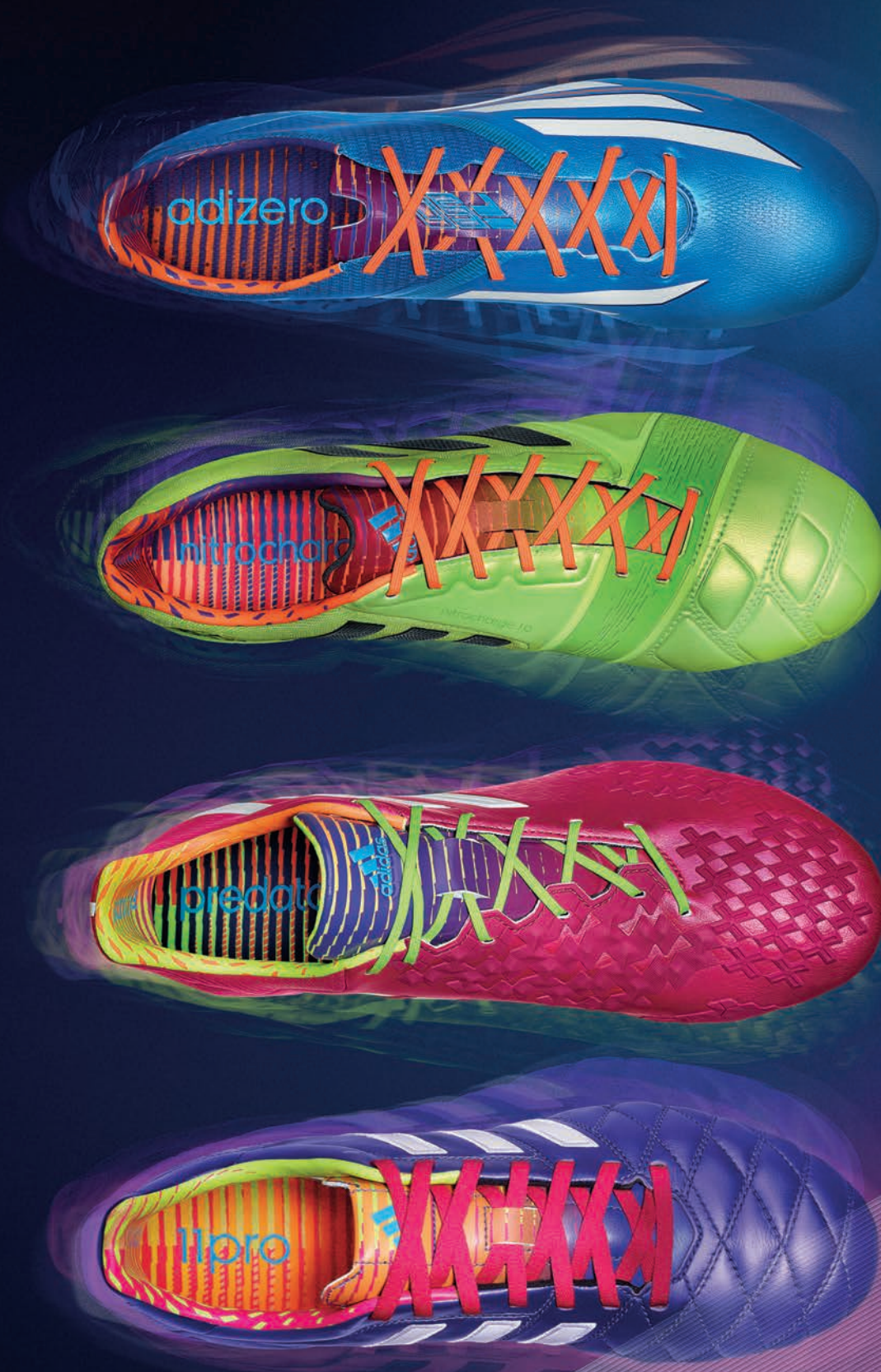




# BELGIUM 2014

28 JANUARY – 8 FEBRUARY  
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME





**game on** or game over

**all in or nothing**  
[adidas.com/worldcup](http://adidas.com/worldcup)





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Follow the action on UEFA.com and on the @UEFAcom Twitter account.

The tournament's official website will have all the latest news as well as match reports, reaction and exclusive interviews.

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Real  
refreshment







# ANTWERP HERE WE COME



## CELEBRATION TIME

Clockwise from top:  
 the Netherlands  
 celebrate ending their  
 nine-year wait – the  
 longest of any side at  
 this tournament – to  
 return to the finals;  
 the Czech Republic  
 huddle up; Ukraine's  
 Yevgen Valenko was  
 on target against  
 Hungary in the play-  
 offs; Saad (No11)  
 scored four goals for  
 Italy during qualifying.





# NO TO RACISM







## UEFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of UEFA it is my pleasure to welcome you to Antwerp for the eighth UEFA European Futsal Championship final tournament.

Spain are again the team to beat, having won their fourth successive title in Croatia two years ago, though they were pushed to the limit in the final by 1999 champions Russia, who are back to mount another challenge. For the neutral, the tournament in Croatia served as the perfect showcase of just how exciting this sport is, with record crowds captivated by the speed, skill and agility of Europe's top sides.

We can expect more of the same in the 2013 European Capital of Sport, Antwerp, where the two venues will give the championship a unique centralised identity and, no doubt, put on a show to remember. Belgium has a proud tradition in futsal at club and international levels and I expect UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 will help the sport gain even more converts here.

My sincere thanks go to the Royal Belgian Football Association (URBSFA-KBVB) and its president, François De Keersmaecker, for their efforts in organising this event. I would also like to wish the 12 competing teams the best of luck as they enjoy a tournament played in the spirit of fair play and respect.

**Michel Platini**  
UEFA President

## BOODSCHAP VAN UEFA'S VOORZITTER

Namens UEFA heb ik het genoegen om u in Antwerpen te verwelkomen voor het eindtoernooi van het achtste UEFA Europees Kampioenschap Futsal.

Spanje is na zijn vierde opeenvolgende titel twee jaar geleden in Kroatië opnieuw het te kloppen team, hoewel het daar tot het uiterste moest gaan in de finale tegen Rusland, de kampioen van 1999 die vandaag terug is voor een nieuwe uitdaging. Voor wie geen partij kiest, geldt het toernooi in Kroatië als het perfecte voorbeeld van hoe opwindend deze sport is, met recordaantallen toeschouwers die zich laten betoveren door de snelheid, vaardigheid en behendigheid van Europa's topteams.

We kunnen nog meer van dat verwachten in de Europese Sporthoofdstad 2013, Antwerpen, waar de twee wedstrijdlocaties het kampioenschap een unieke centrale identiteit zullen verlenen, en ongetwijfeld voor een onvergetelijk spektakel zullen zorgen. België heeft een eervolle traditie van futsal op clubniveau en internationaal, en ik verwacht dat UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 zal helpen om hier nog meer mensen tot de sport te bekeren.

Mijn hartelijke dank aan de Koninklijke Belgische Voetbalbond (URBSFA-KBVB) en zijn voorzitter, François De Keersmaecker, voor hun inspanningen om dit evenement te organiseren. Graag wens ik de 12 strijdende teams ook alle succes toe in een prettig toernooi dat wordt gespeeld in een geest van fair play en respect.

**Michel Platini**  
Voorzitter UEFA

## MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT DE L'UEFA

Au nom de l'UEFA, j'ai le plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à Anvers à l'occasion du huitième EURO de futsal de l'UEFA.

Une fois encore, l'Espagne sera l'équipe à battre. Elle a en effet remporté son quatrième titre d'affilée en Croatie il y a deux ans, à l'issue d'une finale haletante disputée contre le champion de 1999, la Russie, aujourd'hui prête une nouvelle fois à relever le défi. Pour tout spectateur, la Croatie a constitué un cadre idéal pour ce tournoi passionnant, où la vitesse, l'habileté et l'agilité des meilleures équipes européennes ont attiré des foules record.

Anvers, Capitale européenne du sport 2013, nous promet elle aussi un événement riche en action. Les deux salles conféreront au tournoi une identité centralisée unique et offriront sans nul doute un spectacle mémorable. La Belgique dispose d'une longue tradition en matière de futsal interclubs et international, et je suis certain que l'EURO de futsal de l'UEFA 2014 permettra à cette discipline d'attirer encore plus de supporters.

Je remercie sincèrement l'Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football Association (URBSFA) et son Président, François De Keersmaecker, pour les efforts consentis dans l'organisation de cet événement. J'aimerais également souhaiter bonne chance aux 12 équipes en lice, en espérant qu'elles profiteront au maximum de ce tournoi, dans l'esprit du fair-play et du respect mutuel.

**Michel Platini**  
Président de l'UEFA





# SOCAR ENERGY OF AZERBAIJAN



**SOCAR**

PROUD PARTNERS OF



**FUTSAL  
EURO  
2014**





## WELCOME TO BELGIUM

Welcome to Antwerp, Europe's 2013 capital of sport and host city for UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. As president of the Belgian FA, I am truly honoured that our association, in cooperation with the city of Antwerp and UEFA, is organising this event. I would like to congratulate all participants on qualifying for this tournament.

It feels like a long time since our country was appointed by UEFA to host the final tournament of a European championship. We all remember UEFA EURO 2000, but that seems decades ago. In 2007, we organised the UEFA European Under-17 Championship final tournament and now, seven years later, we are more than proud that the best of Europe's futsal talent is coming our way.

I truly hope that this big event will help the development of futsal in our country and that more and more people will find their way to league matches and the games of our national team. I'm pretty sure that the players, with their fabulous skills and technique, will do their utmost to set the atmosphere alight at the Lotto Arena and the Sportpaleis.

But I would still like to call upon all 12 nations taking part in this final tournament not only to aim for the title on 8 February but also to promote our sport in the best possible way. For our part, we will work with the city of Antwerp and UEFA, doing everything to make the teams and supporters feel comfortable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in organising this major event, especially the hundreds of volunteers helping to make this tournament a great success. Good luck to you all, and may the best team win.

**François De Keersmaecker**  
Royal Belgian Football Association President

## WELKOM IN BELGIË

Welkom in Antwerpen, sporthoofdstad van Europa 2013 en gaststad voor UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. Als voorzitter van de Belgische voetbalbond ben ik werkelijk vereerd dat onze bond, in samenwerking met de stad Antwerpen en UEFA, dit evenement organiseert. Ik zou alle deelnemers willen gelukwensen met hun kwalificatie voor dit toernooi.

Het voelt als een hele tijd geleden dat ons land door UEFA werd aangesteld om het eindtoernooi van een Europees kampioenschap te ontvangen. We herinneren ons allemaal UEFA EURO 2000, maar dat lijkt decennia geleden. In 2007 organiseerden we het eindtoernooi van het UEFA Europees Kampioenschap U17 en vandaag, zeven jaar later, zijn we meer dan trots dat het beste van Europa's futsaltalent naar ons toe komt.

Ik hoop werkelijk dat dit grote evenement de ontwikkeling van futsal in ons land zal bevorderen en dat meer en meer mensen hun weg zullen vinden naar wedstrijden in de clubcompetitie en van ons nationale elftal. Ik ben tamelijk zeker dat de spelers, met hun fantastische vaardigheden en techniek, hun uiterste best zullen doen om de Lotto Arena en het Sportpaleis in vuur en vlam te zetten.

Toch wil ik graag alle 12 landen die aan dit eindtoernooi deelnemen, oproepen om op 8 februari niet enkel op de titel te richten, maar ook onze sport op de best mogelijke manier te promoten. Zelf zullen wij samen met de stad Antwerpen en UEFA alles in het werk stellen opdat de teams en supporters zich helemaal thuis zouden voelen.

Ik maak graag van deze gelegenheid gebruik om alle mensen te bedanken die bij de organisatie van dit belangrijke evenement betrokken zijn, in het bijzonder de honderden vrijwilligers die van dit toernooi een geweldig succes helpen maken.

Veel succes iedereen, en dat het beste team mag winnen.

**François De Keersmaecker**  
Voorzitter Koninklijke Belgische Voetbalbond

## BIENVENUE EN BELGIQUE

Bienvenue à Anvers, Capitale européenne du sport 2013 et ville organisatrice de l'EURO de futsal de l'UEFA 2014. En tant que président de l'Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football Association, je considère le fait que notre association organise cet événement, en collaboration avec la ville d'Anvers et l'UEFA, comme un véritable honneur. Je tiens à féliciter ici tous les participants pour leur qualification à ce tournoi.

L'époque où notre pays a été désigné par l'UEFA pour accueillir le tournoi final d'un Championnat d'Europe paraît bien lointaine. Certes, l'EURO 2000 est encore dans toutes nos mémoires, mais cela remonte à bien longtemps. En 2007, nous avons ensuite organisé le tournoi final du Championnat d'Europe des moins de 17 ans de l'UEFA. Et voilà qu'aujourd'hui, sept ans plus tard, nous avons l'immense fierté d'accueillir la crème du futsal européen.

J'espère sincèrement que cet important événement contribuera à développer le futsal dans notre pays et qu'un nombre croissant de spectateurs ira assister aux matches de championnat et aux rencontres de notre équipe nationale. Je suis pratiquement certain que les joueurs, dont l'habileté et la technique sont fabuleuses, feront de leur mieux pour mettre une ambiance de feu dans la Lotto Arena et le Sportpaleis.

Néanmoins, j'aimerais appeler les 12 nations participant à ce tournoi à ne pas seulement viser le titre qui sera remis le 8 février prochain, mais aussi à promouvoir notre sport de leur mieux. De notre côté, nous coopérerons avec la ville d'Anvers et l'UEFA, et déploierons tous les efforts nécessaires pour permettre aux équipes et aux supporters de se sentir à l'aise.

Je saisis également cette occasion pour remercier toutes les personnes engagées dans l'organisation de cet événement majeur, en particulier les centaines de bénévoles qui contribuent à faire en sorte que ce tournoi soit un grand succès.

Bonne chance à tous et que la meilleure équipe gagne !

**François De Keersmaecker**  
Président de l'Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football Association



# Proficiat.

Dankzij u is Antwerpen  
een echte sportstad.



STAD ANTWERPEN

[www.sportingA.be](http://www.sportingA.be)  
**03 22 11 333**





Bart De Wever

## “PRIDE AND AMBITION”

Welcome to Antwerp. We are proud to welcome professional players from 12 countries and thousands of fans from all over Europe to our pocket-sized metropolis.

We firmly believe in the unifying and community-building power of sports. All over Antwerp, you see young – and somewhat less young – people exercising, having fun and making friends while taking part in urban sports in squares and community sports centres. Needless to say, football reigns supreme in neighbourhood sports, and Antwerp’s record in competitive futsal is also quite impressive.

