup, the Dutchman had previously steered the Netherlands and Korea Republic to World Cup semi-finals in 1998 and 2002 respectively. After the latter achievement with the host nation, he returned to Eindhoven for the 2002/03 campaign and proved his Midas touch had not deserted him at club level either. He won the championship in his first term back at the PSV Stadion, adding a Dutch double in 2004/05 and running AC Milan all the way in an enthralling UEFA Champions League semi-final.

The domestic crown was successfully defended in 2005/06, by which time Hiddink was also working with Australia. He would guide them through their World Cup group before a last-gasp penalty against Italy ended their hopes in the second round. It was all a far cry from his undistinguished playing career, encompassing spells at SC Varsseveld, De Graafschap, PSV, NEC Nijmegen, Washington Diplomats and San Jose Earthquakes.

As a coach, he joined the PSV set-up under Jan Reker and Hans Kraay, taking sole charge in March 1987 and piloting the club to three Dutch titles. It was PSV's defeat of SL Benfica in the 1988 European Champion Clubs' Cup final, though, that really propelled him forward. Stints with some of Europe's leading teams - Fenerbahçe SK, Valencia CF, Real Madrid CF and Real Betis Balompíe, with the Netherlands job nestled in between – further enhanced his reputation and by the time he accepted the Korean challenge in 2001, he was operating at a new level.

Past record against possible opponents

Russia vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russia vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	2	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russia vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	1	0	3	3
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russia vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	3	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russia vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	3	0	0	7	2
World Cup	2	0	1	1	1	2

Russia vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	1	2
World Cup	2	0	1	1	1	2

Russia vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russia vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	0	2
World Cup	2	0	1	1	1	7

Russia vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russia vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	0	1
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russia vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	1	0	0	1	1	3

Russia vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	6	3
World Cup	2	2	0	0	5	0

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

SPAIN**Spain hark back to '64****How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?**

- A bad start was put behind them as Luis Aragonés's side beat Sweden 3-0 at home in their penultimate qualifier to confirm their place in the finals.
- Spain had ended 2006 as a team in crisis, a shock 3-2 defeat against Northern Ireland in Belfast being followed by a 2-0 loss in Sweden to leave them with just three points from their first three Group F games.
- Results improved in 2007 with a 1-1 draw against Iceland in Reykjavik – earned with a late Andrés Iniesta strike – the only blip during a run of eight wins in nine.
- Aragonés's team underlined their quality by following up a 3-1 victory in Denmark with the all-important 3-0 success against Sweden.
- A 1-0 win against Northern Ireland in their last qualifier secured top spot in the section, but Aragonés said: "Spain have been qualifying for finals tournaments for many years so this isn't a success but simply doing our duty."

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Spain had to qualify for the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals via the play-offs after finishing second to Serbia and Montenegro in the qualification round, despite posting an unbeaten record of five wins and five draws from their ten outings. But Serbia and Montenegro, also unbeaten, finished two points clear having won six of their ten matches.
- Although Spain won their first three matches at home, they failed to find the winning touch on the road, settling for draws away against Bosnia-Herzegovina (1-1), Lithuania (0-0) and Serbia and Montenegro (0-0).
- Decisively, Bosnia-Herzegovina managed to draw 1-1 in Spain on 8 June 2005, with only a late home equaliser salvaging a point.
- Spain required a victory at home against Serbia and Montenegro in their eighth outing in Madrid on 7 September 2005 if they wanted to secure pole position in the group standings, but were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw.
- Spain subsequently rediscovered the winning habit away from home with victories in Belgium (2-0) and San Marino (6-0) to round off their campaign.
- Slovakia felt Spain's wrath in the play-offs, losing 5-1 in Madrid with Luis García hitting a hat-trick (10, 18 and 75). The return leg in Bratislava ended in a 1-1 stalemate.
- In Germany, Spain impressed in the group stage with victories against Ukraine (4-0), Tunisia (3-1) and Saudi Arabia (1-0).
- Their success was shortlived in the knockout phase, however, after a 3-1 reverse at the hands of France in the second round.
- Both Fernando Torres and David Villa scored three goals in the four games Spain played at the finals.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Spain advanced to the UEFA EURO 2004™ finals via the play-offs after finishing second to Greece in their qualification round group. They would overcome Norway to book their place at the finals in Portugal, but their stay would be for the minimum three games as they failed to negotiate a route beyond the group stage.
- Although they lost only one of their eight games, Spain dropped valuable points away against Ukraine (2-2) and Northern Ireland (0-0) as well as suffering a shock 1-0 defeat at home against Greece for whom Stylianos Giannakopoulos was the hero with a goal three minutes before the interval at Zaragoza's La Romareda stadium.
- But Spain proved too strong for Norway in the subsequent play-offs, winning 2-1 at home despite Steffen Iversen giving the visitors the lead after 15 minutes. Spain hit back through Raúl González (21) and Rubén Baraja (85) to take the win. The outcome of the return leg in Oslo was more clear-cut, the Spanish scoring three without reply from Raúl (34), Vicente Rodríguez (50) and Joseba Etxeberria (56).
- Spain, however, failed to build on their opening game defeat of Russia in the final tournament when Juan Carlos Valerón scored the only goal of the game after 60 minutes at Faro-Loulé's Algarve stadium. They would settle for a 1-1 draw against Greece in their subsequent match, only to lose their final game against Portugal and exit the competition. Portugal won the group with six points while Greece finished ahead of Spain in second, having scored more goals than their rivals.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Spain's greatest UEFA European Championship moment came on 21 June 1964 when they won the competition in Madrid, defeating the Soviet Union 2-1. The Spaniards defeated Romania, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in the qualifying rounds before overcoming Hungary (2-1) in the semi-finals.

