



UEFA
**REGIONS'
CUP 2015™**
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Republic of Ireland

26 JUNE – 4 JULY 2015

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME





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CONTENTS

- 4 BIG SHOT
- 7 UEFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 8 WELCOME TO IRELAND
- 9 'AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE'
- 10 INTERVIEW: RAY WHELEHAN

GROUP A

- 14 EASTERN REGION IRL
- 16 ANKARA
- 18 SOUTH MORAVIA
- 20 TUZLA CANTON

23 MATCH SCHEDULE

25 VENUES

26 DUBLIN: IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN

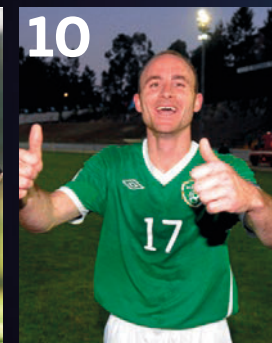
28 COMPETITION HISTORY

GROUP B

- 30 ZAGREB REGION
- 32 DOLNOŚLĄSKI REGION
- 34 EASTERN REGION NIR
- 36 WÜRTTEMBERG

38 GETTING INVOLVED

42 THE NEXT STEP UP; MATCH OFFICIALS



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WINNING FEELING

Veneto trio (from left to right) Silva Michel Pedrozo, Hakim Calgaro and Prince Yarboye celebrate their victory in the 2013 UEFA Regions' Cup final. The Italian hosts defeated Selección Catalana 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out after a goalless draw in the northeastern town of Abano Terme to become the first team to win the UEFA Regions' Cup twice. Veneto also won the inaugural competition in 1999 on the same ground.

UEFA President's message

Welcome to the ninth final tournament of the UEFA Regions' Cup, which will be played at six venues in and around Dublin. The Republic of Ireland becomes the seventh association to host the final round of a competition of which six of the eight editions have been won by teams from either Italy, Portugal or Spain. This tournament represents the pinnacle of European amateur football and offers the participants a unique opportunity to enjoy the experience of taking part in an event of international dimensions.

I am sure the spectators will be able to savour some thrilling football played in a competitive atmosphere but always upholding the principles of fair play. I would like to thank the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), and in particular its president, Tony Fitzgerald, for putting so much hard and enthusiastic work into the organisation of a tournament that epitomises the spirit of the game of football.

Michel Platini
UEFA President



Teachtaireacht ó Uachtarán UEFA

Fáilte romhaibh chuig an naoú comórtas ceannais de Chorn Réigiún UEFA, a imreofar i sé ionad mórthimpeall Bhaile Átha Cliath. Is í Cumann Peile na hÉireann an seachtú cumann chun babhta ceannais an chomórtais a reachtáil. Go dtí seo, tá sé shraith as ocht buaite ag foirne ón Iodáil, ón Phortaingéil nó ón Spáinn. Buaicphointe pheil amaitéarach na hEorpa is ea an comórtas seo agus tugtar deis ar leith do na rannpháirtithe taitneamh a bhaint as a bheith i gcomórtas idirnáisiúnta.

Táim cinnte go mbainfidh an lucht féachana taitneamh as peil iontach in atmaisféar iomaíoch agus cothrom na Féinne á chleachtadh i gcónaí. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le Cumann Peile na hÉireann agus, go háirithe, le hUachtarán an Chumainn, Tony Fitzgerald, a d'oibrigh go crua agus go díograiseach chun an comórtas a eagrú, comórtas a achoimríonn spiorad na peile.

Michel Platini
Uachtarán UEFA

NO TO RACISM



RESPECT

UEFA.org

Welcome to the Republic of Ireland

I would like to offer the warmest of welcomes to our visitors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Turkey and our neighbours from Northern Ireland, who are all competing for the title of 2015 UEFA Regions' Cup winners. It is a pleasure to host the final tournament and I am sure that Eastern Region, the representatives from our own national association, will give their sporting best. Our hopes are fuelled by memories of how the Leinster & Munster team reached the 2011 final, only to be narrowly beaten by Braga, a Portuguese team playing on home soil. Apart from enjoying the emotions of the 13 matches at six grounds in and around Dublin, I hope that our visitors will also take the opportunity to sample some of the delights of our country. I am sure that this event at the peak of Europe's amateur football will be a thrilling and entertaining tournament.