The city board continues to support and facilitate urban sports like futsal because they give young people a sense of pride and ambition. And of course, we hope to see some of these youngsters star in future editions of the UEFA Futsal EURO. Antwerp’s successful bid to host this competition shows our lasting commitment to high-profile sports events, even in the coming years, as the legacy of our status as 2013 European Capital of Sport continues.

Because not everyone can eat, drink and breathe futsal, we also invite all fans and teams to sample some of the cultural, culinary and other delights our vibrant city has to offer. We are confident that this will not be your last visit to Antwerp. We wish all players a successful tournament, and all fans two weeks of thrilling and exciting games.

**Bart De Wever**  
Mayor of Antwerp

**Ludo Van Campenhout**  
Deputy mayor for sport

## “TROTS EN AMBITIE”

Welkom in Antwerpen. We zijn trots dat we in onze wereldstad in zakformaat professionele spelers uit 12 landen en duizenden fans uit heel Europa mogen verwelkomen.

We geloven vast in de eenmakende en gemeenschapsopbouwende kracht van sport. Over heel Antwerpen zien we jonge – en iets minder jonge – mensen trainen, plezier maken en vrienden maken terwijl ze meedoen aan stadssporten op pleinen en in buurtsportcentra. Dat voetbal van alle buurtsporten de populairste is en het Antwerpse competitiefutsal een vrij indrukwekkende staat van dienst heeft, hoeft geen betoog.

Het stadscollege blijft stadssporten zoals futsal steunen en bevorderen omdat ze jonge mensen een gevoel van trots en ambitie geven. En het spreekt vanzelf, we hopen enkele van deze jongeren te zien schitteren in toekomstige edities van de UEFA Futsal EURO. De succesvolle kandidatuur van Antwerpen voor het organiseren van dit toernooi toont onze blijvende inzet voor sportevenementen op hoog niveau, ook in de komende jaren, onder de blijvende aanwezigheid van onze historische positie van Europese Sporthoofdstad 2013.

En omdat niet iedereen futsal kan eten, drinken en ademen, nodigen we alle fans en teams ook uit om te proeven van de culturele, culinaire en andere verrukkingen die onze bruisende stad te bieden heeft. We zijn ervan overtuigd dat dit niet uw laatste bezoek aan Antwerpen wordt. We wensen alle spelers een succesvol toernooi toe, en alle fans twee weken van spannende en opwindende wedstrijden.

**Bart De Wever**  
Burgemeester van Antwerpen

**Ludo Van Campenhout**  
Plaatsvervangend burgemeester  
Schepen van sport



Ludo Van Campenhout

## « FIERTÉ ET AMBITION »

Bienvenue à Anvers ! Nous sommes fiers d’accueillir des footballeurs professionnels de douze pays et des milliers de supporters en provenance de l’Europe entière dans notre petite métropole.

Nous croyons fermement au pouvoir d’unification et de rassemblement communautaire du sport. Dans toute la ville d’Anvers, vous pouvez observer des personnes – jeunes et moins jeunes – s’entraîner, s’amuser et faire de nouvelles connaissances en pratiquant des sports urbains dans les parcs et les centres communautaires. Il est inutile de dire que le football règne en maître sur les autres disciplines, et le palmarès d’Anvers en matière de futsal est assez impressionnant.

Le conseil municipal continue à soutenir et à favoriser les sports urbains tels que le futsal, car ils contribuent à développer le sentiment de confiance en soi et l’ambition chez les jeunes. Bien entendu, nous espérons voir certains de ces jeunes talents dans de futures compétitions, telles que l’EURO de futsal de l’UEFA 2014. Le choix d’Anvers pour accueillir cette compétition montre l’engagement durable de notre ville dans le domaine des événements sportifs prestigieux, même dans les prochaines années, quand nous ne serons plus la Capitale européenne du Sport.

Et parce que le futsal n’est pas notre unique centre d’intérêt, nous invitons tous les supporters et toutes les équipes à profiter également des joyaux culturels, culinaires et artistiques que notre riche ville propose. Nous sommes convaincus que ce ne sera pas votre dernière visite à Anvers. Mais pour le moment, nous souhaitons à tous les joueurs beaucoup de succès lors de ce tournoi, et à tous les supporters deux semaines de matches passionnants.

**Bart De Wever**  
Bourgmestre d’Anvers

**Ludo Van Campenhout**  
Bourgmestre suppléant  
Echevin des sports

# ROAD TO BELGIUM

## THE CONTENDERS

As Spain set their sights on a fifth straight title, we take stock of the 12 sides vying for the UEFA European Futsal Championship trophy

### 1 AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan did not pick up a point at UEFA Futsal EURO 2012, but having contested the semi-finals two years prior to that, Alesio's side know what it takes to reach the latter stages of this competition. They did not drop a point in qualifying, with the evergreen 41-year-old Biro Jade scoring three times in as many games.

### 2 BELGIUM

The hosts return to the finals for the first time since 2010, qualifying automatically. Belgium have never passed beyond the group stage in their three previous final tournament appearances, but will be hoping home support provides the impetus to reach the knockout stage this time around.

### 3 CROATIA

A 10-0 home loss to Spain in qualifying perhaps says more about the champions' strengths than Croatia's weaknesses. Spain were, for instance, the only side to keep seven-goal Dario Marinović off the scoresheet in five qualifiers. The 2012 semi-finalists' misfortune is to have drawn Spain again in the final tournament.



Matěj Slovák  
in action for the  
Czech Republic

6

2

11

7

### 12 UKRAINE

Ukraine scraped through the play-offs on the away goals rule, but having survived that scare travel to Belgium battle-hardened. Yevgen Ryvkin takes charge of his first final tournament following the retirement of Gennadiy Lysenchuk, and though his side is in transition, the two-time finalists know what it takes to succeed.

Croatia celebrate a goal  
during their play-off win  
against Slovakia





#### 4 CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic qualified as main round Group 6 winners with three straight victories, the celebrations starting after an emphatic 5-1 triumph against fellow finalists the Netherlands secured their place in a tenth straight major tournament. "I raise my hat, because [the players] managed in a really fabulous way," coach Tomáš Neumann said.

#### 5 ITALY

One of only three nations to have won this competition, Italy were unfortunate to lose out to Spain by the narrowest of margins in the semi-finals in 2012. They sent out a warning in qualifying that they will be at their best again, winning their three games by an aggregate scoreline of 20-2.

#### 6 NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands return to European futsal's biggest stage after a nine-year hiatus, the longest wait of any of these sides. Having narrowly edged past Bosnia and Herzegovina on the away goals rule in the play-offs, Marcel Loosveld's side face an even greater challenge against heavyweights Russia and Portugal in Group B.

#### 7 PORTUGAL

Blessed with prodigious skill and a wealth of experience, Portugal reached the final in 2010 and will once again have their eyes on the trophy. A 3-1 loss to Italy in the quarter-finals stopped them in their tracks last time out, increasing the desire of a supremely talented generation to realise their potential in Belgium.

#### 8 ROMANIA

Romania only narrowly secured second place in main round Group 3, but they turned on the style in the play-offs. They defeated Serbia – quarter-finalists in 2012 – by an incredible 9-3 aggregate score, despite coach Sito Rivera stepping down ahead of the tie.



Romania savour the moment after seeing off Serbia in the play-offs

#### 9 RUSSIA

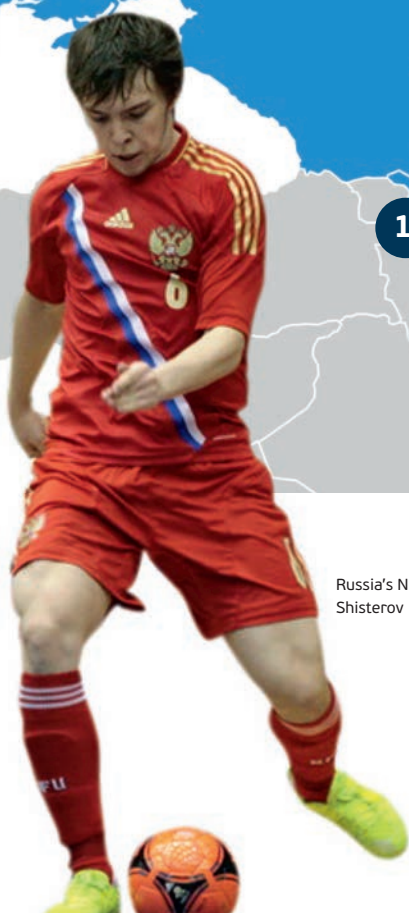
Russia won the inaugural UEFA European Futsal Championship in 1999 and have since twice reached the final, losing to Spain both times. They took the champions to extra time in 2012, and with the majority of that squad here in Antwerp, the drive to go one better this time will ensure Sergei Skorovich's team challenge strongly again.

#### 10 SLOVENIA

Coach Andrej Dobovičnik has described his players as "the golden generation of Slovenian futsal," emphasising that they are "at their peak now. We are ready for even bigger things". Slovenia's quality shone through in their 8-3 main round Group 7 victory against Ukraine that ensured they reached the final tournament without recourse to the play-offs for the first time.

#### 11 SPAIN

The reigning champions scored the most goals (28) and conceded the fewest (one) in qualifying, suggesting European futsal's dominant force have taken the retirements of key figures Luis Amado and Kike in their stride. Newcomers such as Raúl Campos and José Ruiz have the quality to ensure Spain's golden run continues.



Russia's Nikolai Shisterov

"WE FEEL THE  
MOTIVATION  
AND THE  
NOISE BEHIND  
US WHEN WE  
PLAY IN  
FRONT OF  
OUR FANS"





# "NO LIMITS"

Belgium captain Karim Chaibai knows "the spotlight will be on us" as he rallies his side to put on a show in Antwerp

It is nearly a decade since Karim Chaibai made his debut for Belgium and in that time he has established himself as the beating heart of the side. The 31-year-old surpassed Karim Bachar's 101-match appearance record for Belgium in the build-up to the tournament, and has already amassed over 50 goals for his country. Most important of all for the Belgium captain, however, is ensuring his side deliver when it matters most – right here, right now, in front of home support. "We feel the motivation and the noise behind us when we play in front of our fans," he said. "We need to play beyond our limits."

#### What does it mean to host this tournament?

It's very important for us. I wouldn't say it adds any pressure, but it's important for us to show our best here in Belgium. We know how important it is to host the EURO. We want to give futsal a boost. We mustn't miss that chance. We want it to be a big celebration and we want to add a personal touch with qualification [for the knockout stage]. We will try to attract as many spectators as we can. The spotlight will be on us.

#### How does the success the Belgian football team are enjoying at the moment impact on your side?

It's an advantage, because it conveys a good image for us. We're part of the same national association, and we must take advantage of that. Let's try and surf on that wave.

#### How have preparations gone? You have played against both the world and European champions, Brazil and Spain.

We saw some very good things from our side

in all our friendly games. We played against big nations, and our goal was to improve. That's how you develop: by playing against big nations. Brazil are strong tactically, but you can see that Spain are a lot more organised on set pieces – kick-ins, corner kicks and so on.

#### Belgium last played in a UEFA Futsal EURO in 2010. What are your memories of that?

Great memories, but unfortunately we didn't make it through the first round. That is our objective now at home. We must have that kind of pressure on us. We must want to make it through the first round. We are better prepared compared to our last EURO. In terms of the tactics, we have taken more time to work on things.

#### How has the team changed since the arrival of Alain Dopchie as coach?

He has brought some professionalism to the squad. We are a bit more serious, a bit more mature. That's a real change. He has a good staff around him and everything is taken care of. We have been gaining the respect of other teams. We played in Spain and in the papers the Spanish coach said a lot of good things about us. Within the squad we are getting more and more organised. We now need to gain maturity and experience. We know internationals are often decided on the smallest details, so we must improve in that aspect. We have always been confident. The skills of the players have not changed, but things are set up better tactically. We are more dangerous now, and the other teams respect us more for that.

#### What are the main strengths of your team?

Belgian players are very technical – they have a lot of skill and a very strong desire.



#### What are your thoughts on your Group A rivals Romania and Ukraine?

Romania are a very physical team with a few good individual players, and are adept at using the flying goalkeeper. They are very well organised tactically. Ukraine are very fast and also very good technically.

#### Who are the favourites to win the title?

Spain, and I think Italy. We know how good Spain are, how professional they are and how far ahead of all the other teams they are. Spain remain the favourites because they have a massive pool of players. We know Russia very well too and they will be competing for the top spots.

#### What does it mean to you be playing in this EURO in Belgium?

It's why we will give everything. As a player you know this will only happen once, so it is up to us now to enjoy it fully. Let's enjoy the fact that it's at home – that's the most important thing.

## CHAIBAI IN NUMBERS

100

Chaibai won his 100th cap in the 3-3 draw against the Netherlands on 3 December 2013

50

Chaibai scored his 50th goal for Belgium in a 6-1 rout of Switzerland on 17 September 2012

2

This is Chaibai's second UEFA Futsal EURO final tournament

1

Chaibai made his Belgium debut in a 7-0 victory against England on 24 May 2004

# ONES TO WATCH

WITH EUROPE'S TOP FUTSAL PLAYERS ON DISPLAY, WE TAKE OUR PICK OF THOSE SURE TO INSPIRE THEIR SIDES IN ANTWERP

## VITALIY BORISOV AZERBAIJAN

The 31-year-old Araz Naxçıvan man is his country's leader on court. Averaging over a goal every other game in this competition, his consistency, dependability and knack for scoring at crucial times have become the forward's hallmark since making his UEFA Futsal EURO debut in 2007.

## JONATHAN NEUKERMANS BELGIUM

Having risen through his country's ranks since swapping football for futsal as an 18-year-old, the FP Asse-Gooik defender has been a mainstay of the senior side for over a decade. Technically skilful and physically strong, he complements his defensive ability with a keen eye for goal.

## DARIO MARINOVIĆ CROATIA

At just 23, the forward already has five years of experience in the national side and provides a regular source of goals. Boasting a record of 12 strikes in just 13 games in this competition, he scored seven times in five matches during qualifying. His speed, skill on the ball and accuracy of shot make him a threat to any defence.

## LUKÁŠ REŠETÁR CZECH REPUBLIC

Three-time Czech futsal player of the year, the FK EP Chrudim forward provides the focal point

of the Czech attack, possessing a powerful left foot and the skills to consistently beat his man. The 29-year-old also excels at football and plays for Czech second division side FK Pardubice.