Key facts

- Up until the end of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying, Spain had been involved in the most fixtures by a single country in the competition with 122 matches since their 4-2 away win against Poland in the last 16 of the 1960 UEFA European Championship on 28 June 1959. Denmark were second on 120 with the Netherlands and France joint third with 117 matches played.

All-time record

- Up until the end of qualifying for UEFA EURO 2008™, Spain had appeared in all 13 UEFA European Championship qualifying competitions, and had played 122 matches. In that time, they had won 72, drawn 24 and lost 26 with 260 goals scored and 108 conceded.

Head coach: Luis Aragonés

Luis Aragonés faced a test of his credentials in the early stages of Spain's UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying campaign, when successive defeats in Northern Ireland and Sweden left them with three points from a possible nine. However, this vastly experienced coach soon led the Spanish out of their 'crisis' and they took 25 points out of the next 27 en route to qualifying for the finals as group winners.

Born in 1938 in Hortaleza, Madrid, Aragonés represented Real Betis Balompié, Real Oviedo and RC Recreativo de Huelva as a player but made his biggest impact in a decade at Club Atlético de Madrid from 1964 where his scoring touch and set-piece expertise earned him the nickname 'Zapatones' (Big boots). Moving straight from the playing field to the coach's bench after retiring in 1974, the no-nonsense coach with a notoriously short temper has not always had it easy. Indeed he briefly retired from football in 1986 due to mental illness before leading Atlético to the Copa del Rey in 1991/92.

His crowning achievement with Atlético came when they captured the league and cup double in 1995/96, and he then moved on to spells at FC Barcelona, Sevilla FC, Valencia CF, RCD Espanyol, Betis, Oviedo and RCD Mallorca before taking over from Iñaki Sáez as Spain coach following the UEFA EURO 2004™ finals.

Aragonés's first challenge in his new role was to take Spain to the finals of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, which he achieved albeit via the play-offs. After finishing second to Serbia and Montenegro in their group, Spain overcame Slovakia 6-2 on aggregate and qualified for Germany 2006 unbeaten. At the World Cup, Spain won many admirers as they cruised through their group but then lost 3-1 to France in the last 16. It was their first defeat in 25 matches but Aragonés had done enough to earn a new two-year contract.

Past record against possible opponents

Spain vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	4	0	0	17	3
World Cup	3	1	1	1	6	3

Spain vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	2	1	1	0	1	0

Spain vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	1	1	3	2
World Cup	2	2	0	0	6	3

Spain vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	2	2
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Spain vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	1	0	0	1	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Spain vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	4	3	1	0	11	4

Spain vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Spain vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	5	0	1	4	4	10
World Cup	1	0	0	1	1	3

Spain vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	0	1
World Cup	3	0	1	2	2	4

Spain vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	2	0	0	7	2
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Spain vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	3	2
World Cup	2	1	0	1	2	3

Spain vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	1	0	2	0
World Cup	3	1	1	1	6	4

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

SWEDEN

Sweden make it five in a row

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?

- Sweden qualified in second place in Group F behind Spain, completing the job on the last night of qualifying when they beat Latvia 2-1 and Northern Ireland lost in Spain.
- Lars Lagerbäck's side made a bright start, winning their opening four games – including a 2-0 success over section favourites Spain courtesy of goals from Johan Elmander and Marcus Allbäck.
- They then suffered a setback when beaten 2-1 by Northern Ireland in Belfast in March 2007, with two goals from David Healy cancelling out Elmander's opener.
- Sweden were awarded a 3-0 win against Denmark in their next game after the qualifier in Copenhagen was abandoned after a Danish spectator attacked the match referee, who had just awarded Sweden a late penalty with the scores level at 3-3.
- Sweden would have qualified with two games to spare only to draw 1-1 at home against Northern Ireland. The champagne remained on ice after they lost their penultimate qualifier 3-0 in Spain.
- The victory over Latvia on 21 November 2007 – Kim Källström getting the winner - ensured qualification for a fifth successive major finals tournament. "We did what we had to do and that's all that matters," said Zlatan Ibrahimović.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Sweden finished level on points with Croatia in the qualifying group stage, but their 24 points from ten matches proved enough to secure one of the two automatic spots on offer for the final tournament for the strongest runners-up.
- They enjoyed a perfect campaign with the exception of their two 1-0 defeats at the hands of Croatia. Their other eight matches ended in victories by a combined margin of 30 goals scored with two conceded.
- Sweden qualified for the knockout phase of the finals as runners-up in their group following games against Trinidad and Tobago (0-0), Paraguay (1-0) and England (2-2).
- Their tournament in Germany was ended in the first knockout round, however, with 2-0 defeat at the hands of the hosts.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Sweden advanced to the quarter-finals of the UEFA EURO 2004™ finals before exiting on penalties to the Netherlands after the sides remained locked in a scoreless stalemate after extra-time.
- The Swedes opened the final tournament group stage with a 5-0 thrashing of Bulgaria before securing draws against Italy (1-1) and Denmark (2-2) to book their place in the knockout stages alongside their Scandinavian neighbours.
- Qualification for the final tournament was assured before their last-game slip-up at home to Latvia who left Stockholm with a 1-0 victory. In their previous seven games, Sweden amassed five wins and two draws with 19 goals scored and only two conceded.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- As tournament hosts, Sweden advanced to the semi-finals of the 1992 UEFA European Championship, a competition that was the last to feature eight teams in the final round. The Swedes topped their group following victories against Denmark (1-0) and England (2-1) after opening the competition with a 1-1 draw against France at the Råsunda stadium. But Sweden found Germany too stern an opponent in the semis, making their exit following a 3-2 defeat.