Tony Fitzgerald
FAI President



Fáilte chuig Poblacht na hÉireann

Ba mhaith liom fíorchaoi fáilte a chur romhaibh ár gcuariteoirí uilig, ón Bhoisnia agus an Heirseagaivéin, ón Chróit, ó Phoblacht na Seice, ón Ghearmáin, ón Pholainn agus ón Tuirc. Beidh sibhse, agus ár gcomharsana ó Thuaisceart Éireann, ag dul san iomaíocht don teideal 'Buaiteoirí Chorn Réigiún UEFA 2015'. Is cúis mór áthais dúinn an comórtas seo a reachtáil agus táim cinnte go ndéanfaidh ionadaithe ár gcumann náisiúnta féin, Réigiún an Oirthir, a sheacht ndícheall spóirtiúil. Tá muid thar a bheith dóchasach an babhta seo toisc gur cuimhin linn conas mar a d'eirigh le foireann Laighean & Mumhan sa Phoirtingéil i 2011: is ar éigin is a bhfuair Braga an bua orthu sa chluiche ceannais agus iad ag imirt ar a bpáirc bhaile féin! Comh maith le taitneamh a bhaint as an paisean a bhainfidh leis na trí chluiche déag a imreofar sna sé ionad mórtimpeall Bhaile Átha Cliath, tá súil agam go dtógfaidh ár gcuariteoirí an deis chun cuid d'áilleacht na tíre seo againne a fheiceáil. Táim cinnte go mbeidh an comórtas seo, buaichphointe pheil amaitéarach na hEorpa, bríomhar agus taitneamhach.

Tony Fitzgerald
Uachtarán Chumann Peile na hÉireann

'An amazing experience'

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the ninth UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament. It is a huge honour for the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) to host this prestigious event. This is the fifth time a side representing the Republic of Ireland has reached the final tournament, and each time UEFA has raised the bar. The UEFA Regions' Cup truly is an amazing experience for amateur players and I am sure we will see a high standard of football from all eight teams. I wish to show our appreciation to UEFA and the FAI for their hard work in arranging the final tournament and to UEFA for affording us the opportunity to showcase our facilities. My thanks also to all the clubs for the use of their fine venues for training and matches, and to Citywest Hotel for their excellent facilities that will cater for all eight teams and UEFA staff during the competition. I hope you will all enjoy your experience in Dublin, both on and off the pitch.

Noel Fitzroy
FAI Junior Council Chairman



'Eispéireas iontach'

Is aobhinn ar fad liom fáilte a chur romhaibh chuig an naoú sraith de chomórtas Coirn na Réigiún UEFA. Is mór an onóir do Chumann Peile na hÉireann (FAI) an comórtas mór le rá seo a reachtáil. Seo an cúigiú huair gur shroich foireann ag ionadaíocht do Phoblacht na hÉireann an babhta ceannais amach, agus gach uair d'árdaigh UEFA an caighdeán. Is eispéireas iontach é, gan dabht, Corn na Réigiún UEFA do imreoirí amaitéarach agus táim cinnte go bhfeicimid peil den scoth ó na hocht bhfoireann go léir. Is mian liom fíorbhuíochas a chur in iúl do UEFA agus don FAI as ucht a gcuid dian oibre maidir leis an gcomórtas a eagrú, agus buíochas fresin le UEFA don deis a thug siad dúinn na háiseanna atá againn a thaispeáint do chách. Buíochas freisin leis na clubanna go léir a thug cead dúinn traenáil a dhéanamh agus cluichí a eagrú sna hionaid bhreatha atá acu, agus tá buíochas ag gabháil le hOstán Citywest do na háiseanna sármhaith a dhéanfaidh freastal ar an ocht bhfoireann agus ar bhaill foirne UEFA le linn an chomórtais. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh go léir taitneamh as an eispéireas a bhéidh agaibh i mBaile Átha Cliath, ar an pháirc pheile agus lasmuigh di.