## STEFANO MAMMARELLA ITALY

Mammarella is the prototype of the modern No1, with brilliant reflexes and excellent distribution. The 30-year-old was a key player for Italy at UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 and scored in the third-place play-off, before being awarded the adidas Golden Glove as the best goalkeeper at the subsequent FIFA Futsal World Cup. He has also won the UEFA Futsal Cup with ASD Città di Montesilvano C/5.

## SAMIR MAKHOUKHI NETHERLANDS

The FCK De Hommel defender provides the backbone of the Dutch team, using his vast experience to dictate his country's style of play while providing the starting point for numerous attacks. The 31-year-old broke Antoine Merlino's record 115 appearances for the Netherlands on 6 January and first experienced a final tournament at UEFA Futsal EURO 2005.

## RICARDINHO PORTUGAL

One of the most gifted players in the sport, the forward – remarkably – continues to improve, and in



Ricardinho (No10 above) is Portugal's main threat while Samir Makhoukhi (left) brings experience to the Dutch side





#### KRISTJAN ČUJEČ SLOVENIA

At just 16 years of age, the forward (above) broke into the team at multiple national champions KMN Puntar, and immediately posted notice of his immense talent. Currently one of the leading scorers in the Italian second division, the 25-year-old struck five goals in one match against Ukraine in qualification, with his powerful and unerring shooting from distance a key weapon in the Slovenian armoury.

#### MIGUELÍN SPAIN

Having developed into one of the main protagonists of José Venancio López's formidable side, the Majorcan forward is key to Spain's attacking options. Nimble, tough to mark and with ice-cool nerves under pressure, the 28-year-old's lethal left foot could prove a telling factor in the destination of the 2014 trophy.

#### DENYS OVSYANNIKOV UKRAINE

A quick and combative forward, the Energy Lviv man (left) is a frequent source of important goals, such as Ukraine's crucial fourth and final goal against Hungary in the play-offs that ultimately sealed qualification on the away goals rule. A selfless player, the 29-year-old's versatility ensures he can fill a role superbly anywhere on the court.

Antwerp will be aiming to add to the three goals he got in qualifying. As well as winning the 2010 UEFA Futsal Cup with SL Benfica, the 28-year-old inspired his country to the UEFA Futsal EURO 2010 final, and his sparkling feet could help Portugal go all the way.

#### FLORIN MATEI ROMANIA

An enigmatic presence in Nelu Stancea's side, the Autobergamo Deva forward invariably bursts into life when it matters most. Outstanding technically, he couples that with the ability to

keep his nerves in check under any circumstances, and is able to deliver outstanding performances under the most intense pressure.

#### NIKOLAI PEREVERZEV RUSSIA

Pereverzev has been Russia's captain since last October, having established himself as his side's key player in their run to the final of UEFA Futsal EURO 2012. Born in Tyumen, Siberia, he has played for his local side MFK Tyumen throughout his career, helping them to the Russian league's runner-up spot in 2010.



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[info@mondosport.co.uk](mailto:info@mondosport.co.uk)







# BELGIUM



	Date of birth	Career Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
<b>Goalkeepers</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pietro Benetti	19/05/1988	17/0	0/0	Futsal Hasselt
<input type="checkbox"/> David Morant	24/12/1977	87/1	9/0	Paris Metropole
<b>Outfield players</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Karim Chaibai	05/10/1982	102/52	8/8	Châtelineau Futsal
<input type="checkbox"/> Reda Dahbi	26/06/1981	34/8	3/0	Futsal Hasselt
<input type="checkbox"/> Abdessamad Dendane	11/05/1986	30/3	3/0	Dolce Vita Morlanwelz
<input type="checkbox"/> Valentin Dujacquier	23/07/1989	29/17	3/2	Châtelineau Futsal
<input type="checkbox"/> Abdelhak El Ghaadaoui	12/04/1992	12/3	0/0	Futsal Topsport Antwerpen
<input type="checkbox"/> Aziz Hitou	01/02/1990	33/12	2/3	Futsal Topsport Antwerpen
<input type="checkbox"/> Liliu	16/04/1979	15/1	0/0	Châtelineau Futsal
<input type="checkbox"/> Lúcio	04/07/1975	23/3	5/0	Châtelineau Futsal
<input type="checkbox"/> Omar Rahou	19/07/1992	22/12	0/0	Châtelineau Futsal
<input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Neukermans	12/04/1983	73/8	10/0	FP Asse-Gooik
<input type="checkbox"/> Ahmed Sababti	10/12/1985	64/18	5/0	Futsal Topsport Antwerpen
<input type="checkbox"/> Saad Salhi	14/05/1987	47/11	1/0	Action 21 Charleroi

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Competition Apps = selections for matchday squad  
Statistics correct to 14 January 2014

## 2013 FRIENDLY RESULTS

08/01/2013	France 2-2 Belgium
25/02/2013	Romania 4-3 Belgium
26/02/2013	Romania 5-2 Belgium
01/08/2013	Brazil 6-1 Belgium
04/08/2013	Brazil 5-1 Belgium
23/09/2013	Spain 5-2 Belgium
24/09/2013	Spain 8-2 Belgium
02/12/2013	Belgium 3-3 Netherlands
03/12/2013	Belgium 3-3 Netherlands



Belgium are hoping to make their mark on home soil



## HOSTS HOPEFUL

Belgium qualified automatically as hosts, but they have not had an easy ride in the build-up to the tournament. Trips to Brazil and Spain have pitted them against the best in the world, and though they lost all four of their games against the world and European champions, they have benefited from the experience. "We have the chance to put into practice what we learned abroad and show it in Belgium," said coach Alain Dopchie, whose side can also take confidence from victory against Portugal in 2012. "If we can play against Brazil, Spain and Portugal and perform well, we will certainly be able to play well against the other teams."

Captain Karim Chaibai is the standout figure in a side built around the nucleus of Ahmed Sababti, Omar Rahou, Lúcio and Jonathan Neukermans. One of Dopchie's biggest challenges has been finding time with his players, some of whose schedules are governed by work commitments, but he is confident the hosts will deliver. "Our aim is to show, at least to Europe, that Belgian futsal is a reality," he said. "This is a big opportunity. Ukraine and Romania are good sides so we're going to need to play the best futsal we can to qualify."

## FIXTURES

28 JANUARY v ROMANIA  
1 FEBRUARY v UKRAINE

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 4

## BEST PERFORMANCE

GROUP STAGE 1999, 2003, 2010



**Coach: ALAIN DOPCHIE**  
Date of birth: 26/03/1964

Dopchie began his coaching career at provincial club L Vaudignies, who he had played for previously. In 2004, Belgium coach Benny Meurs invited Dopchie to join his staff and together they oversaw qualification for UEFA Futsal EURO 2010, after which Dopchie replaced Meurs in charge of the national side.



# UKRAINE



## NEW LOOK

Twice runners-up, Ukraine have a fine futsal pedigree with which to enter their first final tournament since the end of Gennadiy Lysenchuk's long reign as coach. Ukraine set up an independent national team in 1994 under Lysenchuk, who remained the coach until last year. In their first tournament they got to the 1996 FIFA Futsal World Cup semi-finals and went on to reach the 2001 and 2003 European finals, losing to Spain and hosts Italy respectively. Before his departure, Lysenchuk introduced a new generation after the retirement of several key players, and new coach Yevgen Ryvkin has been overseeing the transition. Ryvkin is also in charge of national champions Lokomotiv Kharkov, who supply the bulk of the squad, but it has taken time to find a winning formula.

Ukraine finished second behind Slovenia in qualifying and only beat Hungary in the play-offs on the away goals rule, but two positive recent friendly results against Italy in Asti – a 4-3 win and a 2-2 draw – as well as a pair of tight games (including a win) against Croatia have lifted spirits. "Players, coaches and fans should unite in their support of the team at the final tournament," said Ryvkin. "Our recent matches have shown that we are able to compete against the best."

## FIXTURES

30 JANUARY v ROMANIA  
1 FEBRUARY v BELGIUM

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 7

**BEST PERFORMANCE**  
RUNNERS-UP 2001, 2003



**Coach: YEVGEN RYVKIN**  
**Date of birth: 07/09/1967**

Ryvkin joined the national team set-up in 2012, first as youth coach and then replacing Lysenchuk at the helm. He has combined the role with his club position at Lokomotiv, where he has worked since 1991, first setting up their youth team, then leading the senior side to the Ukrainian Cup in 2009 and their first league title in 2013.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
<b>Goalkeepers</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Yevgen Ivanyak	28/09/1982	5/0	13/0	Lokomotiv Kharkov
<input type="checkbox"/> Dmytro Lytvynenko	16/04/1987	5/0	14/0	Lokomotiv Kharkov
<input type="checkbox"/> Kyrylo Tsyun	30/07/1987	3/0	4/0	Uragan Ivano-Frankovsk

## Outfield players

<input type="checkbox"/> Mykola Bilotserkivets	05/12/1986	2/2	2/2	Lokomotiv Kharkov
<input type="checkbox"/> Dmytro Bondar	12/10/1983	3/1	3/1	Energy Lviv
<input type="checkbox"/> Oleksandr Bondar	24/09/1981	2/0	2/0	Energy Lviv
<input type="checkbox"/> Vitaliy Kiselyov	20/02/1983	2/0	3/0	Lokomotiv Kharkov
<input type="checkbox"/> Denys Ovsyannikov	10/12/1984	4/2	14/9	Energy Lviv
<input type="checkbox"/> Maxym Pavlenko	15/09/1975	2/2	9/6	Energy Lviv
<input type="checkbox"/> Yevgen Rogachov	30/08/1983	0/0	16/7	Energy Lviv
<input type="checkbox"/> Dmytro Sorokin	14/07/1988	5/4	11/4	Lokomotiv Kharkov
<input type="checkbox"/> Oleksandr Sorokin	13/08/1987	5/0	5/0	Lokomotiv Kharkov
<input type="checkbox"/> Yevgen Valenko	01/11/1984	2/1	4/1	Uragan Ivano-Frankovsk
<input type="checkbox"/> Serhiy Zhurba	14/03/1987	5/0	9/1	Lokomotiv Kharkov

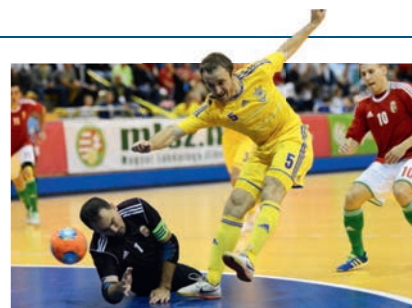
See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

### MAIN ROUND GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	3	3	0	0	18	8	9
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	14	10	6
Turkey*	3	1	0	2	9	12	3
England	3	0	0	3	5	16	0
*Hosts							

Turkey 3-5 Slovenia, Ukraine 7-0 England, Turkey 4-3 England, Slovenia 8-3 Ukraine, England 2-5 Slovenia, Ukraine 4-2 Turkey  
**PLAY-OFF**  
Ukraine 2-1 Hungary, Hungary 5-4 Ukraine  
Aggregate 6-6; Ukraine win on away goals



Mykola Bilotserkivets scored twice against Hungary





# ROMANIA



Date of birth      Qualifying  
Apps/Goals      Competition  
Apps/Goals      Club

## Goalkeepers

<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrei Grigoraş	15/05/1989	5/0	5/0	Sfintul Georghe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vlad Iancu	03/01/1978	5/0	9/0	Autobergamo Deva

## Outfield players

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ion Al-Ioani	07/05/1983	5/2	17/3	City'US Târgu Mureş
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gabriel Dobre	14/04/1980	5/1	13/2	Balzan FC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cosmin Gherman	25/04/1984	5/0	17/16	City'US Târgu Mureş
<input type="checkbox"/>	Florin Ignat	26/02/1982	4/1	10/2	City'US Târgu Mureş
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Lupu	28/10/1982	5/2	23/13	Autobergamo Deva
<input type="checkbox"/>	Szabolcs Manyá	30/01/1989	0/0	0/0	FC Odorheiu Secuiesc
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cristian Matei	12/03/1987	1/0	2/0	Autobergamo Deva
<input type="checkbox"/>	Florin Robert Matei	08/12/1983	2/4	20/26	Autobergamo Deva
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emil Răducu	19/05/1984	5/0	17/2	Balzan FC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marian Şotărcă	12/11/1980	5/5	11/5	FC Dunărea Călăraşi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dumitru Stoica	30/09/1981	5/0	15/4	City'US Târgu Mureş
<input type="checkbox"/>	László Szócs	10/10/1984	0/0	2/2	City'US Târgu Mureş

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

### MAIN ROUND GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
Romania	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Kazakhstan	3	1	1	1	4	6	4
Latvia*	3	0	0	3	2	14	0

\*Hosts  
Russia 5-1 Kazakhstan, Latvia 2-6 Romania, Romania 1-2 Russia,  
Latvia 0-2 Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan 1-1 Romania, Russia 6-0 Latvia  
PLAY-OFF  
Romania 2-1 Serbia, Serbia 2-7 Romania  
Romania win 9-3 on aggregate



Marian Şotărcă enjoys one of his four play-off goals



## FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Romania's futsal team was only founded in 2003, but has already reached a third final tournament thanks to a cohesive group of players that have been together since the start. The squad still resembles the one that reached their first final tournament in Portugal in 2007, with the likes of Florin Matei, captain Robert Lupu, Cosmin Gherman, Gabriel Dobre, Ion Al-Ioani, Marian Şotărcă and Dumitru Stoica providing the backbone for their country, having also previously played together for club sides FC CIP Deva and City'Us Târgu Mureş.

Not even coach Sito Rivera's decision to step down ahead of the play-off against Serbia knocked them off their stride. Assistant coach and former goalkeeper Nelu Stancea took charge and steered Romania to a spectacular 9-3 aggregate triumph to book their place in Belgium, where they now come up against the hosts and former finalists Ukraine. Romania's best performance at a UEFA Futsal EURO was reaching the quarter-finals in 2012 and Stancea wants to match that at least. "It will be difficult against the host country, who will have the fans on their side, but we hope to be competitive at this high-level European tournament and make it out of the group," he said.

## FIXTURES

28 JANUARY v BELGIUM  
30 JANUARY v UKRAINE

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 3

## BEST PERFORMANCE QUARTER-FINALS 2012



## Coach: NELU STANCEA Date of birth: 20/10/1967

Stancea was Romania's first goalkeeper when the team was founded in 2003, and was assistant under Sito Rivera before taking charge when Rivera stepped down last July. Appointed assistant goalkeeping coach of the national team in 2004, he has been involved with the squad throughout its first decade.