Key facts

- By reaching UEFA EURO 2008™, Sweden qualified for their fifth successive major international tournament.

All-time record

- Up until the end of UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying Sweden had played 92 matches in the UEFA European Championship with 43 wins, 24 draws and 25 losses, 137 goals scored and 91 conceded.
- They did not participate in the 1960 UEFA European Championship.
- Sweden have recorded five 5-0 victories in the competition, but their highest winning margin came on 7 June 2003 when they defeated San Marino 6-0 in Serravalle with Mattias Jonson scoring a hat-trick.

Head coach: Lars Lagerbäck

Lars Lagerbäck oversaw Sweden's progress to a record fifth successive major tournament when they qualified for UEFA EURO 2008™ as the second-placed team in Group F behind Spain. For the coach himself it was his second consecutive qualifying success since he took sole charge of the national side when Tommy Söderberg, with whom he had shared the reins, stepped down after UEFA EURO 2004™.

Lagerbäck started out as Söderberg's right-hand man in 1998 before earning equal billing two years later. He was regarded as Sweden's master tactician while his colleague played more of a hands-on role. The pair had an unhappy final tournament at UEFA EURO 2000™, but qualified for the 2002 FIFA World Cup, eliminating Argentina in the group stage before losing narrowly to Senegal in the second round. UEFA EURO 2004™ also ended in frustration as the Swedes succumbed on penalties to the Netherlands in the quarter-finals.

With Söderberg having departed, Lagerbäck – now assisted by Roland Andersson - led Sweden to the 2006 World Cup finals where they finished second in a group featuring England, Paraguay and Trinidad & Tobago. They subsequently lost 2-0 to hosts Germany in the second round, however. Despite the wave of criticism that followed their exit, Lagerbäck said he would stay to lead the team to UEFA EURO 2008™.

Born in July 1948, Lagerbäck was a lower league player with Alby FF and Gimonäs CK, then began his coaching career in 1977 with Kilafors IF. After spells with two other modest club sides, Arbrå BK and Hudiksvalls ABK, he joined the Swedish Football Association as a youth coach in 1990. He did that job from 1990 to 1995 before running the national 'B' team and then joining forces with Söderberg.

Past record against possible opponents

Sweden vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	1	1
World Cup	8	3	1	4	7	9

Sweden vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	0	2	1	4	6
World Cup	4	1	1	2	4	6

Sweden vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	2	3
World Cup	9	1	2	6	10	21

Sweden vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sweden vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	1	0	0	0
World Cup	1	0	1	0	0	0

Sweden vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	4	0	0	8	0
World Cup	3	2	0	1	4	2

Sweden vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	2	1	4	4
World Cup	4	3	0	1	8	3

Sweden vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	0	2	0	3
World Cup	1	0	1	0	2	2

Sweden vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	1	1	0	0	3	1

Sweden vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	2	3
World Cup	2	1	0	1	3	2

Sweden vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	2	1	5	5
World Cup	5	3	0	2	11	7

Sweden vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	0	2	1	3	4
World Cup	2	1	1	0	3	2

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

SWITZERLAND

Swiss eager to show their worth

How are their preparations going for UEFA EURO 2008™?

- Having won their first three friendlies after the FIFA World Cup finals, a 2-1 defeat against Austria served as a wake-up call for Jakob Kuhn's side.
- Two more losses prompted Kuhn to get tough and drop captain Johann Vogel, while injuries to established stars Ricardo Cabanas and Alexander Frei in 2007 caused further disruption to his plans.
- There have been encouraging results, though, notably a 1-1 draw against Argentina in June 2007 and a 2-1 win against the Netherlands – with Tranquillo Barnetta scoring twice – two months later.
- Before the latter match, Kuhn said of Switzerland's finals ambitions: "Success would be to reach the quarter-finals. Of course it won't be easy, but that has to be our goal. Four years ago, when we really hit a low point, I developed an internal strategy with the title 'European champions 2008'. That was being very optimistic but we have to strive towards big goals and go out there with the necessary confidence to deal with these challenges."
- Kuhn will retire as Switzerland coach after the finals, saying: "I have promised my wife that I'll call it a day after UEFA EURO 2008™."

How did they perform at the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

- Kuhn led Switzerland to their second successive major international tournament, as they finished unbeaten - and second behind France - in Group 4 before progressing on away goals against Turkey in an incident-packed play-off.
- They topped Group G at the finals in Germany, drawing their opening game 0-0 against France, and then beating both Togo and Korea Republic 2-0 - with Alexander Frei scoring in both games.
- They drew 0-0 with Ukraine in the Round of 16 but lost 3-0 on penalties. Ricardo Cabanas and Marco Streller had their efforts saved while Barnetta's spot-kick hit the crossbar.
- They thus bowed out of the competition without conceding a goal in open play.