Noel Fitzroy
Cathaoirleach Comhairle Sóisearaí FAI

Irish PRIDE

"I will keep coming back for more," insists Eastern Region IRL midfielder Ray Whelehan, who holds the record for most games played in the UEFA Regions' Cup

No player knows the UEFA Regions' Cup like Eastern Region IRL midfielder Ray Whelehan. With 27 appearances in the competition stretching back six campaigns, the Tolka Rovers FC man has played more games in the world's top amateur competition than anyone else. Having helped steer his side through qualifying, the 31-year-old electrician has been robbed of the chance to play at this summer's finals by a cruciate injury, but he knows it will be a special occasion for his team-mates and all the other teams involved.

What does the UEFA Regions' Cup mean to you?

It means everything to play in it. You put in a lot of effort over the season, all the training and all the travel, and getting to play in the UEFA Regions' Cup makes it all worthwhile. At our level, I don't think you could play in a better tournament.

What past tournament stands out for you?

The finals in Portugal in 2011 was the big one. It was an incredible ten days. We got our rewards by getting to the final where we lost narrowly to the hosts. I first played in qualifying in Bosnia in 2004; I had just turned 21 and managed to make the squad. I'm 31 now but I still run around as if I was 21.

How important is it for the Irish players to be competing on home soil?

It will be good for our families that they can watch us play without the expense and hassle of travelling. My father comes to every home game; even though I am older now it's like I was 12 years old, the way we speak after the match. My mother, my wife and mother-in-law came to see me play



Ray Whelehan celebrates reaching the 2011 UEFA Regions' Cup final



Whelehan made his UEFA Regions' Cup debut in November 2004



international side at junior level; I knew that standard was still very high and I have learned how to compete at that level.

Your team is called Eastern Region IRL but do you feel as if you are representing your country?

Absolutely – we are playing for Ireland when we play in those matches. I know it's called amateur level by people outside of the game but to me, this is the highest level we can play at and represent our country. And I could not be happier when I pull on that green jersey as I know I am representing my country – I am very proud to be part of that.

Is it an honour to hold the record for appearances in the UEFA Regions' Cup?

I don't keep tabs on all of my games because I don't want to be one to gloat about it. When people ask me how many caps I have, I say "a few". But I was blown away when I heard that I had the record. And I will keep coming back for more.

How do you rate Eastern Region IRL's chances in the final tournament?

I know from past experience in the Regions' Cup that it will be a very tough tournament; the standard is very high. You tend not to get one team that dominates the group, but if we can get a positive result from the first game we have a chance of getting to the final. We are not in awe of the continental sides as we have been here before and we have experience.

UEFA Regions' Cup

Most appearances

Ray Whelehan (IRL) **27**
James Walsh (IRL) **25**
Timothy Grant (NIR) **20**
Kenneth Hoey (IRL) **20**
Keith Bruen (IRL) **18**
Barry Flynn (IRL) **18**

Top scorers

Serhiy Chudak (UKR) **9**
Javier Moreno (ESP) **9**
Zoltán Varga (HUN) **9**
James Walsh (IRL) **9**
Olexiy Ananichev (UKR) **8**
Jonas Missaye (FRA) **8**
Ray Whelehan (IRL) **8**

"I could not be happier when I pull on that green jersey. I'm very proud to represent my country"

in Portugal in 2011 and the tournament was a nice excuse for them to get away. I don't know what they will do now we are playing in Ireland – a week in a hotel in Dublin maybe! Whoever is lucky enough to make the squad will have great support from their family and friends.

Was professional football ever an option for you?

At the start of my career, the option was there to play in the League of Ireland at a semi-pro level, but a couple of things stopped me. I am a self-employed electrician now but at the time, when I was 19 or 20, I was starting an apprenticeship and the demands of playing professionally would have been very high on my time. Also, I had broken into the squad with the junior international team for the UEFA Regions' Cup and I knew that if I played at a professional level for a club I would not be able to play in future Regions' Cups. So the next level for me was the



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Eastern Region IRL



The names of their sides have changed from campaign to campaign, but the Republic of Ireland have remained consistent performers throughout, with the likes of Kenneth Hoey, Ray Whelehan and Ross Carrig featuring regularly under coach Gerry Smith since the start of the 2001 UEFA Regions' Cup campaign.

Losing finalists in 2011 as Leinster & Munster, Smith is thrilled his side are hosting this tournament. "If you speak to any of our international managers, they would give anything to get to a final tournament, so we are delighted to be here and be in a position to play in Ireland," the 59-year-old said. "If

"I would love to see the Irish public come out and get right behind the players"

you had said to me last October before we went to Hungary for the qualifying round that we could qualify and also be the hosts, I would have bitten both your hands off."