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# MATCH SCHEDULE



## GROUP A



BELGIUM



UKRAINE



ROMANIA

## GROUP B



RUSSIA



PORTUGAL



NETHERLANDS

## GROUP C



ITALY



AZERBAIJAN



SLOVENIA

## GROUP D



SPAIN



CZECH REPUBLIC



CROATIA



## GROUP STAGE

LOTTO ARENA CAPACITY 5,218

### 28 JANUARY

18.30 Group B  
21.00 Group A

Russia v Netherlands  
Belgium v Romania

### 29 JANUARY

18.30 Group D  
20.45 Group C

Spain v Croatia  
Italy v Slovenia

### 30 JANUARY

18.30 Group A  
20.45 Group B

Romania v Ukraine  
Netherlands v Portugal

### 31 JANUARY

18.30 Group D  
20.45 Group C

Croatia v Czech Republic  
Slovenia v Azerbaijan

### 1 FEBRUARY

18.30 Group B  
20.45 Group A

Portugal v Russia  
Ukraine v Belgium

### 2 FEBRUARY

18.30 Group C  
20.45 Group D

Azerbaijan v Italy  
Czech Republic v Spain



## KNOCKOUT STAGE

SPORTPALEIS CAPACITY 15,000

### QUARTER-FINALS 3 FEBRUARY

18.00 QF1 v Winner Group A v Runner-up Group B

20.30 QF2 v Runner-up Group A v Winner Group B

### 4 FEBRUARY

18.00 QF3 v Winner Group C v Runner-up Group D

20.30 QF4 v Runner-up Group C v Winner Group D

### SEMI-FINALS 6 FEBRUARY

18.00 SF1 v Winner QF1 v Winner QF3

20.30 SF2 v Winner QF2 v Winner QF4

### THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF 8 FEBRUARY

18.00 v Loser SF1 v Loser SF2

### FINAL 8 FEBRUARY

20.30 v Winner SF1 v Winner SF2



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## TITLE CHASERS

Action 21 Charleroi are the country's most successful club side, having won the title ten times, including seven in a row from 2000 to 2006 and three more from 2008 to 2010. They are followed closely by Futsal Hasselt on eight. Châtelineau Futsal are the current champions. The first Belgian championship was held in 1970/71, with Cools Brugge the inaugural winners.



Belgium drew with Spain in Italy in 2003



## EUROPEAN GLORY

Action 21 Charleroi were a powerful force in the early history of European futsal's premier club competition, the UEFA Futsal Cup, reaching the first two finals in 2002 and 2003 before winning the trophy in 2005. A huge crowd of 6,500 watched their 4-3 first leg victory against MFK Dinamo at the Spiroudôme, before a thrilling 6-6 draw after extra time in Moscow ensured Charleroi won the trophy 10-9 on aggregate.

## EARLY DAYS

Futsal – 'Zaalvoetbal' in Flemish – was first played in Belgium in Bruges in 1964. It was not until 22 April 1977, however, that Belgium played their first official match, beating the Netherlands 7-3 in a friendly in Genk.

## RECORD BREAKERS

Charleroi players and Belgian internationals André (54) and Lúcio (48) have scored the most goals in the UEFA Futsal Cup while Lúcio (63) holds the record for most games played.



# RED DEVILS

THE LOWDOWN ON BELGIAN FUTSAL



Belgium enjoy the moment after qualifying for UEFA Futsal EURO 2010

## TOURNAMENT RECORD

Belgium took part in the early FIFA unofficial tournaments, finishing runners-up in the second in 1987. Two years later they reached the semi-finals of the inaugural FIFA Futsal World Cup, before advancing to the second group stage in 1992 and 1996. Belgium won bronze in the initial UEFA European Futsal Tournament in 1996, and are appearing in their fourth UEFA European Futsal Championship final tournament. They are one of only five teams to have avoided defeat against Spain in a final tournament match – drawing 1-1 in the group stage in 2003 (top left).



Belgium's record scorer Karim Bachar

1,000

There are over 1,000 futsal clubs in Belgium

## STAR TURNS

Karim Bachar and Karim Chaibai are Belgium's greatest futsal servants. Bachar's international career spanned more than 13 years – he made his debut on 28 March 1998 against Spain and retired on 5 September 2011 after a 5-3 win against Finland having amassed a record 101 games and 61 goals. His appearance record was broken by Chaibai just prior to UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, the current Belgium captain having won his 102nd cap in a 2-2 draw with Croatia on 8 January.



# Enjoy!



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# MADE IN BRAZIL

Futsal originated in South America, and Neymar is one of many stars of the outdoor game to credit the indoor format for helping him develop the skills for which he is famous today



**W**e have all heard the clichés about the Brazilians' samba football.

But what is it? Most answers would probably add up to a cocktail of technique, creativity, high-speed combination moves and dazzling dribbling skills – and all of those ingredients can be traced back to the futsal courts where most of the top Brazilian stars of the indoor and outdoor games hone their talents.

Born in Uruguay in the 1930s, futsal – or 'futebol de salão' – soon

took off in a big way in neighbouring Brazil, where the lack of outdoor pitches pushed the passion for football into smaller arenas such as basketball courts. Generation after generation developed the ability to beat opponents in tight spaces and, after the outdoor 'Canarinha' had gone into the history books as serial FIFA World Cup winners, Brazil's national futsal team has done likewise by winning five of the seven final tournaments since FIFA introduced a Futsal World Cup in 1989.

In Brazil, the time-hallowed tradition is for top players – Neymar, for example – to polish their technique in futsal and then decide whether to pursue their careers indoors or outdoors. "Futsal is one of my passions," admits the FC Barcelona and Brazil star. "I always loved to play it and it was sad to have to stop in order to continue on the outdoor pitch." Alcides Magri, his first futsal coach at his local club Gremetal, recalls: "Neymar used to play against older boys but still had them for dinner. As his coach, my job was to avoid standing in his way!"

Hulk, the Brazilian international currently playing his UEFA Champions League football for Russian club FC Zenit, endorses the important role of futsal in the development of skills. The physique that earned him his playing name might seem at odds with the smaller format, but Hulk maintains that "things you use in futsal as a child are able to help you on the football pitch. It's about a lot of movement, for example. You might not think so, but you run a lot and it's like the movement we have during a football match – though I think there's more movement in futsal than on a grass pitch.

"You learn how to control the ball – the way you dominate it. In futsal the ball comes at you faster and you have to develop more agility to be able to break out of a situation or lose your marker. That helps a lot on the football pitch." Neymar has no doubts about the virtues of futsal either: "It teaches you how to play in tight spaces," he says. "In Europe, there's not much space so you need to think quicker – and futsal has helped me a lot with that."



Neymar lifts the FIFA Confederations Cup following Brazil's triumph last summer



## SAMBA CONNECTION

Neymar and Hulk (above) are two of the many big names in the outdoor game who have built football careers on futsal foundations. But the Brazilian connection has also left indelible marks on futsal in Europe.

Brazilian-born Paulo Roberto was UEFA's golden player when the first European tournament was played in 1996. Vinicius Bacaro followed in his footsteps when he scored the solitary goal that gave Italy the title in 2003. And a look at the squad lists for UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 will reveal that several players continue to bring the samba sensation across the ocean from Brazil to make waves as role-model stars in the European game.



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## RUSSIA



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
<b>Goalkeepers</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Gustavo	05/02/1979	3/0	8/0	MFK Dinamo
<input type="checkbox"/> Ivan Poddubny	04/04/1986	3/0	3/0	MFK Dinamo
<b>Outfield players</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Sergei Abramov	09/09/1990	0/0	8/1	MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg
<input type="checkbox"/> Cirilo	20/01/1980	0/0	19/13	MFK Dinamo
<input type="checkbox"/> Eder Lima	29/06/1984	0/0	0/0	TTG-Ugra Yugorsk
<input type="checkbox"/> Nikita Fakhrutdinov	20/05/1993	0/0	0/0	MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg
<input type="checkbox"/> Aleksandr Fukin	26/03/1985	1/1	26/7	MFK Dinamo
<input type="checkbox"/> Ivan Milovanov	08/02/1989	0/0	3/0	MFK Tyumen
<input type="checkbox"/> Nikolai Pereverzev	15/12/1986	3/0	8/0	MFK Tyumen
<input type="checkbox"/> Pula	02/12/1980	3/5	17/12	MFK Dinamo
<input type="checkbox"/> Robinho	28/01/1983	3/2	3/2	TTG-Ugra Yugorsk
<input type="checkbox"/> Sergei Sergeev	28/06/1983	3/1	17/4	MFK Dinamo
<input type="checkbox"/> Vladislav Shayakhmetov	25/08/1981	0/0	17/14	MFK Dinamo
<input type="checkbox"/> Nikolai Shisterov	24/07/1991	3/0	3/0	MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

## MAIN ROUND GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
Romania	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Kazakhstan	3	1	1	1	4	6	4
Latvia*	3	0	0	3	2	14	0

\*Hosts

Russia 5-1 Kazakhstan, Latvia 2-6 Romania, Romania 1-2 Russia,  
Latvia 0-2 Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan 1-1 Romania, Russia 6-0 Latvia



Russia were narrowly beaten by Spain in the 2012 final



## CONFIDENCE HIGH

Given Russia's status as one of the heavyweights of the futsal world, it is no surprise that coach Sergei Skorovich is aiming high. "We always play to win and set maximum goals for ourselves," he said. One of only two sides to have won the UEFA European Futsal Championship other than Spain, Russia's high water mark came in 1999 when the late great Konstantin Eremenko led them to the title. They have also come close twice since then, losing in the final to Spain in both 2005 and 2012. Indeed, Russia were within a minute of winning the last showpiece against Spain, suggesting the gap is closing on the perennial champions.

Nikolai Pereverzev, Aleksandr Fukin and the Brazil-born Gustavo, Cirilo and Eder Lima are the bedrock of a team that plays an exciting brand of attacking futsal, and invariably takes the game to their opponents. They also come into the tournament with confidence high, having reached the final of the prestigious Grand Prix in Brazil in October, only losing out to the hosts on penalties. "We were not in any way worse than the best teams of the world," new Russia captain Pereverzev declared after that tournament.

## FIXTURES

28 JANUARY v NETHERLANDS

1 FEBRUARY v PORTUGAL

FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 8

## BEST PERFORMANCE

WINNERS 1999



## Coach: SERGEI SKOROVICH

Date of birth: 05/04/1973

Skorovich won the UEFA Futsal Cup with MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg in 2008 and they reached the final again in 2009, by which time he had been appointed Russia coach in tandem with his club position. Skorovich went full-time with Russia at the end of 2011, leading them to the UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 final.



# PORTUGAL



## MEASURED AMBITION

Portugal have qualified for every major tournament since 2002 and can draw on the vast experience of a talented side as they aim to go one better than 2010 when they lost to Spain in the final. Arnaldo Pereira, Gonçalo, João Benedito, Joel Queirós, Ricardinho and Pedro Costa have more than 800 caps between them, while in Ricardinho they boast one of the most skilful players and most prolific scorers in the game. A 1-1 draw followed by a close-run 3-1 loss to Spain in a pair of friendlies in October offered further cause for optimism.

"Mature" is the word coach Jorge Braz uses to describe his side, and that could prove decisive in a tough section. Having bowed out to Italy in the quarter-finals in 2012, Portugal have some unfinished business to attend to. "Our last EURO ended at the start of the second stage, this time we don't want to end it there," Braz said. "We have a lot of ambition for this EURO, but are aware of the difficulties of the interesting group we have been drawn in. The Netherlands are once again emerging in European futsal with creativity and an abundance of individual quality. Russia are an international power."

### FIXTURES

30 JANUARY v NETHERLANDS  
1 FEBRUARY v RUSSIA

### FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 7

### BEST PERFORMANCE RUNNERS-UP 2010



**Coach: JORGE BRAZ**

**Date of birth: 25/08/1972**

In July 2010, Canadian-born Braz had the tough job of replacing charismatic Orlando Duarte, who had been in charge of Portugal for the previous decade.

Braz, previously a member of Duarte's staff, has risen to the challenge, leading Portugal to the UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 and 2012 FIFA Futsal World Cup quarter-finals, losing to Italy both times.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
<b>Goalkeepers</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> André Sousa	25/02/1986	3/0	6/0	Fundão
<input type="checkbox"/> Cristiano	20/08/1979	0/0	5/0	Sporting Clube de Portugal
<input type="checkbox"/> João Benedito	07/10/1978	3/0	32/0	Sporting Clube de Portugal
<b>Outfield players</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Arnaldo Pereira	16/06/1979	3/0	29/14	FK Nikars Riga
<input type="checkbox"/> Bruno Coelho	01/08/1987	0/0	3/0	SL Benfica
<input type="checkbox"/> Gonçalo	01/07/1977	2/1	34/16	SL Benfica
<input type="checkbox"/> João Matos	21/07/1987	3/1	13/3	Sporting Clube de Portugal
<input type="checkbox"/> Joel Queirós	21/05/1982	3/2	30/21	SL Benfica
<input type="checkbox"/> Leitão	03/01/1981	3/2	19/9	Marca Futsal
<input type="checkbox"/> Paulinho	12/03/1983	3/1	7/1	Sporting Clube de Portugal
<input type="checkbox"/> Pedro Cary	10/05/1984	3/2	14/3	Sporting Clube de Portugal
<input type="checkbox"/> Pedro Costa	18/12/1978	0/0	17/5	Nagoya Oceans
<input type="checkbox"/> Ricardo Fernandes	20/02/1986	0/0	4/0	SL Benfica
<input type="checkbox"/> Ricardinho	03/09/1985	3/3	14/11	Interviú Madrid

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

### MAIN ROUND GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	3	0	0	13	4	9
Serbia*	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Greece	3	1	0	2	5	14	3
Poland	3	0	0	3	5	11	0

\*Hosts

Portugal 6-1 Greece, Serbia 2-0 Poland, Poland 2-5 Portugal,  
Serbia 5-0 Greece, Greece 4-3 Poland, Portugal 2-1 Serbia



Portugal impressed in two friendlies against Spain





## NETHERLANDS



Date of birth      Qualifying  
Apps/Goals      Competition  
Apps/Goals      Club

## Goalkeepers

<input type="checkbox"/>	Petrus Grimmelius	01/09/1987	5/0	8/0	CF Eindhoven
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ennes van Maasbommel	28/10/1989	2/0	2/0	AORC/Palestra

## Outfield players

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mohammed Allouch	07/08/1989	2/0	2/0	FCK De Hommel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mohamed Attaibi	23/10/1987	5/5	10/8	Futsal Topsport Antwerpen
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mohamed Darri	11/09/1989	5/1	5/1	Hovocubo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Najib El Allouchi	03/06/1988	2/1	5/1	FCK De Hommel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jamal El Ghannouti	29/03/1983	5/0	11/5	CF Eindhoven
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zaid El Morabiti	04/07/1984	2/1	11/3	AORC/Palestra
<input type="checkbox"/>	Samir Makhoukhi	01/09/1982	5/2	14/8	FCK De Hommel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amir Molkârâi	15/05/1987	3/0	3/0	Hovocubo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karim Mossaoui	27/02/1988	0/0	0/0	TPP Rotterdam
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oualid Saadouni	12/03/1988	5/0	5/0	CF Eindhoven
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yoshua St Juste	23/02/1991	4/2	4/2	Hovocubo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nigel Wijdenbosch	03/04/1989	0/0	0/0	FC Marlène

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

## MAIN ROUND GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Republic	3	3	0	0	13	5	9
Netherlands*	3	2	0	1	10	9	6
Georgia	3	1	0	2	9	15	3
Belarus	3	0	0	3	8	11	0

\*Hosts

Czech Rep. 4-1 Georgia, Netherlands 2-1 Belarus, Belarus 3-4 Czech Rep., Neth. 7-3 Georgia, Georgia 5-4 Belarus, Czech Rep. 5-1 Neth.