How did they perform at UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Switzerland defied the odds to qualify for their second UEFA European Championship finals, coming top of a five-team Group 10 which also featured Russia and the Republic of Ireland.
- Qualification went down to the wire, with a 2-0 win against the Irish on the final day ensuring that second-placed Russia could not catch them.
- Switzerland drew 0-0 with Croatia in their opening game of the finals in Portugal but then lost 3-0 to England and 3-1 to France to finish bottom of Group B.
- Johan Vonlanthen scored their only goal of the finals, cancelling out Zinedine Zidane's goal for France before Thierry Henry struck twice late on to win the game. Vonlanthen's goal made him the tournament's youngest ever scorer.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Switzerland have twice qualified for the finals of the UEFA European Championship, doing so for the first time at the ninth attempt at EURO '96™. They then qualified again for UEFA EURO 2004™. Both of their finals campaigns have started with draws - 1-1 against hosts England in 1996 and 0-0 with Croatia in Portugal - but ended with two subsequent defeats.

Key facts

- This is the first time the UEFA EURO 2008™ co-hosts will have played in consecutive UEFA European Championship finals and the 2008 tournament will be their third finals overall.

All-time record

- This is the 13th UEFA European Championship that Switzerland have competed in. Their record prior to these finals was 80 matches played with 29 wins, 22 draws and 29 losses, with 119 goals scored and 108 conceded.

Head coach: Jakob Kuhn

Jakob Kuhn will be looking for a successful last hurrah with Switzerland after deciding to step down after the finals, saying: "I have promised my wife that I'll call it a day after UEFA EURO 2008™."

Switzerland had not had a homegrown coach since 1989 prior to Kuhn taking the job in summer 2001 following the resignation of Argentinian Enzo Trossero. Having previously turned down an offer to be Trossero's assistant, Kuhn showed he was right to go it alone, earning Switzerland their first place at a major finals tournament since UEFA EURO '96™ when he oversaw their qualification for UEFA EURO 2004™ and then repeating the trick by leading them to the 2006 FIFA World Cup finals.

After a succession of foreign coaches - Uli Stielike, Roy Hodgson, Gilbert Gress and Trossero - Kuhn was plucked from the relative obscurity of the Swiss Under-21 coaching post to lead the senior team. Kuhn duly took a scythe to the Swiss squad, removing some of the older players and bringing young talent in; indeed he is hoping elements of the side that won the 2002 UEFA European Under-17 Championship can help Switzerland shine as UEFA EURO 2008™ co-hosts.

As a player, Kuhn was a skilful midfielder who won six league titles and five Swiss Cups over 16 years and 500 games with FC Zürich. Capped 63 times by Switzerland, he also played twice in the semi-finals of the European Champion Clubs' Cup, against Real Madrid CF in 1962/63 and Liverpool FC in 1976/77.

Past record against possible opponents

Switzerland vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	1	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Switzerland vs France

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	1	3
World Cup	3	0	3	0	1	1

Switzerland vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	6	0	3	3	4	11
World Cup	7	3	2	2	9	9

Switzerland vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	2	0	1	1
World Cup	7	2	2	3	8	9

Switzerland vs Russia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	3	6
World Cup	2	0	0	2	0	5

Switzerland vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	2	1	5	5
World Cup	5	2	0	3	7	11

Switzerland vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Switzerland vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	4	1	1	2	6	10

Switzerland vs Poland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	0	2	0	4
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Switzerland vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	1	2	9	6
World Cup	6	2	2	2	8	7

Switzerland vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	4	0	1	3	4	11

Switzerland vs Turkey

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	1	1	2	5	6
World Cup	4	1	1	2	4	6

Key

EURO – UEFA European Championships including qualifying competitions and final rounds

World Cup – FIFA World Cups including qualifying competitions and final rounds

Pld – Matches played

W – Won

D – Drawn

L – Lost

F – Goals for

A – Goals against

TURKEY**Turkey make up for lost time****How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying?**

- Turkey finished second in Group C behind European champions Greece, but made heavy work of qualifying after a stirring start.
- Fatih Terim's team won their first three games without conceding a single goal, Hakan Şükür celebrating his 50th international goal when he struck four in the third of those wins, 5-0 win against Moldova.
- Things got even better when an under-strength Turkey side came from behind to beat Greece 4-1 in Athens in their first qualifier of 2007.
- They then lost their way, however, with a run of one win in six that included a 3-2 defeat in Bosnia-Herzegovina and then a humiliating 2-2 draw in Malta, where Turkey came from behind twice.
- Crisis talk intensified in October 2007 when a 1-1 draw in Moldova was followed by a 1-0 home defeat against Greece, which saw the European champions celebrate qualification in Istanbul.
- Having slipped to third in the section, Turkey reclaimed the initiative with a 2-1 win in Oslo in their penultimate qualifier. A 1-0 home victory over Bosnia-Herzegovina in their final qualifier kept them a point above Norway in second place.

How did they perform in the 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification round?