With a thriving amateur football scene in Ireland, the UEFA Regions' Cup is a big deal for local players, and Smith is hoping Eastern Region's exploits can capture the public imagination. "I would love to see the Irish public come out and get right behind the players. These are the players from the grassroots – the guys who do it for nothing but the love of the game."

Smith, however, is keen to point out that there is nothing amateurish about the talents at his command. "We have players who will impress," he said. "Greg Moorhouse is only 20 but he is one who can do well for us. We have players in the squad who could have played at League of Ireland level; Jimmy Carr and Darren Dunne are players like that."

COACH Gerry Smith

Dubliner Smith has experience and home advantage on his side. He has coached an Irish team in all nine seasons of the UEFA Regions' Cup, and took Leinster & Munster to the final in 2011. Having played for Saint Patrick's Athletic FC, he coached Vianney Boys FC and led the Republic of Ireland (featuring Kevin Doyle, Glenn Whelan and Keith Fahey) to the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship.



BEST PERFORMANCE

Runners-up 2011

QUALIFYING TOP SCORERS

Jimmy Carr, David Lacey, James Lee, Greg Moorhouse (2)

GROUP A MATCHES

26 June v Ankara, 28 June v South Moravia, 1 July v Tuzla Canton



PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps./goals	All-time Apps./goals
Goalkeepers			
Brendan O'Connell	17/10/1983	2/0	15/0
Adrian Walsh	09/05/1981	1/0	7/0
David Meehan	10/08/1995	0/0	0/0
Defenders			
Paul Breen	07/06/1983	3/0	14/0
Ross Carrig	29/04/1982	2/0	13/1
Kenneth Hoey	03/01/1981	2/0	20/0
Kevin Lynch	21/03/1992	2/0	2/0
Paul Murphy	06/07/1987	2/0	4/0
Noel Murray	15/11/1984	2/0	2/0
Midfielders			
Jimmy Carr	10/01/1989	3/2	6/2
Darren Dunne	26/06/1987	3/0	3/0
Laurence Dunne	15/10/1984	3/0	14/0
Thomas Dunne	06/11/1981	3/1	3/1
James Lee	20/09/1984	3/2	6/2
Daniel Loughran	31/05/1981	1/1	13/2
Stephen Murphy	25/09/1983	2/0	2/0
Ray Whelehan	15/10/1983	2/0	27/8
Forwards			
David Lacey	05/12/1981	3/2	16/4
Alan McCabe	05/01/1987	0/0	3/0
Greg Moorhouse	10/07/1994	3/2	3/2

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

NUMBERS

11

Goals Eastern Region IRL scored in three qualifying matches, the joint highest with Zagreb Region.



40

The record number of UEFA Regions' Cup matches Gerry Smith has coached.

QUALIFYING RESULTS INTERMEDIARY ROUND GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eastern Region IRL	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
East Hungary*	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Karmiel Tzfatz	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
FK Nevėžis	3	0	0	3	3	11	0

*Hosts

Nevėžis 1-2 Karmiel Tzfatz, Eastern Region IRL 4-1 East Hungary, Eastern Region IRL 6-1 Nevėžis, Karmiel Tzfatz 0-2 East Hungary, Karmiel Tzfatz 0-1 Eastern Region IRL, East Hungary 3-1 Nevėžis



Ankara



"I am hung up on this trophy," admitted Ankara coach Mustafa Özer as he prepared his side for the UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament in the Republic of Ireland. "We need to bring it home to Turkey." The 45-year-old former Fenerbahçe SK and Turkey defender led his team to one-goal victories against sides from Russia, Malta and Finland to earn a return to the amateur final tournament – where his assistant, Hameş Öztürk, had led a previous Ankara outfit in 2011.

Qualifying as Group 6 winners was no easy task. "The teams were all of a similar standard, which is why the winning margins were so narrow," said Özer. "All three of our opponents were fantastic, in terms of mentality

and skill, but our team play and the individual ability of a few of our players made the difference."