## PLAY-OFF

Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-2 Netherlands, Neth. 2-1 Bos. and Herz.  
Aggregate 4-4; Netherlands win on away goals



Jamal El Ghannouti celebrates qualification



## BACK AT THE TOP TABLE

The Netherlands have qualified for the first time since 2005 and did so in dramatic style, Mohamed Attaibi scoring with 88 seconds remaining of their play-off against Bosnia and Herzegovina to send them through on the away goals rule. Coach Marcel Loosveld is now eager to make up for lost time. "It was an explosion for us to be here after such a long time," Loosveld said. "It would have been nicer for my heart if [the goal] had come earlier, but it was a great atmosphere. We worked hard for that. We're confident, we're here, and we're going to enjoy the tournament."

The Netherlands will be boosted by a large contingent of travelling fans, and their attack-minded approach could bring reason for cheer. Experience comes in the form of captain Samir Makhoukhi and Zaid El Morabiti, who both played in the 2005 finals, while goalkeeper Petrus Grimmelius, Oualid Saadouni, Mohamed Darri, Jamal El Ghannouti and Attaibi form the basis of the squad. The Netherlands have a fine pedigree and reached the inaugural FIFA Futsal World Cup final in 1989. Now back at the top, the aim is to stay there. "It's not the easiest group, but we're very happy to be back on this stage again," Loosveld said. "We'll do our utmost to get some results."

## FIXTURES

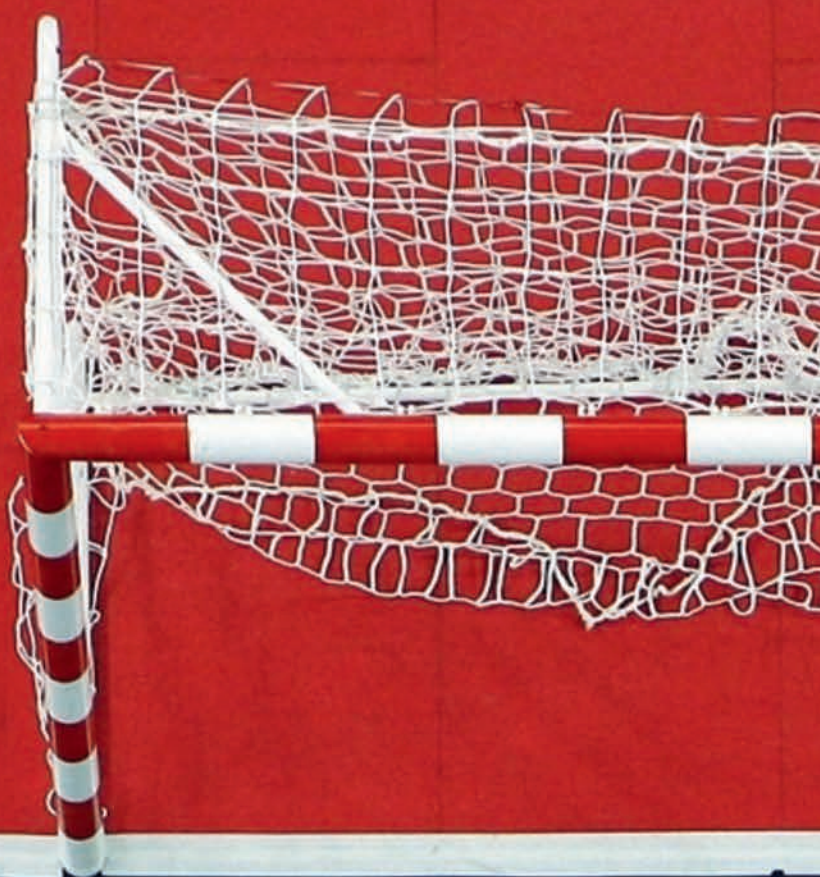
28 JANUARY v RUSSIA  
30 JANUARY v PORTUGAL

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 4

BEST PERFORMANCE  
FOURTH PLACE 1999Coach: MARCEL LOOSVELD  
Date of birth: 04/01/1963

Loosveld scored 16 goals in 34 appearances for the Netherlands as a player, including the equaliser in the 2-1 defeat by Brazil in the 1989 FIFA Futsal World Cup final. He joined the Netherlands' coaching set-up in 2003 as assistant to Vic Hermans and succeeded his former team-mate as senior coach in 2009.





# TORRAS HUNGRY FOR MORE

THE SPAIN CAPTAIN INSISTS UNRIVALLED SUCCESS HAS NOT DIMMED HIS SIDE'S AMBITION

**A**t 33, Torras has won just about everything since his modest beginnings at FC Barcelona when futsal was only a semi-professional limb of the Catalan club. By the time he returned to a fully professionalised set-up at Barça in 2010, he had collected seven items of silverware with Interiù Madrid, had been a FIFA Futsal World Cup winner in 2004, and had won three UEFA European Futsal Championships. With Barça, he has since added 11 national titles and a fourth EURO – the dramatic victory over Russia in Croatia two years ago. The question is now whether Torras and Spain can make it five straight wins.

The team he captains has undergone continual transformations. Javi Rodríguez, Kike, Luis Amado, Julio and the Linares brothers have taken final bows – but the Spanish ship still sails ahead of the rest. “You don’t really notice any changes of generations in the team,” Torras insists. “The regularity of winning titles has continued and I think it will continue for even more years. The desire to achieve them will be there. You can win or lose, either can happen. But one thing is clear: Spain have always had a great group of players who work very well together. The strength of Spain is that one of the objectives is to focus on the group rather than the ambition of individuals. Of course there are players who leave and are hard to replace.

But you have to solve that somehow. Despite all the titles, we won’t ease off.”

Coaches have also changed, José Venancio López smoothly taking the baton from Javier Lozano. “The team coach,” Torras explains, “has the philosophy of having the same approach to any match, any friendly, official match or tournament. And any player who comes to the national team needs to show ambition, desire and joy.” Torras had his first taste of a EURO eight years ago and recalls: “When I was a young lad and saw those experienced players being so ambitious, I asked myself how they could be still so ambitious after having already won so much. So you pay attention to that, as it surprises you. You realise that you would never get anywhere without that ambition and hunger.”

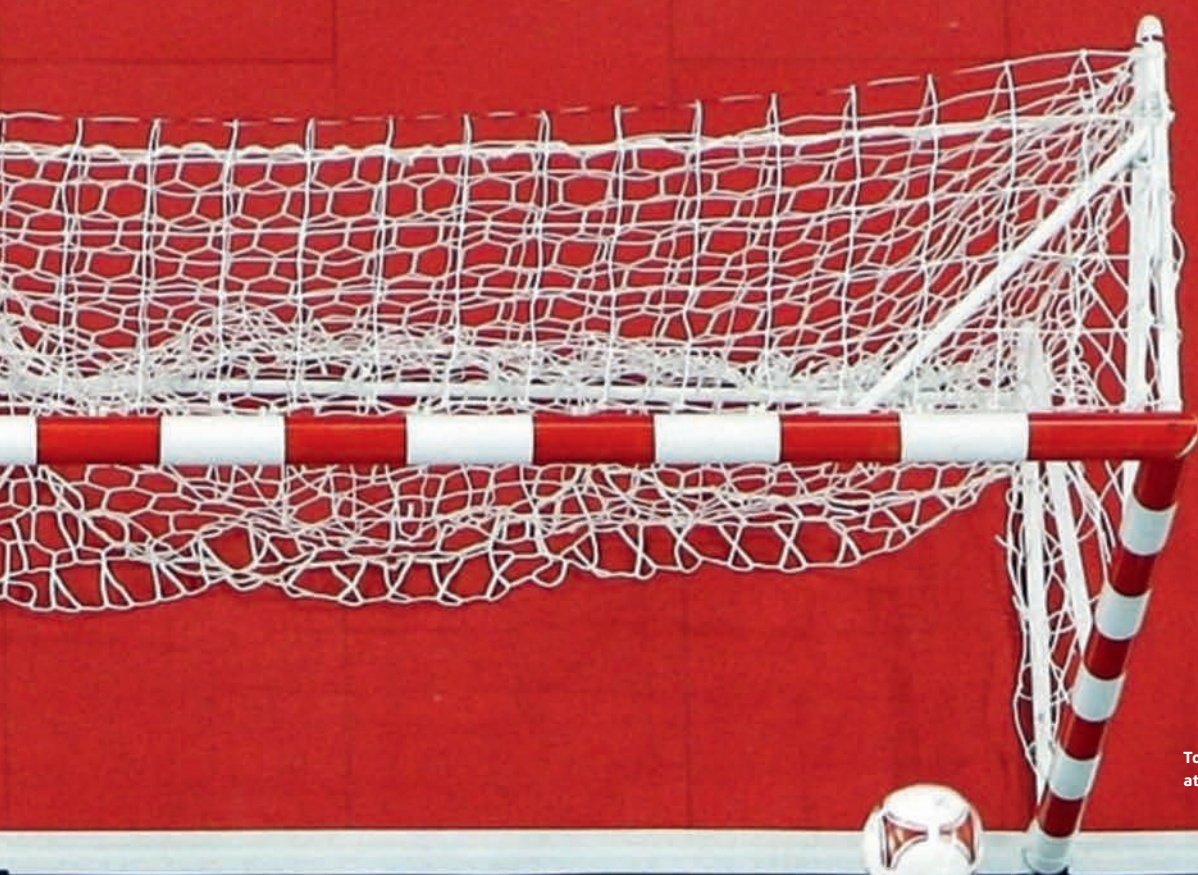
“I am a veteran now, a leader,” he acknowledges. “It is mostly about helping and supporting on and off the pitch. You need to be the calmest one when it comes to facing decisions and it is about helping all your team-mates in things that you have been through – things you have learned from players like Kike, Luis Amado or Julio. You’re leading by helping your team-mates in difficult moments, even in training camps or friendly matches where you need to keep up that ambition and hunger to continue winning.”

Many of Spain’s UEFA European Futsal

Championship victories have been built on the foundations of mental strength in extreme situations – not least coming back to win the 2012 final when trailing Russia until 34 seconds from the end. “When things are going badly I think that we do something extra to face the bad situation. We have the calm and patience to admit that things are going badly at that moment, but [we know] that we will create chances until the very end, and if we work and give everything then we know we can overcome it. That is what has made us win titles. Maybe without that mentality and calm Spain would not have won. But this comes also from the Spanish league, the daily training and matches where you face difficulties like that. The players come into the national team well prepared and we are capable of playing different systems and styles. It’s about strategy; it’s about free kicks, and then to pressure and attack, and about defence. So many years’ work pays off in difficult situations.”

“If I look at the four consecutive EUROS that I’ve won, I’d give pride of place to the one in Portugal, as we really suffered in the semi-final against Portugal, going 2-0 down. And the one in Croatia was also very important because of the difficulty. For a player, this is the best competition and, if you’re playing for Spain, there is extra pressure attached to it because we are the favourites. That’s what makes it fantastic.”





Torras in action against Italy  
at UEFA Futsal EURO 2012



"DESPITE ALL  
THE TITLES,  
WE WON'T  
EASE OFF"

#### TORRAS QUICK FACTS



4

Torras has won the UEFA European Futsal Championship with Spain four times – in 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2012; only retired compatriots Luis Amado and Kike (both five) have won more.



129

Torras has made 129 appearances for Spain – the most of any current player – and scored 72 goals (as of 10 January 2014). Only Kike (180), Luis Amado (179) and Javi Rodríguez (170) have played more.



11

Torras has scored 11 times in 20 appearances at the UEFA European Futsal Championship finals. He also hit four on his competition debut against Finland – a 13-0 win – in January 2004.





# ÉCOUTEZ "LE CACTUS"...

Studio Graphique RTBF - ©Photo Jérôme de Warzée - ©Photo micro : Cassandre - ©Photo Cactus & fond : iStock - 2013



## JÉRÔME de WARZÉE

Trublion de la matinale radio au sein de l'équipe du "8-9h".  
Il y distille chaque matin son billet cinglant, dézinguant  
l'actualité belge et internationale.

rtbf.be



Fréquences : [www.vivacite.be](http://www.vivacite.be)



# QUALIFYING STATISTICS

FROM DAVID BOBOKHIDZE'S GOALS FOR GEORGIA TO SPAIN'S NEAR IMPENETRABLE DEFENCE, WE HIGHLIGHT THE STANDOUT NUMBERS FROM QUALIFYING

**Q**ualifying took place between January and October 2013 over three rounds to determine which 11 sides would join hosts Belgium at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. Twenty-two nations kicked off in the preliminary round, with the six group winners advancing to the main round. Here, they were joined by the 22 highest-ranked sides according to UEFA's coefficient system. The seven main round group winners advanced to the final tournament, while the seven runners-up and the best third-placed team entered the play-offs. The four play-off winners qualified for Antwerp.