- Turkey finished second, two points behind Ukraine, in their 2006 FIFA World Cup qualification round group having won six and drawn five of their twelve matches in the competition. It proved sufficient to provide Turkey with a place in the play-offs, but they lost out on away goals to Switzerland after the sides shared eight goals in their two meetings.
- In a group that featured UEFA EURO 2004™ winners, Greece, as well as Denmark, who also competed in the group stage in Portugal, Turkey's campaign got off to a sluggish start as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Georgia in Trabzon.
- They responded with disciplined away draws in Greece (0-0) and Denmark (1-1) and defeated Kazakhstan (4-0) only to then suffer a 3-0 defeat at home against the Ukrainians with Andriy Shevchenko (17, 88) scoring twice.
- It was to be Turkey's only defeat in the qualifying round, and though they would avenge their loss to the Ukrainians with a 1-0 victory in Kiev thanks to Tümer Metin's 55th-minute goal, home draws against both Greece and Denmark ultimately ruined their chance of taking top spot in the group.
- Other victories were recorded against Albania (home and away) and Georgia (away), with their biggest win coming in a 6-0 away defeat of Kazakhstan on 8 June 2005 with Fatih Tekke (13, 85) and Tuncay Şanlı (41, 90) helping themselves to two goals apiece.

How did they perform in UEFA EURO 2004™?

- Turkey's UEFA EURO 2004™ adventure fell at the final hurdle as they lost out in the play-offs to Latvia after having finished second in their qualification round group to England. With six wins, a draw and one defeat, Turkey ended one point behind the undefeated English with Slovakia a further nine points in arrears.
- England proved to be Turkey's nemesis in the qualifying round. Having defeated Slovakia, F.Y.R. Macedonia and Liechtenstein home and away, the Turkish lost away against England in their fourth match of the campaign despite holding their hosts goalless for 75 minutes. Darius Vassell finally broke the deadlock at Sunderland's Stadium of Light before David Beckham added a second from the penalty spot two minutes into stoppage time. The two sides met again in the final match of the qualification round in Istanbul, but Turkey could not penetrate the English defence and were forced to settle for second place as the game ended goalless.
- But a further unpleasant surprise lay in wait for Turkey as Latvia won the two-legged play-off. The Latvians took a one-goal lead into their second leg meeting following Maris Verpakovskis' 12th-minute goal in Riga, and though goals from İlhan Mansız (20) and Hakan Şükür (64) put Turkey in the driving seat at Istanbul's İnönü stadium, the visitors hit back through Jurijs Laizans (65) and Verpakovskis (76) to book their ticket to Portugal.

What is their best performance in the UEFA European Championship?

- Turkey first participated in a UEFA European Championship final round at UEFA EURO '96™, losing all three of their group matches, but they returned four years later and advanced as far as the quarter-finals, their best effort to date in the competition.

- Finishing second in their qualifying group, Turkey defeated the Republic of Ireland on away goals in their subsequent play-off to book their place at UEFA EURO 2000™. Drawn in a group featuring Belgium, Italy and Sweden, Turkey took four points from their three games, defeating the tournament hosts 2-0 in their final game with two goals from Hakan Sükür (45, 70). Their reward was a quarter-final berth, but Turkey were defeated 2-0 by Portugal.

Key facts

- Despite playing in all 13 UEFA European Championship qualifying rounds, Turkey's first participation in a final tournament took place at UEFA EURO '96™.

All-time record

- Turkey have appeared in all 13 UEFA European Championship qualifying competitions. Prior to the finals of UEFA EURO 2008™, they have played 95 matches. In that time, they had won 35, drawn 22 and lost 38 of those fixtures with 110 goals scored and 135 conceded.

Head coach: Fatih Terim

Turkey's qualification for UEFA EURO 2008™ spared Fatih Terim the indignity of resignation, and he is now determined to make a big impression at the finals. "Had we missed our chance, someone would have had to take responsibility and I would have done so," he said. "But now we are through, I will be with my team. I made a promise that we would qualify and make a significant contribution at the finals."

Appointed as Turkey coach in 2005 following a break from management, Terim - known as 'Imparator' ('The Emperor') in his home country for his awesome leadership skills - could not guide Turkey through a 2006 FIFA World Cup play-off against Switzerland which ended in an ugly brawl in Istanbul.

It is not Terim's first spell with the national team. He had previously been appointed as Turkey coach in 1993 and led them to the finals of UEFA EURO '96™. They lost all of their games in England, but just getting there was a major landmark as Turkey's first finals appearance since the 1954 World Cup. It was an achievement that epitomised Terim's belief that professional discipline and raw passion lie at the heart of any great team. A central defender in his youth, he played for Galatasaray AS for over a decade and represented Turkey 51 times - 31 of them as captain.

Coaching jobs at MKE Ankaragücü and Göztepe followed before he was named as assistant to national team coach Sepp Piontek and put in charge of the Under-21 side in 1991. After EURO '96™, he returned to Galatasaray, winning four league titles and the 1999/00 UEFA Cup. Serie A then came calling and Terim took the coaching post at AC Fiorentina, before moving on to AC Milan for a brief spell. After a run of poor results had hastened his departure, he went back to Galatasaray again but problems behind the scenes brought about his temporary retirement from football in 2004.