Deploying a 4-2-3-1 formation, Özer's side thrive on pace with an emphasis on zonal defending. Midfielders Gökhan Demircan and Muhammet Kızılkaya caught the eye in qualifying – and not only for their excitable hairstyles. Goalkeeper Gökhan Köksal and pacy right-winger Samet Dağlı also showed plenty of ability, while midfield utility man Muzaffer İlhan has impressed with his football and his singing voice, often entertaining his team-mates with duets with the Ankara kit man.

Özer hopes the whole side will have something to sing about in Ireland. "In terms of the standard of organisation and the quality of our opponents, this is a significant competition," the coach said. "Flying the flag for Turkey and representing our amateur football will be a great experience."

COACH Mustafa Özer

Özer was capped four times by Turkey after making his name – alongside his brother Hasan – at Gaziantepspor as a defender. He subsequently represented Fenerbahçe SK and a number of other lower-league clubs, before moving into coaching with his home-town side Siirtspor. He is a regional coach for the Turkish Football Federation and has also helped out with the national women's youth teams.



"Flying the flag for Turkey will be a great experience"

BEST PERFORMANCE

Group stage 2011

QUALIFYING TOP SCORERS

Samet Dağlı, Fatih Ekşioğlu, Muzaffer İlhan, Nuri Kunduz, Volkan Solak (1)

GROUP A MATCHES

26 June v Eastern Region IRL, 28 June v Tuzla Canton, 1 July v South Moravia

PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps./goals	All-time Apps./goals
Goalkeepers			
Gökhan Köksal	02/02/1993	3/0	3/0
Ali Bilgin	26/11/1989	0/0	0/0
Murat Öztürk	10/08/1994	0/0	0/0
Defenders			
Fatih Ekşioğlu	08/07/1984	3/1	3/1
Abdullah Koç	22/01/1993	2/0	2/0
Ali Öztürk	01/03/1982	2/0	2/0
Ferhat Samancı	12/07/1985	3/0	10/0
Gökhan Uysal	04/10/1985	3/0	3/0
Midfielders			
Samet Dağlı	19/10/1993	3/1	3/1
Gökhan Demircan	15/01/1994	3/0	3/0
Muzaffer İlhan	15/01/1992	3/1	3/1
Muhammet Kızılkaya	07/11/1994	3/0	3/0
Barış Küçük	14/08/1988	2/0	2/0
Nuri Kunduz	09/05/1990	2/1	2/1
Salim Uzun	01/05/1990	3/0	3/0
Forwards			
Fatih Akmaz	13/01/1991	2/0	2/0
Volkan Solak	22/11/1992	3/1	3/1

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

GO FIGURE

12

UEFA Regions' Cup games Ankara have played, winning nine of them.



0-0

Score when Ankara met Ireland's representatives at the 2011 final tournament.

QUALIFYING RESULTS INTERMEDIARY ROUND GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ankara	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
South Region Russia	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Gozo*	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Vaasa	3	0	0	3	0	4	0

*Hosts

Ankara 2-1 South Region Russia, Gozo 2-0 Vaasa, Ankara 2-1 Gozo, Vaasa 0-1 South Region Russia, South Region Russia 3-1 Gozo, Vaasa 0-1 Ankara



South Moravia



"We are not a team that has one or two stars," said South Moravia coach Stanislav Schwarz as he explained the spirit that has taken his side to the UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament. "Our opponents cannot just man mark one or two players to get the better of us. Our teamwork is our greatest weapon."

That spirit was very much in evidence as the Czech representatives made it through intermediary round Group 3, crucially beating host side Vojvodina on the final day. Goalkeeper David Juran conceded only once in that tournament in Serbia, and Ondřej Ullmann was the team's top scorer with two goals.

Schwarz was more than pleased

"This may be the highlight of these players' footballing careers"

with the way that his side conducted themselves. "We stuck together when it mattered and played with proper Czech tactics," he explained. "I'm not exaggerating: we had some spectacular attacks that you would expect to see at a much higher level."

Some of his players had a glimpse of more successful careers as children – a number were on the books at local professional clubs, but for one reason or another never played professionally. That means the UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament is likely to be a career high. "Representing their country at the final tournament may be the highlight of these players' footballing careers," Schwarz noted. "They will not think twice about taking a ten-day holiday from work to come to the tournament."