## GOALS SCORED

SPAIN	28
MONTENEGRO	26
GEORGIA	23
ITALY	20
UKRAINE	20
FRANCE	19
GREECE	19
SLOVENIA	18
CROATIA	17
ROMANIA	17

## FEWEST CONCEDED

SPAIN	1
ITALY	2
RUSSIA	2
AZERBAIJAN	3
CYPRUS	3
FRANCE	3
LITHUANIA	4
PORTUGAL	4
CZECH REPUBLIC	5

## HIGHEST SCORERS

### ALL TEAMS

DAVID BOBOKHIDZE (Georgia)	8
ZOLTÁN DRÓTH (Hungary)	8
KRISTJAN ČUJEC (Slovenia)	7
ZORAN BAROVIĆ (Montenegro)	7
DARIO MARINOVIĆ (Croatia)	7
SERGIO LOZANO (Spain)	6
BOJAN BAJOVIĆ (Montenegro)	6
ANTONIOS MANOS (Greece)	6

### QUALIFIED SIDES

DARIO MARINOVIĆ (Croatia)	7
SERGIO LOZANO (Spain)	6
MIGUELÍN (Spain)	5
PULA (Russia)	5
MOHAMED ATTAIBI (Netherlands)	5
MARIAN ȘOTĂRCĂ (Romania)	5
FLORIN MATEI (Romania)	4
GABRIEL LIMA (Italy)	4
ORTIZ (Spain)	4
ALESSANDRO PATIAS (Italy)	4
RAÚL CAMPOS (Spain)	4
SAAD (Italy)	4
MICHAL SEIDLER (Czech Republic)	4
DMYTRO SOROKIN (Ukraine)	4
FRANKO JELOVČIĆ (Croatia)	4

## MOST ASSISTS

### ALL TEAMS

ADRI (Spain)	8
ZORAN BAROVIĆ (Montenegro)	6
ROBINHO (Russia)	5
SLOBODAN RAJČEVIĆ (Serbia)	5
JORGE DIAZ (Andorra)	4
ROK MORDEJ (Slovenia)	4

### QUALIFIED SIDES

ADRI (Spain)	8
ROBINHO (Russia)	5
ROK MORDEJ (Slovenia)	4
IGOR OSREDKAR (Slovenia)	3
PEDRO CARY (Portugal)	3
TORRAS (Spain)	3
MOHAMED DARRI (Netherlands)	3
EMIL RĂDUCU (Romania)	3



matches were played to determine the 11 nations that would make the trip to Antwerp.



sides have competed in all eight UEFA European Futsal Championship final tournaments: Spain, Russia and Italy.



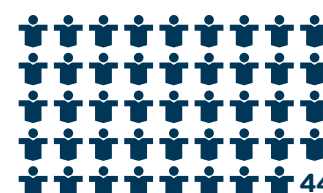
nations entered the competition for the first time in this campaign: Gibraltar (UEFA's newest member association), Denmark, Sweden and Wales.



Kristjan Čujec's five goals in Slovenia's 8-3 victory against Ukraine in Group 7 were the most by an individual player in a match.



Spain won by the biggest margin in qualifying, defeating Sweden 13-0 in main round Group 4.



44 teams, a competition record, took part in qualifying for UEFA Futsal EURO 2014.



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## ITALY



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
<b>Goalkeepers</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Stefano Mammarella	02/02/1984	3/0	17/1	Marina CSA
<input type="checkbox"/> Michele Miarelli	29/04/1984	0/0	0/0	Real Rieti
<b>Outfield players</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Da Silva	27/05/1987	0/0	0/0	Kaos Futsal Bologna
<input type="checkbox"/> Massimo De Luca	07/10/1987	3/0	3/0	Real Rieti
<input type="checkbox"/> Marco Ercolessi	15/05/1986	3/0	12/2	Luparense C/5
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortino	30/04/1983	3/3	11/7	Asti
<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Giasson	24/08/1987	2/0	3/0	Pescara
<input type="checkbox"/> Humberto Honorio	21/07/1983	3/2	8/3	Luparense C/5
<input type="checkbox"/> Luca Leggiero	11/11/1984	3/2	3/2	Pescara
<input type="checkbox"/> Gabriel Lima	19/08/1987	3/4	12/7	Asti
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlim	15/07/1986	1/1	3/1	Luparense C/5
<input type="checkbox"/> Davide Putano	09/06/1985	2/0	3/0	Luparense C/5
<input type="checkbox"/> Saad	26/10/1979	3/4	22/14	FC Barcelona
<input type="checkbox"/> Sergio Romano	28/09/1987	0/0	14/11	Pescara

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

## MAIN ROUND GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy*	3	3	0	0	20	2	9
Hungary	3	2	0	1	10	14	6
Finland	3	1	0	2	6	11	3
Montenegro	3	0	0	3	4	13	0

\*Hosts

Hungary 4-3 Montenegro, Italy 5-1 Finland, Finland 2-5 Hungary,  
Italy 6-0 Montenegro, Montenegro 1-3 Finland, Hungary 1-9 Italy



Massimo De Luca in action for Italy



## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Italy have set the bar so high in recent seasons that their biggest test, according to coach Roberto Menichelli, is to meet their own exacting standards. Their victory in the 2003 UEFA European Futsal Championship shows the Azzurri's pedigree, and they were unfortunate to bow out in the semi-finals in 2012, losing to eventual winners Spain – who also beat them in the 2007 final – by the narrowest of margins.

"At the last EURO we managed to win the bronze medal and at the World Cup we finished third, with only Spain and Brazil in front of us, so we have had a pretty positive run," Menichelli said. "We have to keep up that level, which will probably be the most difficult task, but we are confident about this competition."

Menichelli has rejuvenated a successful squad since taking charge in 2009 and in the outstanding Stefano Mammarella – winner of the adidas Golden Glove at the 2012 FIFA Futsal World Cup – between the posts, Italy boast one of the best goalkeepers at this tournament. With the skilful Gabriel Lima as captain, a blend of veterans including Saad and Fortino, and emerging talents such as Massimo De Luca and Luca Leggiero, Italy will expect another tilt at the title.

## FIXTURES

29 JANUARY v SLOVENIA

2 FEBRUARY v AZERBAIJAN

FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 8

## BEST PERFORMANCE

WINNERS 2003



Coach: ROBERTO MENICHELLI

Date of birth: 14/01/1963

Menichelli had held a number of positions at the Italian Football Federation since 1996 before stepping up to lead the national team in 2009. Capped 28 times by Italy as a player, he is also a graduate in mechanical engineering and a teacher at both the Coverciano coaching school and the Foro Italico university in Rome.



# AZERBAIJAN



## POINT TO PROVE

Azerbaijan qualified for their first major tournament at UEFA Futsal EURO 2010 and made their mark by getting to the semi-finals. They also featured last time around and a place in the knockout rounds is the least of their ambitions. "We finished fourth in 2010, so this time we need to go one step further," defender Rizvan Farzaliyev said. "We want to win medals."

The squad remains packed full of experience in what may be the last UEFA Futsal EURO for a number of Azerbaijani veterans. It is also a cohesive unit, with the majority of the players from club side Araz Naxçivan. Biro Jade, joint top scorer in the 2010 finals, turned 41 four days before this tournament started, having scored three times in qualifying, while Felipe, 35, and 31-year-old captain Vitaliy Borisov all bring valuable tournament know-how with them to Antwerp.

Azerbaijan were involved in one of the most incredible matches in the competition's history when they lost 9-8 to Serbia in the 2012 group stage – the highest-scoring match in UEFA Futsal EURO history. Nonetheless, Azerbaijan bowed out without winning a point: they will be doing everything to prevent history from repeating itself this time.

## FIXTURES

31 JANUARY v SLOVENIA

2 FEBRUARY v ITALY

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 3

## BEST PERFORMANCE

FOURTH PLACE 2010



**Coach: ALESIO**

**Date of birth: 27/09/1968**

After a successful playing career in his native Brazil, Spain and Russia, Alesio joined FC Kairat Almaty as player-coach in 2007, leading them to the Kazakhstan title and the UEFA Futsal Cup finals.

In 2008 he took charge of Azerbaijan and Araz Naxçivan, taking the former to UEFA Futsal EURO 2010 and Araz to UEFA Futsal Cup bronze.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
<b>Goalkeepers</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Laercio Buranello	12/04/1982	3/0	3/0	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Elnur Zamanov	17/05/1981	3/0	6/0	Ekol Baku
<b>Outfield players</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Amadeu	06/03/1990	0/0	0/0	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Augusto	25/02/1980	0/0	0/0	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Biro Jade	24/01/1973	4/3	13/13	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Vitaliy Borisov	05/07/1982	3/2	14/9	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Edu	14/10/1986	6/1	3/0	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Rajab Farajzade	19/12/1980	2/0	17/5	Ekol Baku
<input type="checkbox"/> Rizvan Farzaliyev	01/09/1979	2/1	18/4	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Felipe	05/10/1978	3/1	13/7	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Elnur Gambarov	13/07/1978	1/0	3/0	Araz Naxçivan
<input type="checkbox"/> Ilkin Hajiyev	08/01/1983	3/1	5/1	Fenerbagca
<input type="checkbox"/> Seymur Mammadov	06/05/1983	0/0	0/0	Fenerbagca
<input type="checkbox"/> Rafael	26/12/1982	0/0	0/0	Araz Naxçivan

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

### MAIN ROUND GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Azerbaijan	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	1	1	1	10	7	4
Slovakia*	3	1	1	1	9	9	4
Norway	3	0	0	3	3	14	0

\*Hosts

Azerbaijan 6-0 Norway, Slovakia 4-4 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2-3 Azerbaijan, Slovakia 4-3 Norway, Norway 0-4 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Azerbaijan 2-1 Slovakia



Azerbaijan have reached their third straight Futsal EURO





## SLOVENIA



Date of birth      Qualifying Apps/Goals      Competition Apps/Goals      Club

## Goalkeepers

<input type="checkbox"/>	Alen Mordej	13/03/1990	3/0	4/0	Toulon Tous Ensemble
<input type="checkbox"/>	Damir Puškar	03/09/1987	3/0	7/0	FC Litija

## Outfield players

<input type="checkbox"/>	Dejan Bizjak	09/09/1990	1/0	3/0	Toulon Tous Ensemble
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristjan Čujec	20/01/1980	3/7	13/10	New Team FVG
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sebastijan Drobne	19/04/1987	3/3	8/4	Melissa FC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alen Fetič	14/10/1991	3/1	8/2	Novo Vrijeme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Uroš Kroflič	02/11/1985	3/0	3/0	KMN Dobovec
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benjamin Melink	15/11/1982	3/3	15/7	C/5 Adriatica
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rok Mordej	03/03/1989	3/1	11/5	New Team FVG
<input type="checkbox"/>	Igor Osredkar	28/06/1986	3/2	9/3	Novo Vrijeme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gaj Rosič	14/05/1987	3/0	3/0	A. Académica de Coimbra
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tilen Štendler	08/10/1991	3/0	3/0	KMN Puntar
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aleš Vrabel	10/09/1986	0/0	0/0	Toulon Tous Ensemble
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gašper Vrhovec	18/07/1988	3/0	9/3	FC Litija

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

## MAIN ROUND GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia	3	3	0	0	18	8	9
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	14	10	6
Turkey*	3	1	0	2	9	12	3
England	3	0	0	3	5	16	0

Turkey 3-5 Slovenia, Ukraine 7-0 England, Turkey 4-3 England,  
Slovenia 8-3 Ukraine, England 2-5 Slovenia, Ukraine 4-2 Turkey



Slovenia's Alen Fetič darts between two players



## GROWING FORCE

Having reached only one final tournament prior to UEFA Futsal EURO 2010, Slovenia have now qualified for the third time in succession. They did so in some style with Kristjan Čujec scoring five times in an 8-3 win against Ukraine in main round Group 7, and they will now be looking to advance beyond the group stage for the first time. Captain Igor Osredkar and fellow playmaker Benjamin Melink are the lynchpins of Andrej Dobovičnik's side, with Čujec, Alen Fetič, Rok Mordej and Gašper Vrhovec also providing goals and power.

With more than half the team playing their club futsal abroad, this side are no strangers to the international game, but even so, Dobovičnik believes the challenge ahead is a big one. "Italy are absolutely the favourites in our group," Dobovičnik said. "I am convinced my boys and I will do the best we can, and we will try to take our chances. We have never won a point at a European championship [final tournament] so we will try to make our breakthrough. Our team is very young, but they've already played a lot of matches and I hope that in the next three to four years they will show excellent performances in Europe."

## FIXTURES

29 JANUARY v ITALY  
31 JANUARY v AZERBAIJAN

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 4

## BEST PERFORMANCE

GROUP STAGE 2003, 2010, 2012



Coach: ANDREJ DOBOVIČNIK  
Date of birth: 14/10/1967

Dobovičnik is an economics graduate and works for a leading telecommunications firm, but his passion is futsal. Three times a Slovenian title winner as a player, he retired in 2004 and began his coaching career at EM Pelikani before taking the helm of the national team in November 2005.





# SPAIN'S GOLD STANDARD

Is it a coincidence that Spain, world and European champions in the outdoor game, have been a dominant force in futsal? The players may be different, but the emphasis on possession, high-speed passing and exquisite control in tight spaces is absolutely familiar. Add to that an addiction to winning and an unwavering self-belief and it is little wonder Europe's top sides have been unable to wrestle the title from them in over a decade. "Spain never give up: we always want a little more. We always believe we can give a little more," said Kike, a five-time winner of this competition who helped Spain lift the title in 2012 before retiring later in the year. "Victory is so wonderful, you always want to repeat the feeling."

Spain set a benchmark by beating Russia 5-3 in the final of UEFA's pilot European tournament in Cordoba in 1996, and they have graced six of the

seven finals since the UEFA European Futsal Championship was officially launched in 1999, winning five of them. Players such as goalkeeper Luis Amado, the Linares brothers – Joan and Andreu – and the captain of the 2010 and 2012 champions, Javi Rodríguez, have joined the likes of Russia's late Konstantin Eremenko and Croatia's Mićo Martić on the list of legends who have left indelible marks on the history of this competition. Under former coach Javier Lozano and now José Venancio López, Spain have stuck to a clearly defined playing philosophy, despite determined attempts by Russia, Ukraine and Italy to knock them off their perch. The presence of Iberian rivals Portugal in the 2010 showpiece posted a warning that other nations are ready to challenge the established powers and, at the eighth final tournament – the third to involve 12 teams – the big question is whether anyone can put an end to Spain's run of four straight wins.





With five titles already to their name, La Roja continue to provide the benchmark in Europe



Sergio Lozano takes on Dmitri Prudnikov in the 2012 final



## ROLL OF HONOUR

### 1999 RUSSIA

Hosts Spain came back from 2-1 and 3-2 down in Granada to force extra time, but after a 3-3 draw, Russia's hero was goalkeeper Oleg Denissov, who saved two penalties to win his side the shoot-out 4-2.

### 2001 SPAIN

Having avenged their 1999 heartbreak by beating Russia in Moscow in the semi-finals, Spain forced extra time against Ukraine in the final after falling behind. Four minutes in, Javi Sánchez's golden goal won them their first title 2-1.