Past record against possible opponents

Turkey vs Austria

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	3	5
World Cup	6	3	0	3	11	5

Turkey vs Czech Republic

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Turkey vs Greece

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	4	2
World Cup	2	0	2	0	0	0

Turkey vs Netherlands

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Cup	4	1	1	2	3	6

Turkey vs Romania

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	1	0	1	2	3
World Cup	4	1	0	3	3	10

Turkey vs Sweden

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	1	2	0	4	3
World Cup	2	0	1	1	2	3

Turkey vs Croatia

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	1	0	0	1	0	1
World Cup	0	0	0	0	0	0

Turkey vs Germany (including FRG)

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	8	1	3	4	3	14
World Cup	2	0	0	2	3	11

Turkey vs Italy

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	3	0	0	3	1	9
World Cup	2	0	1	1	0	1

Turkey vs Portugal

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	0	2	0	3
World Cup	2	0	0	2	1	6

Turkey vs Spain

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	2	0	1	1	0	2
World Cup	3	1	1	1	4	6

Turkey vs Switzerland

Competition	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
EURO	4	2	1	1	6	5
World Cup	4	2	1	1	6	4

QUALIFYING COMPETITION
Group A

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Poland	14	8	4	2	24	12	28
Portugal	14	7	6	1	24	10	27
Serbia	14	6	6	2	22	11	24
Finland	14	6	6	2	13	7	24
Belgium	14	5	3	6	14	16	18
Kazakhstan	14	2	4	8	11	21	10
Armenia	12	2	3	7	4	13	9
Azerbaijan	12	1	2	9	6	28	5

Group B

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Italy	12	9	2	1	22	9	29
France	12	8	2	2	25	5	26
Scotland	12	8	0	4	21	12	24
Ukraine	12	5	2	5	18	16	17
Lithuania	12	5	1	6	11	13	16
Georgia	12	3	1	8	16	19	10
Faroe Islands	12	0	0	12	4	43	0

Group C

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Greece	12	10	1	1	25	10	31
Turkey	12	7	3	2	25	11	24
Norway	12	7	2	3	27	11	23
Bosnia-Herzegovina	12	4	1	7	16	22	13
Moldova	12	3	3	6	12	19	12
Hungary	12	4	0	8	11	22	12
Malta	12	1	2	9	10	31	5

Group D

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Czech Republic	12	9	2	1	27	5	29
Germany	12	8	3	1	35	7	27
Republic of Ireland	12	4	5	3	17	14	17
Slovakia	12	5	1	6	33	23	16
Wales	12	4	3	5	18	19	15
Cyprus	12	4	2	6	17	24	14
San Marino	12	0	0	12	2	57	0

Group E

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Croatia	12	9	2	1	28	8	29
Russia	12	7	3	2	18	7	24
England	12	7	2	3	24	7	23
Israel	12	7	2	3	20	12	23
F.Y.R. Macedonia	12	4	2	6	12	12	14
Estonia	12	2	1	9	5	21	7
Andorra	12	0	0	12	2	42	0

Group F

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	12	9	1	2	23	8	28
Sweden	12	8	2	2	23	9	26
Northern Ireland	12	6	2	4	17	14	20
Denmark	12	6	2	4	21	11	20
Latvia	12	4	0	8	15	17	12
Iceland	12	2	2	8	10	27	8
Liechtenstein	12	2	1	9	9	32	7

Group G

Teams	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Romania	12	9	2	1	26	7	29
Netherlands	12	8	2	2	15	5	26
Bulgaria	12	7	4	1	18	7	25
Belarus	12	4	1	7	17	23	13
Albania	12	2	5	5	12	18	11
Slovenia	12	3	2	7	9	16	11
Luxembourg	12	1	0	11	2	23	3

OVERALL TEAM STATISTICS

Group A	BEL	FIN	KAZ	POL	POR	SRB	ARM	AZE
Shots wide	40	49	27	50	90	70	42	37
Shots on goal	53	56	36	73	76	79	25	24
Corners	61	61	36	53	73	66	29	36
Offside	19	44	18	15	24	27	20	22
Goals scored	14	13	11	24	24	22	4	6
Goals conceded	16	7	21	12	10	11	13	28

Group B	FAR	FRA	GEO	ITA	LTU	SCO	UKR
Shots wide	38	61	32	50	72	34	63
Shots on goal	27	86	41	64	56	58	64
Corners	24	80	54	55	49	56	44
Offside	7	25	14	31	16	23	18
Goals scored	4	25	16	22	11	21	18
Goals conceded	43	5	19	9	13	12	16

Group C	BIH	GRE	HUN	MLT	MDA	NOR	TUR
Shots wide	40	39	53	24	33	61	47
Shots on goal	50	51	51	27	41	65	52
Corners	49	44	64	29	36	84	65
Offside	14	23	25	15	20	24	21
Goals scored	16	25	11	10	12	27	25
Goals conceded	22	10	22	31	19	11	11

Group D	CYP	CZE	GER	IRL	SMR	SVK	WAL
Shots wide	51	75	67	35	22	38	42
Shots on goal	62	83	79	34	15	59	52
Corners	45	79	73	54	14	68	69
Offside	28	33	19	17	11	22	46
Goals scored	17	27	35	17	2	33	18
Goals conceded	24	5	7	14	57	23	19

Group E	AND	CRO	ENG	EST	MKD	ISR	RUS
Shots wide	12	50	55	38	46	33	64
Shots on goal	8	54	72	40	33	40	63
Corners	11	56	56	50	51	38	68
Offside	13	23	31	21	34	34	22
Goals scored	2	28	24	5	12	20	18
Goals conceded	42	8	7	21	12	12	7