Czech sides have been regulars at the UEFA Regions' Cup finals; Moravia won the 2001 edition on home soil, while the cities of Prague, Zlín and Brno have also sent teams to past finals.

COACH

Stanislav Schwarz

Schwarz is a full-time coach with the regional association in Moravia. He previously coached FC Zbrojovka Brno, the club he represented for the bulk of his playing career, either side of a spell in the top division with RH Cheb. Capped eight times at Under-21 level by Czechoslovakia, Schwarz played twice for the senior B team and finished his playing career in Vienna with SV Wienerfeld.



BEST PERFORMANCE

First appearance

QUALIFYING TOP SCORER

Ondřej Ullmann (2)

GROUP A MATCHES

26 June v Tuzla Canton, 28 June v Eastern Region IRL, 1 July v Ankara

PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps./goals	All-time Apps./goals
Goalkeepers			
David Juran	22/08/1993	3/0	3/0
Marek Gruber	30/06/1990	0/0	0/0
Martin Petráš	10/05/1992	0/0	0/0
Defenders			
Michael Kršák	06/03/1991	2/0	2/0
Tomáš Selinger	26/04/1991	3/0	3/0
Jakub Šplíchal	05/06/1992	1/0	1/0
Roman Švarc	27/08/1987	3/0	3/0
Lukáš Trávník	12/03/1991	2/1	2/1
Jan Vítámvás	16/11/1990	1/0	1/0
Midfielders			
Radim Fiala	16/01/1987	3/0	3/0
David Lang	12/05/1986	3/0	3/0
Martin Levai	31/08/1994	3/0	3/0
Miroslav Paul	19/04/1988	3/1	3/1
Vlastimil Polák	07/03/1989	3/0	3/0
Tomáš Zúbek	15/06/1993	2/0	2/0
Miloš Žoček	28/02/1986	3/1	3/1
Forwards			
Ondřej Přichystal	31/01/1993	3/0	3/0
Jan Trtílek	18/08/1993	1/0	1/0
Ondřej Ullmann	20/04/1993	3/2	3/2

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS INTERMEDIARY ROUND GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Moravia	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Vojvodina*	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
SW Bulgaria	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Vaud	3	0	2	1	3	4	2

*Hosts

Vojvodina 3-0 SW Bulgaria, Vaud 0-0 South Moravia, Vojvodina 2-2 Vaud, South Moravia 2-1 SW Bulgaria, South Moravia 3-0 Vojvodina, SW Bulgaria 2-1 Vaud

GO FIGURE

14

Years since a Czech side, Moravia, won the UEFA Regions' Cup.



5

The number of Czech sides that have reached the final tournament.





Tuzla Canton



"Getting to the finals is a great success," said coach Dževad Šećerbegović as he looked forward to leading Tuzla Canton into a second UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament. "We will try to do better than last time, and maybe reach the final." Tuzla came agonizingly close to that target on their debut in 2007. Fuad Grbešić's side went into their final game in top spot only to lose to eliminated French side Basse-Normandie. Bronze medals as the best group runners-up in Bulgaria were some consolation, but they will hope to do better under local footballing legend Šećerbegović, who also led Tuzla into their 2012/13 UEFA Regions' Cup tilt.

The third-largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tuzla is something

"Getting to the finals is a great success"

of a footballing hotbed; national team players past and present Elvir Rahimić, Sejad Salihović, Miralem Pjanić, Ervin Bičakčić, Mirsad Bešlija and Mirsad Dedić all come from the Tuzla region. Football has been popular here for a century or more, with Šećerbegović's old club – FK Sloboda Tuzla – founded in 1919. The Crveno-crni (Red-and-Blacks) are among 120 clubs in the region, with around 6,500 players affiliated to the Tuzla Canton association. Many of Tuzla's players work in the local coal and salt mines, or in related industries, with goalkeeper Dino Hamidović, defender Haris Mehanović, midfielder Nedžad Džanić and forward Majid Šmigalović all standing out in qualifying, as Tuzla recorded wins against teams from Belarus, Italy and Portugal to reach the final tournament. "We have quality and with a little luck we will have something to be proud of at the end of the tournament," said Šećerbegović.