### 2003 ITALY

In the only final not to feature Spain, Italy broke the host nation jinx against Ukraine thanks to Vinicius Bacaro's solitary goal in front of 6,000 in Caserta. Ukraine, the only finalists not to score, claimed silver again.

### 2005 SPAIN

Despite losing 3-1 to Italy in the group stage – they haven't lost a match in this competition since – world champions Spain stifled old rivals Russia expertly in the decider. The 2-1 scoreline, with goals from Andreu Linares and Alberto Cogorro, scarcely reflected a comfortable win for Javier Lozano's men.

### 2007 SPAIN

Spain looked down and out when trailing hosts Portugal 2-0 with 5:49 to play in the semi-final, only to fight back and win on penalties.

José Venancio López's team then posted a 3-1 win against Italy, whose consolation goal allowed Alexandre Feller to become the first goalkeeper to score in a final.

### 2010 SPAIN

After going 3-0 down in a tense final in Debrecen, Portugal hit back with two late goals in 39 seconds, only for Spain to clinch a hat-trick of titles, with a goal by Daniel in the final minute rounding off a 4-2 win.

### 2012 SPAIN

Another Houdini act for Spain in Zagreb made it five titles. One-nil down to Russia until 34 seconds from the end, José Venancio López's team conjured an equaliser by Sergio Lozano and hit the shell-shocked Russians twice in extra time to clinch a 3-1 victory.



Russia (top) were the first champions. Italy (below) lifted the trophy in 2003





UEFA  
**FUTSAL EURO**  
BELGIUM 2014

# UEFA FUTSAL EURO 2014

**28 JANUARY - 8 FEBRUARY**

**LIVE** ON EUROSPORT & EUROSPORT 2



NATIONAL SPONSOR OF THE UEFA  
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# NUMBERS GAME

THE PLAYERS, TEAMS AND MATCHES THAT HAVE LEFT THEIR MARK ON THE UEFA EUROPEAN FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL TOURNAMENTS

## LEADING SCORERS

DANIEL (Spain)	16
SERHIY KORIDZE (Ukraine)	15
JAVI RODRÍGUEZ (Spain)	13
KONSTANTIN EREMEENKO (Russia)	12
ADRIANO FOGLIA (Italy)	11
FERNANDO GRANA (Italy)	11
TORRAS (Spain)	11
GONÇALO (Portugal)	10

## MOST APPEARANCES

LUIS AMADO (Spain)	33
KIKE (Spain)	29
DANIEL (Spain)	24
JULIO (Spain)	22
SERGEI ZUEV (Russia)	21
JAVI RODRÍGUEZ (Spain)	20
TORRAS (Spain)	20

Appearance = selection for matchday squad

## TOP SCORERS BY TOURNAMENT

<b>2012</b>	DARIO MARINOVIĆ (Croatia)	5
	TORRAS (Spain)	5
<b>2010</b>	BIRO JADE (Azerbaijan)	5
	JOEL QUEIRÓS (Portugal)	5
	JAVI RODRÍGUEZ (Spain)	5
	SAAD (Italy)	5
<b>2007</b>	CIRILO (Russia)	5
	DANIEL (Spain)	5
	PREDRAG RAJIĆ (Serbia)	5
<b>2005</b>	NANDO GRANA (Italy)	6
<b>2003</b>	SERHIY KORIDZE (Ukraine)	7
<b>2001</b>	SERHIY KORIDZE (Ukraine)	7
<b>1999</b>	KONSTANTIN EREMEENKO (Russia)	11

## TEAM APPEARANCES

8	ITALY, RUSSIA, SPAIN
7	CZECH REPUBLIC, PORTUGAL, UKRAINE
4	BELGIUM, CROATIA, NETHERLANDS, SLOVENIA, YUGOSLAVIA/SERBIA
3	AZERBAIJAN, ROMANIA
2	HUNGARY
1	BELARUS, POLAND, TURKEY

## FINAL TOURNAMENT RECORDS

### PLAYER

YOUNGEST

OLDEST



**CRISTIAN RIZZO**

18 years 355 days  
Italy v Ukraine,  
23/01/2010



**ANDREY TVERYANKIN**

44 years 334 days  
Azerbaijan v  
Serbia, 03/02/2012

### GOALSCORER

YOUNGEST

OLDEST



**ADRIANO FOGLIA**

19 years 303 days  
Italy v Russia,  
22/02/2001



**MİĆO MARTIĆ**

36 years 364 days  
Croatia v Poland,  
22/02/2001



# 9-1

The biggest victory in a final tournament, by Spain against Belarus in Debrecen in 2010.

# 76.5

Spain's winning percentage in final tournaments. The five-time champions have lost just twice (excluding penalty shoot-outs) – both times to Italy. They have failed to win just eight times in 34 matches and have not been beaten in normal time since losing to Italy 3-1 in the 2005 group stage.

## THE FINALS

### 2012

SPAIN 3-1 RUSSIA  
(after extra time)  
Zagreb, Croatia

### 2010

SPAIN 4-2 PORTUGAL  
Debrecen, Hungary

### 2007

SPAIN 3-1 ITALY  
Porto, Portugal

### 2005

SPAIN 2-1 RUSSIA  
Ostrava, Czech Republic

### 2003

ITALY 1-0 UKRAINE  
Caserta, Italy

### 2001

SPAIN 2-1 UKRAINE  
(golden goal)  
Moscow, Russia

### 1999

RUSSIA 3-3 SPAIN  
(Russia win 4-2 on pens)  
Granada, Spain



Serhiy Koridze's five-goal haul for Ukraine against Portugal in 2003 was the highest total by a single player in a final tournament match.

Koridze also holds the record for most goals scored overall in the competition including qualifying, with 39.

# 47

Including qualifying Luis Amado holds the record for most appearances in the UEFA European Futsal Championship with 47.

# 14,300

A record crowd of 14,300 saw Russia beat Croatia 4-2 in the UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 semi-final in Zagreb.



Seconds it took Felipe to score the fastest goal in a UEFA Futsal EURO final tournament, for Azerbaijan in their 9-8 win against Serbia in 2012.



That match also produced the most goals of any game in a final tournament.



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AREA  
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DEFENDER  
MIDFIELDER  
FORWARD  
assists  
rankings

assists  
rankings







## SPAIN



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
<b>Goalkeepers</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Jesús Herrero	04/11/1986	0/0	0/0	Interviú Madrid
<input type="checkbox"/> Juanjo	19/08/1985	3/0	21/0	Lobelle de Santiago
<input type="checkbox"/> Rafa	13/06/1980	3/0	10/0	Murcia FS
<b>Outfield players</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Aicardo	04/12/1988	0/0	5/4	FC Barcelona
<input type="checkbox"/> Fernandão	16/08/1980	3/1	12/9	FC Barcelona
<input type="checkbox"/> José Ruiz	06/06/1983	3/3	6/6	Murcia FS
<input type="checkbox"/> Lin	16/05/1986	3/1	18/7	FC Barcelona
<input type="checkbox"/> Miguelín	09/05/1985	1/5	8/7	Murcia FS
<input type="checkbox"/> Ortiz	03/10/1983	3/4	24/11	Interviú Madrid
<input type="checkbox"/> Pola	26/06/1988	3/1	5/2	Interviú Madrid
<input type="checkbox"/> Rafa Usín	22/05/1987	3/1	11/5	Navarra FS
<input type="checkbox"/> Raúl Campos	17/12/1987	3/4	3/4	Murcia FS
<input type="checkbox"/> Sergio Lozano	09/11/1988	1/6	8/8	FC Barcelona
<input type="checkbox"/> Torres	24/09/1980	3/1	35/19	FC Barcelona

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

## MAIN ROUND GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain*	3	3	0	0	28	1	9
Croatia	3	2	0	1	10	12	6
FYROM	3	1	0	2	7	10	3
Sweden	3	0	0	3	2	24	0
*Hosts							

Croatia 7-0 Sweden, Spain 5-1 FYROM, FYROM 2-3 Croatia,  
Spain 13-0 Sweden, Sweden 2-4 FYROM, Croatia 0-10 Spain



Miguelín (15) celebrates scoring in the 2012 tournament



## TOP OF THEIR GAME

Spain are Europe's dominant futsal power and are aiming for their fifth straight UEFA European Futsal Championship title and sixth overall. They needed extra time to defeat Russia in the 2012 final, but José Venancio López's side remain the team to beat, even after the retirements of "living legends" – in the words of coach Venancio López – Kike and goalkeeper Luis Amado. The foundation of the 2012 team, which includes Jordi Torres, Ortiz, Aicardo and Miguelín, is bolstered by newcomers Raúl Campos and José Ruiz, and their coach predicts further success. "There comes a time for everyone when you have to make way for young players," he said. "We have young players with a lot of ambition and desire. In that sense we can be relaxed, because the future looks bright in terms of the competitive level of this team."

Spain have vied with Brazil for the title of world's best for more than a decade, and won the FIFA Futsal World Cup in 2000 and 2004, breaking Brazil's stranglehold on the trophy. They only lost the next two finals to the South American side on penalties (2008) and after extra time (2012) and have not been beaten over 40 minutes in a competitive game since losing 3-1 to Italy in the 2005 European group stage.

## FIXTURES

29 JANUARY v CROATIA  
2 FEBRUARY v CZECH REPUBLIC

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 8

## BEST PERFORMANCE

WINNERS 2001, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012

Spain also won the UEFA European Futsal Tournament in 1996, the forerunner to the UEFA European Futsal Championship



**Coach: JOSÉ VENANCIO LÓPEZ**  
Date of birth: 27/06/1964

Venancio López made his name as coach of Caja Segovia FS, winning the domestic treble of league, Spanish Cup and Super Cup in 1998/99.

He was appointed Spain coach in September 2007 and has proved a worthy successor to Javier Lozano, winning three UEFA Futsal EUROs and reaching two FIFA Futsal World Cup finals.



# CZECH REPUBLIC



## RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Czech Republic coach Tomáš Neumann is in no doubt about the challenge his side face in Antwerp. "The group is very, very hard," he said. "Croatia are a very tough team, and I have no words to describe Spain, they are the favourites."

As hosts, Croatia defeated the Czech Republic in a 5-4 thriller in 2012, and Neumann will be hoping the spine of that side can benefit from the experience and turn the tables this time around. Lukáš Rešetár and brothers Roman and Michal Mareš remain integral to the team, whose strength is based on a great spirit, discipline and the teamwork and understanding gained from the same group playing together for a considerable period of time. Neumann is also introducing a new generation, with the likes of Michal Seidler and Matěj Slovákček giving the side fresh impetus.

The 2001 UEFA European Futsal Championship was the first major tournament the Czech Republic qualified for, but they have reached every European championship final tournament and FIFA Futsal World Cup since. "Our best success was in 2010 in Hungary when we won the bronze medal, and it would be nice to repeat that," said Neumann, whose side breezed through qualifying without dropping a point.

## FIXTURES

31 JANUARY v CROATIA  
2 FEBRUARY v SPAIN

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 7

**BEST PERFORMANCE**  
THIRD PLACE 2010



**Coach: TOMÁŠ NEUMANN**  
Date of birth: 22/09/1970

Named Czech futsal player of the century in 1999, Neumann struck 288 goals in 195 domestic games for FK Viktoria Žižkov, and 26 in 46 international appearances. He succeeded Michal Stříž as coach after the 2005 UEFA European Futsal Championship finals and has since established the Czech Republic at the forefront of international futsal.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
<b>Goalkeepers</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Libor Gerčák	22/07/1975	3/1	14/1	1. FC Nejbach Vysoké Mýto
<input type="checkbox"/> David Šimon	14/06/1975	0/0	0/0	Helas Brno
<b>Outfield players</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Michal Belej	16/11/1982	3/1	13/6	Tango Brno
<input type="checkbox"/> Michal Holý	29/05/1990	0/0	0/0	Teplce
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan Janovský	20/06/1985	2/0	19/1	Rekord Bielsko-Biala
<input type="checkbox"/> Michal Kovács	17/04/1990	0/0	0/0	Tango Brno
<input type="checkbox"/> Michal Mareš	03/02/1976	3/1	31/12	FK EP Chrudim
<input type="checkbox"/> Roman Mareš	15/03/1975	3/1	26/22	FK EP Chrudim
<input type="checkbox"/> Jiří Novotný	12/07/1988	3/0	13/1	FC Bohemians 1905 Praha
<input type="checkbox"/> Lukáš Rešetár	28/04/1984	3/2	22/10	FK EP Chrudim
<input type="checkbox"/> Marcel Rodek	07/11/1988	0/0	0/0	FC Benago
<input type="checkbox"/> Michal Seidler	05/04/1990	2/4	5/5	Tango Brno
<input type="checkbox"/> Zdeněk Sláma	28/12/1982	1/0	22/3	Teplce
<input type="checkbox"/> Matěj Slovákček	08/10/1990	3/1	3/1	FK EP Chrudim

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

### MAIN ROUND GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Republic	3	3	0	0	13	5	9
Netherlands*	3	2	0	1	10	9	6
Georgia	3	1	0	2	9	15	3
Belarus	3	0	0	3	8	11	0

\*Hosts

Czech Republic 4-1 Georgia, Netherlands 2-1 Belarus, Belarus 3-4 Czech Republic, Netherlands 7-3 Georgia, Georgia 5-4 Belarus, Czech Republic 5-1 Netherlands



The Czech Republic have reached the last six Futsal EUROs





## CROATIA



Date of birth      Qualifying  
Apps/Goals      Competition  
Apps/Goals      Club

## Goalkeepers

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ivo Jukić	13/04/1986	5/0	14/0	FK Nikars Riga
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marin Stojkić	30/09/1984	5/0	10/0	Murter

## Outfield players

<input type="checkbox"/>	Saša Babić	04/08/1989	5/1	10/1	Novo Vrijeme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Matija Capar	20/10/1984	2/0	6/0	Alumnus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gordan Duvančić	12/09/1987	0/0	0/0	Skripta Osijek
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristijan Grbeša	17/01/1990	5/1	5/1	Alumnus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jakov Grcić	12/04/1983	5/2	13/5	Novo Vrijeme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Franko Jelovčić	06/07/1991	5/4	10/4	MNK Split
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dario Marinović	24/05/1990	5/7	13/12	Al Yarmouk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vedran Matošević	27/08/1990	1/0	3/0	Alumnus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tihomir Novak	24/10/1986	5/2	13/5	Asti
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nikola Pavić	10/08/1990	3/0	3/0	FC Arena
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alen Protega	05/03/1987	5/0	5/0	MNK Split
<input type="checkbox"/>	Josip Suton	14/11/1988	0/0	5/0	MNK Split

See UEFA.com for official squad list  
Apps = selections for matchday squad

## QUALIFYING

## MAIN ROUND GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain*	3	3	0	0	28	1	9
Croatia	3	2	0	1	10	12	6
FYROM	3	1	0	2	7	10	3
Sweden	3	0	0	3	2	24	0

\*Hosts

Croatia 7-0 Sweden, Spain 5-1 FYROM, FYROM 2-3 Croatia,  
Spain 13-0 Sweden, Sweden 2-4 FYROM, Croatia 0-10 Spain

PLAY-OFF

Slovakia 1-3 Croatia, Croatia 4-0 Slovakia  
Croatia win 7-1 on aggregate



Dario Marinović scored three times in the play-offs



## "BACK WHERE WE BELONG"

After impressing on home soil in 2012, Croatia have carried that momentum through to this tournament, successfully negotiating qualification, via the play-offs, for the first time since 2001. There was, however, a reality check on the way to Antwerp in the form of a 10-0 loss to Spain, and coach Mato Stanković could be forgiven for cursing his luck after his side were drawn against the champions again here.