Group F	ISL	LVA	LIE	NIR	ESP	DEN	SWE
Shots wide	27	41	28	46	78	58	47
Shots on goal	40	50	40	46	79	61	66
Corners	38	49	25	63	110	69	62
Offside	21	24	19	39	33	14	41
Goals scored	10	15	9	17	23	21	23
Goals conceded	27	17	32	14	8	11	9

Group G	ALB	BLR	BUL	LUX	NED	ROU	SVN
Shots wide	51	32	39	26	77	53	35
Shots on goal	46	44	64	20	83	64	31
Corners	48	61	60	24	81	65	26
Offside	26	25	38	15	26	36	26
Goals scored	12	17	18	2	15	26	9
Goals conceded	18	23	7	23	5	7	16

GOALS & RECORDS

By scoring 13 goals against San Marino on 6 September 2006, Germany have set a new competition record. Before, the highest score in a match of the UEFA European Championship was a 12-1 victory of Spain against Malta in 1983. Germany's record win also coincided with Miroslav Klose equaling Gerd Müller's achievement of scoring four goals in a match of the European Championship.

Goals scored	Home	Away	Result
13	San Marino	Germany	0-13
7	Romania	Albania	6-1
7	Azerbaijan	Serbia	1-6
7	Slovakia	San Marino	7-0
7	Slovakia	Wales	2-5
7	Israel	Croatia	3-4
7	Cyprus	Rep. of Ireland	5-2
7	Czech Republic	San Marino	7-0
7	Croatia	Andorra	7-0
7	Slovakia	Cyprus	6-1
7	Malta	Bosnia-Herzegovina	2-5

A total of 839 goals have been scored in the 306 qualifying matches played between 16 August 2006 and 24 November 2007. This includes also the six goals scored between Denmark and Sweden on 2 June 2007, before the game was abandoned and forfeit to Sweden.

Northern Ireland's David Healy tops the goalscorer ranking with 13 goals, followed by Croatia's Eduardo da Silva with 10 and Poland's Euzebiusz Smolarek with nine goals.

Player	Team	Goals scored	Minutes played
David Healy	Northern Ireland	13	1075'
Eduardo da Silva	Croatia	10	1061'
Euzebiusz Smolarek	Poland	9	824'
Cristiano Ronaldo	Portugal	8	1153'
Jon Dahl Tomasson	Denmark	8	989'
Lukas Podolski	Germany	8	660'
David Villa	Spain	7	896'
Nikola Žigić	Serbia	7	867'
Mladen Petrić	Croatia	7	677'
Steffen Iversen	Norway	7	669'
Jan Koller	Czech Republic	6	979'
Dimitar Berbatov	Bulgaria	6	962'
Martin Petrov	Bulgaria	6	874'
Adrian Mutu	Romania	6	805'
Roberto Colautti	Israel	6	711'
Thierry Henry	France	6	691'
Marcus Allbäck	Sweden	6	666'
Hakan Şükür	Turkey	6	650'
Marek Mintál	Slovakia	6	611'

Goals scored	Number
Between minute 1 and 15	130
Between minute 16 and 30	116
Between minute 31 and 45	153
In additional time 1st half	6
Between minute 46 and 60	132
Between minute 61 and 75	140
Between minute 76 and 90	131
In additional time 2nd half	31
Total	839

FACTS & FIGURES

The UEFA EURO 2008™ qualifying campaign was not just a tale of winners and losers. These are the individual and collective stories that illuminated the 14 successful qualifiers during the competition.

Net gains

- Three players scored four goals in a game: Lukas Podolski (San Marino v Germany), Hakan Sükür (Turkey v Moldova), Mladen Petrić (Croatia v Andorra).
- There were nine other hat-tricks registered – two from Northern Ireland's David Healy (against Spain at home and Liechtenstein away). The other men to claim match balls were Shota Arveladze (Faroe Islands v Georgia), Eduardo da Silva (Israel v Croatia), Robbie Keane (Republic of Ireland v San Marino), Aleksandr Kerzhakov (Russia v Andorra), Euzebiusz Smolarek (Poland v Kazakhstan), Theofanis Gekas (Greece v Malta), Steffen Iversen (Malta v Norway).

Generation game

- Moldova's Serghei Stroenco was the oldest performer in the campaign at 40 years, seven months and 25 days. Georgia tyro Levan Kenia, in contrast, was just 16 years, ten months and 21 days old when he appeared against Ukraine on 8 September.
- Aged 36 years and seven days, Turkey's Hakan Sükür was the most seasoned player to score in qualifying when he found the target against Malta, also on 8 September.
- The youngest man to hit the back of the net was Gareth Bales of Wales, aged just 17 years, two months and 21 days, against Slovakia on 7 October 2006. The left-back also became the youngest Welshman to play a competitive international that day, eclipsing the mark set by Ryan Giggs.

Record breakers

- Hakan Sükür was one of two players to pass 50 national-team goals during the campaign, the other being Jan Koller of the Czech Republic.
- David Healy's superb chipped winner against Denmark in Northern Ireland's penultimate qualifier was a fitting way to break Davor Šuker's record of 12 goals scored in a single UEFA European Championship qualifying campaign.
- Thierry Henri surpassed Michel Platini (41 goals) as France's all-time top scorer, his double against Lithuania taking his tally to 43.
- Rógvi Jacobsen struck all four of the Faroe Islands' goals in Group B – including home-and-away scores against world champions Italy – to become his country's ten-goal leading marksman.
- Eidur Gudjohnsen smashed Iceland's 59-year scoring record when the forward notched twice against Latvia on 13 October. He has 19 international goals.
- Lithuania's all-time high lasted even longer, since 1935, until captain Tomas Danilevicius reached new ground with his 13th goal for his country. Peerless Latvia striker Maris Verpakovskis, meanwhile, took his tally to 23 when netting against Liechtenstein.
- The Netherlands managed just 15 goals in 12 games, the fewest of all the qualifiers. Their average of 1.25 goals per game was also the lowest ever of a team to qualify for the finals.
- Northern Ireland might have qualified had they not lost three of their last five matches to own goals – although Spain's Xavi Hernández was credited with the Iberian side's winner on the final Matchday.

Centurions

- Estonia's Martin Reim overtook Lothar Matthäus as the most-capped European player with his 151st international appearance on 22 August. Team-mate Andres Oper also became a centurion along with Patrick Vieira of France, Sweden's Niclas Alexandersson, Imants Bleidelis of Latvia and Malta's Gilbert Agius.
- Norway boss Åge Hareide was involved in his 100th fixture with the national team, having also played 50 times for his country. The match against Malta was his 50th as coach.
- The 1-0 defeat of Luxembourg on 17 November sent the Netherlands through in Marco van Basten's 100 game for the Oranje – 58 as coach, 42 as one of the game's greatest strikers.
- The man who lifted the European crown in 2004, Greece captain Theodoros Zagorakis, bowed out on 120 caps, two of them coming in Group C.

Bad boys

- Andorra may have finished on zero points (along with Faroe Islands and San Marino) but they did top one table having collected 39 yellow cards, eight more than Albania and the Sammarinese. Croatia, with only seven bookings, were the cleanest contestants.
- There were 52 red cards in qualifying. Eight sides had three men dismissed – Albania, Andorra, Estonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Malta, Moldova and San Marino.

Milestones

- Germany were the first team to reach the finals – fully 238 days before the tournament opener in Basel. Their 13-0 triumph in San Marino was their best-ever away victory and the biggest win in qualification. It helped to make them the campaign's most prolific team with 35 goals in 12 games.
- Surprisingly, Slovakia, who came fourth in Germany's group, were the second top scorers with 33 goals. Seven of that total came without reply against San Marino, a record win for Slovakia. The Czech Republic's 7-0 thrashing of the same opponents almost equalled their best of 8-1.
- The Faroe Islands, San Marino and Andorra all finished point-less. San Marino had the worst goal difference, though, scoring two goals and shipping 57.
- Kazakhstan took part in their first-ever EURO qualifying bid. They recorded their first victory at this level against Serbia on 24 March. Serbia were also playing as an independent country for the first time.
- Having won just one UEFA European Championship qualifier previously, Liechtenstein enjoyed taking the scalps of both Latvia and Iceland. That second success, by 3-0, is their best-ever result.
- When Fons Leweck headed Luxembourg's stoppage-time winner against Belarus on 13 October, it ended a run of 55 competitive matches without a victory, stretching back 12 years.
- Despite recording their most points in a qualifying attempt – 25 – Bulgaria failed to advance from Group G. Their previous best had been 22 points on the road to EURO '96™.
- Cyprus ended up fifth in Group D yet still secured their highest haul of points (14), of wins (four) and of goals (17) in a campaign.
- Finland were another to register their most points (24), most wins (six) and fewest defeats (two). Roy Hodgson's men also featured in more goalless draws than any other side – five, with four coming in their last five Group A games.
- F.Y.R. Macedonia (14 points) and Malta (five) enjoyed their best qualifying campaigns, while this was England's worst: they lost three times in a section for the first time. The same applies to Hungary, who finished a lowly sixth in Group C.
- Romania qualified for a final tournament for the first time since 2000 – with the same man, Victor Piturca, at the helm each time. His side also claimed a first-ever victory over the Netherlands in Group G.

Coaching changes

- Armenia's EURO will be remembered with sadness following the death in September of coach Ian Porterfield. The Scotsman had been on the bench for a game against Portugal the month before, despite undergoing treatment for cancer in London at the time.
- Bulgaria were the only participant to employ three coaches: Hristo Stoichkov (five games), Stanimir Stoilov (two) and Dimitar Penev (five).
- Shakhin Diniyev (Azerbaijan), Yuri Puntus (Belarus), Blaz Sliškovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Jelle Goes (Estonia), Eyjólfur Sverrisson (Iceland), Jurijs Andrejevs (Latvia), Anatol Teslev (Moldova), Lawrie Sanchez (Northern Ireland), Steve Staunton (Republic of Ireland), Walter Smith (Scotland) and Dušan Galis (Slovakia) all failed to see out qualifying. Albania's Otto Baric and Steve McClaren of England were sacked at the conclusion of their groups.

Greece march on

- By contrast, Otto Rehhagel goes from strength to strength with Greece. The man who guided the country to glory in 2004, established a Greek record when taking charge of the team for the 75th time against Hungary. The holders also took more points than any other side – 31 – and will hope to continue setting the pace in Austria and Switzerland.