Much will depend on how Croatia fare against their other Group D opponents – the Czech Republic – who they beat in the group stage at UEFA Futsal EURO 2012. "That match will be crucial," Stanković said. "Spain are the most difficult opponent we could get, but we will try to win a place in the next round against the Czech Republic. The most important thing is that we are at the EURO – where we belong."

Croatia continue to grow as a team, led by experienced goalkeeper and captain Ivo Jukić and defenders Jakov Grcić and Tihomir Novak. In attack, the youthful Franko Jelovčić, 22, and Dario Marinović, 23, provide the goals. The latter scored five times at UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 and top-scored for Croatia with seven in qualifying. He and Jelovčić hit three goals apiece in the 7-1 aggregate play-off victory against Slovakia.

## FIXTURES

29 JANUARY v SPAIN

31 JANUARY v CZECH REPUBLIC

## FINAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES 4

## BEST PERFORMANCE

FOURTH PLACE 2012



## Coach: MATO STANKOVIĆ

Date of born: 28/09/1970

Highly successful as coach of MNK Split, Stanković moved into international futsal in 2006, winning the Arab Futsal Championship with Libya twice as well as the African Futsal Championship, and taking them to the 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cup. He took charge of Croatia in 2010, steering them to the UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 semi-finals.



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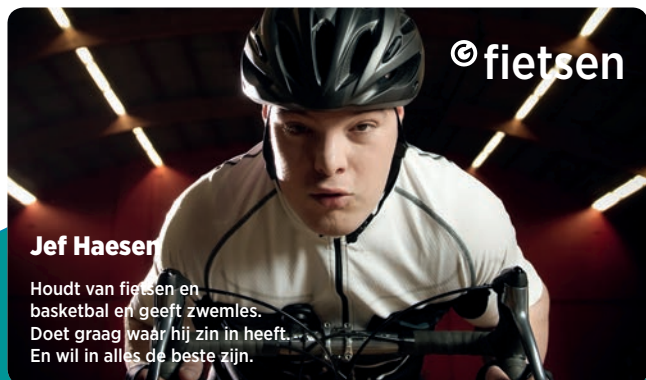




# RIDING HIGH

Croatia's players jump for joy as Valeriy Legchanov's penalty shoot-out miss for Ukraine sends the hosts into the semi-final of UEFA Futsal EURO 2012. The tournament in Zagreb and Split was watched by record crowds, with a competition high of 14,300 seeing the home side fall at the next hurdle, losing 4-2 to Russia in Zagreb.





© fietsen

**Jef Haesen**

Houdt van fietsen en basketbal en geeft zwembles. Doet graag waar hij zin in heeft. En wil in alles de beste zijn.



© basketbal

**Emlyn Goyvaerts**

Is een echte sportman. Houdt van zwemmen, duiken, netbal en vooral van basketbal. Hoopt te kunnen 'dunk' als hij twee meter is.

# Provincie Antwerpen, een hart voor sport



© hockey

**NIEUW!**

**Martijn Van Genechten**

Is in de ban van hockey en speelt ook nog basketbal en tennis. Hij geniet van sport en koestert de leuke momenten met zijn vrienden.



© badminton

**Martine De Weerd**

Verlegt graag grenzen: zwemt, skiet, speelt handbal en badminton, rijdt paard, doet aan Zumba en rijdt met de handbike.



© tennis

**Annick Sevenans**

Nam deel aan tel van Grand Slams, de Masters en twee Paralympische Spelen. Jarenlang Belgisch kampioene rolstoeltennis.



© voetbal

**Rob Nicasi**

Is een echte voetbalfanaat. Houdt van triatlon en is een fervent wielrenner. Zijn grote droom is deelname aan de Paralympische Spelen van Rio 2016.



© gym

**Kathleen Jennes**

Kan niet stilzitten. Doet aan gymnastiek, tennist, zwemt en danst. De trampoline is haar echte grote liefde!

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## TRAVEL

A POCKET GUIDE TO BELGIUM'S SECOND CITY

# ANTWERP

**C**lose to the Dutch border, Antwerp is Belgium's second largest city after the capital, Brussels, with a population of over 500,000. The 2013 European Capital of Sport, the port staged the 1920 Olympic Games, and its history as a major trading and cultural hub extends back to Gallo-Roman times, which means there is plenty for visitors to see at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014.

### BRABO STATUE

The statue in the Grote Markt (above), in front of Antwerp's city hall in the picturesque old town, depicts a scene from the legend of the city's foundation, with Silvius Brabo throwing the hand of the giant Druon Antigoon into the river Scheldt. The Roman soldier had stood up to the giant, who had severed the hands of citizens who failed to pay his toll for crossing the bridge over the river, and some claim the city's name comes from this legend – "hand werpen" means "thrown hand" in old Dutch.

### THE 'GREAT OLD'

R. Antwerp FC was founded by English students in 1880, making it the oldest football club in Belgium – hence their nickname, the 'Great Old'. Antwerp won the most recent of their four national titles in 1957, but reached the final of the 1992/93 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, losing 3-1 to Parma FC at Wembley. Their Bosuilstadion – in the Deurne district – also staged a match at the 1972 UEFA European Championship and the second leg of the 1964 European Cup Winners' Cup final.

### SPORTING HERITAGE

The only Belgian city to stage the Olympic Games, Antwerp's main venue for the 1920 event still stands, though the Olympisch Stadion – about 4.5km south of the city centre – is much changed since, having recently been home

to Antwerp's now defunct local rivals, Beerschot AC. Very much a going concern, Futsal Topsport Antwerpen are now one of Belgium's top futsal sides, winning national titles in 2006/07 and 2011/12.

### FLEMISH MASTERS

The stately Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp contains works by many of Europe's top artists, including a couple of locals. Anthony Van Dyck was born in Antwerp in 1599 but made his name as a painter in England, specialising in royal portraits. Peter Paul Rubens (born 1577) came to Antwerp from Germany, but made the city his home; his house is now a museum, while his works are in the Cathedral of Our Lady – and his tomb is in St James' Church.

### DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

The renowned Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester, Walter Van Beirendonck and Dirk Bikkembergs were among the 'Antwerp 6', who put the city on the international fashion map in the 1980s, with the likes of Raf Simons and Martin Margiela further cementing Antwerp's status as a major style centre. Their work and more is on offer in the city's impeccably turned out fashion district, with the MoMu style museum also home to the Royal Academy of Fine Arts' celebrated fashion department.

### TRADING PLACE

A local saying goes: "The Scheldt river owes its existence to God, Antwerp owes its existence to the Scheldt river". The city was at various times the main hub of the international pepper, sugar, silver and most recently diamond trades, with Antwerp's docks crucial to those commercial successes. A cruise up the river Scheldt will show the sheer size of the city's maritime presence, while the MAS and Red Star Line museums celebrate its naval history.

# BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO FUTSAL

ITALY CAPTAIN GABRIEL LIMA GIVES AN INSIDER'S VIEW ON THE GAME

## THE PLAYER

"A futsal player has to think more quickly than an 11-a-side footballer. You have to know what to do with the ball even before you receive it, as there is great pressure and no space. In football you have more time because in general there is more space between you and your closest opponent. There is also a difference in terms of dynamism. In futsal you never stop, either with your brain or your legs. In many sports you can think and then execute, in futsal you do them at the same time. What makes a team a great team is the ability to know where and when your team-mate will give you the ball and what to do with it without even thinking. Everything is registered in your memory."

## SKILL

"Technique is the most important aspect of the game. The movements are completely different from those in football so you don't really understand them unless you have worked on them since you were very young. It's difficult to teach how to read the game and how to move correctly on the pitch when you are an adult. Every player loves showing off a piece of individual skill – a nutmeg or a sombrero. It pumps you up, it gives you more confidence and makes you want the ball again to try something even more difficult. The quick pass is crucial – the pass that splits the back line is the most dangerous thing for any defence in the world."

## BALL CONTROL

"The ball is almost always on the ground, you touch it more often [than in football] and your technique must be perfect. Physical power is not as important as in football, but technique is crucial. The sole of the foot is used a lot because you don't have much space with the ball. In football you can control the ball with the side of your foot and even if you lose control for a while, you can get it back. In futsal your opponent is upon you immediately if your control is not perfect. You use the sole to make sure the ball is always close to you. Regarding shooting, the ball travels straighter and more predictably than a football. The toe-poke is very important, especially when you want to surprise a goalkeeper."

## ON THE BREAK

"Most of the goals scored in futsal come from transitions. It's a crucial aspect of the game both in defending and attacking and if you know how to do them properly, you can decide a game. When you attack it's important to play the ball quickly to open up the opponents' defence. If you keep the ball too long you give them the chance to come back and reorganise."

## FORMATIONS

"Being an extremely dynamic sport, modern futsal requires players who can play a variety of roles. Normally the playing system is 3-1, with

three players moving around and one more stable in attack, or 4-0, though teams often change their system during a single game. When your opponents press high, everything is easier if you have a pivot [in attack] who can hold the ball and allow others to breathe. Many coaches still prefer to use a pivot because they feel more secure with that system: it's not always easy to find four dynamic players who can play the ball well without losing possession in dangerous positions. In a match there can be moments when it's difficult to make three or four passes in succession – everything becomes easier with a pivot and you just try to reach him."

## FLYING GOALKEEPER

"The flying goalkeeper is an extra weapon, which ensures futsal games are exciting and open until the final whistle. You have nobody in goal but if you keep the ball well, you have more options for passes and everything becomes more difficult for your opponents. It's a common tactic when a team is behind, but not only then – when you reach five fouls and want to eat up some time with possession, or you want more possession because you don't have many substitutes on the bench. The main qualities of a flying goalkeeper are good passing ability and calmness. You have a lot of responsibility on your shoulders, and you should only take risks when you are almost sure of doing the right thing. You cannot expose your team."





## FACT FILE

**GABRIEL LIMA**

Born: 19/08/1987

Club: Asti

Italy debut:

23/09/09 v Japan

Italy appearances 67

Italy goals: 33

"It's always very satisfying to measure ourselves against the best teams on the continent. We haven't set ourselves a target – our first objective is to win the first game, which is always tough and can be decisive. Our main strength is the group and the variety of players we have in the squad: we have several different options and playing systems. Spain are always the favourites, and Russia cannot be underestimated either. We and Portugal may also have a say, but we must be prepared for tough battles against the other teams as well."



# RULES OF THE GAME

THE BASICS TO UNDERSTANDING FUTSAL

## TEAMS

Futsal is a five-a-side game, but each squad at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 consists of 14 players, with nine substitutes available per match.

## SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions are unlimited and can take place at any time during play, provided a player does not go on before his team-mate has come off and enters from the zone marked in front of each bench. Players can be changed individually or as a group.

## REAL TIME

A UEFA Futsal EURO match consists of two 20-minute halves, with a timekeeper stopping the clock each time the whistle is blown. If the quarter-finals, semi-finals or final are drawn, two five-minute periods of extra time are played, followed by a penalty shoot-out if the scores are still level. At set plays or when the

keeper has the ball, referees raise their arms and count down with their fingers the four seconds the player has to get the ball into play.

## REFEREES

Three officials enforce the rules in each game – one on each touchline and one to liaise with the timekeeper to control fouls and time-outs. Officials communicate their calls with a series of choreographed signals.

## ACCUMULATED FOULS

As of the sixth foul committed by a team, their opponents get a free shot at goal from the second penalty mark, 10m out from the goal. If the foul is closer to the goal, it can be taken from where the infringement took place.

## CARDS

Players are sent off for two yellow cards or a direct red and can play no further part. Following a dismissal, the penalised team plays

one man short for two minutes, but if they concede during that time they return to five players.

## THE FLYING GOALKEEPER

An outfield player can come on and off as a substitute for the goalkeeper, but the referee has to make sure that the flying goalkeeper is wearing a keeper's jersey with his number – and that all the team's keepers wear the same colours.

## KICK-IN

Play is restarted with a kick-in if the ball crosses the touchline or hits the roof. Goals cannot be scored directly from a kick-in. Players have four seconds to restart play from a kick-in or free-kick.

## TIME-OUT

Coaches can call a 60-second time-out during each half, but there are no time-outs in extra time.



## WIN A MATCH BALL

The ball shapes the game. With a circumference of 62-64cm, the futsal ball is about 10% smaller than an outdoor ball but the weight (400-440g) is about the same and so is the pressure. When dropped from 2m, the bounce must be between only 50 and 65cm. It means that headers are rarities, that passes need to be fast and firmly struck to avoid interceptions, the first touch needs to be top-class, shots tend to fly straight rather than swerve or dip and that keepers – most of whom choose not to wear gloves – need strong hands and wrists.



For a chance to win an official adidas 2014 UEFA Futsal EURO tournament ball, keep your eyes on the @UEFAcom Twitter account on the day of the final (8 February). As well as details of how to enter the competition, @UEFAcom has all the latest news throughout the tournament.

## UEFA FUTSAL EURO 2014 REFEREES

GERALD BAURNFEIND  
Austria

MARC BIRKETT  
England

ONDŘEJ ČERNÝ  
Czech Republic

KAMIL ÇETIN  
Turkey

BALÁZS FARKAS  
Hungary

EDUARDO COELHO  
Portugal

FERNANDO GUTIÉRREZ  
LUMBRERAS Spain

OLEG IVANOV  
Ukraine

PASCAL LEMAL  
Belgium

ALESSANDRO MALFER  
Italy

TIMO ONATSU  
Finland

IVAN SHABANOV  
Russia

BORUT ŠIVIC  
Slovenia

BOGDAN SORESCU  
Romania

SEBASTIAN STAWICKI  
Poland

SAŠA TOMIĆ  
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