COACH Dževad Šećerbegović

A member of the Yugoslavia squad that finished fourth in the 1980 Olympic football tournament in Moscow, Šećerbegović is well known in Tuzla, having represented local club FK Sloboda from 1974 to 1983. He spent the final years of his playing career in Turkey with Beşiktaş JK, his side finishing second in the league in 1984/85. Since retirement, he has remained involved with local football in Tuzla.



BEST PERFORMANCE

Group stage 2007

QUALIFYING TOP SCORERS

Nedžad Džanić, Majid Šmigalović (2)

GROUP A MATCHES

26 June v South Moravia, 28 June v Ankara, 1 July v Eastern Region IRL

PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps./goals	All-time Apps./goals
Goalkeepers			
Dino Hamidović	11/12/1984	3/0	4/0
Nedim Burgić	06/10/1985	0/0	0/0
Emil Hodžić	10/03/1991	0/0	0/0
Defenders			
Mirza Bekrić	14/01/1991	3/0	3/0
Almir Goletić	19/01/1991	1/0	3/0
Hazim Iljazović	17/01/1988	3/0	3/0
Haris Mehanović	19/07/1989	3/0	3/0
Meris Mešanović	10/01/1990	3/1	6/1
Eldin Omerkić	07/02/1985	3/0	6/0
Midfielders			
Edin Kitić	07/10/1987	3/0	6/0
Muhamed Musić	18/12/1985	2/0	5/1
Majid Šmigalović	29/05/1991	3/2	5/2
Merim Zoletić	13/02/1985	2/0	2/0
Forwards			
Nedžad Džanić	28/01/1987	3/2	6/4
Sulejman Klokić	15/12/1992	2/0	2/0
Nedžad Majdančić	06/09/1989	2/1	2/1
Emir Memić	15/07/1981	3/0	3/0
Alen Šako	03/12/1986	3/0	3/0

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS INTERMEDIARY ROUND GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tuzla Canton*	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
Lazio	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Leiria	3	1	0	2	5	4	3
ALF-2007	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

*Hosts

Lazio 1-0 Leiria, Tuzla 2-1 ALF-2007, ALF-2007 0-4 Leiria, Lazio 1-2 Tuzla, ALF-2007 0-2 Lazio, Leiria 1-3 Tuzla

GO FIGURE

10

Tuzla conceded in the first ten minutes of all their Group 7 games, but still won all three.



3

This is Tuzla's third campaign and their second final tournament appearance.



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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.




Match schedule

GROUP STAGE



26 JUNE


Group A

15.00 UCD Bowl South Moravia  v  Tuzla Canton

19.00 Tallaght Stadium Eastern Region IRL  v  Ankara


Group B


15.00 Carlisle Grounds Zagreb Region  v  Dolnośląski Region

19.00 Home Farm FC Eastern Region NIR  v  Württemberg

28 JUNE

Group B

12.00 Home Farm FC Dolnośląski Region  v  Württemberg

12.00 Richmond Park Zagreb Region  v  Eastern Region NIR


Group A

15.00 Tallaght Stadium Eastern Region IRL  v  South Moravia

15.00 UCD Bowl Ankara  v  Tuzla Canton

1 JULY


Group B

15.00 Tolka Park Dolnośląski Region  v  Eastern Region NIR

15.00 Home Farm FC Württemberg  v  Zagreb Region

Group A



19.00 Carlisle Grounds Ankara  v  South Moravia

19.00 Richmond Park/Tallaght Stadium* Tuzla Canton  v  Eastern Region IRL

*Venue to be decided after UEFA club competition draws in June


FINAL


4 JULY


16.00 Tallaght Stadium  v 

GROUP A

 **EASTERN REGION (IRL)**

 **ANKARA (TUR)**

 **SOUTH MORAVIA (CZE)**

 **TUZLA CANTON (BIH)**

GROUP B

 **DOLNOŚLĄSKI REGION (POL)**

 **EASTERN REGION (NIR)**

 **WÜRTTEMBERG (GER)**

 **ZAGREB REGION (CRO)**





The McDonald's FAI Future Football Programme has been developed to provide combined Club, Coaching & Player Development support to participating clubs. This is achieved through the following:

- Access to a Club Support Programme, designed to help clubs operate to the highest possible standards and benchmarks in their administration, management and development.
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For more information and to find out how your club can get involved visit www.mcdonaldsfuturefootball.fai.ie or email jonathan.woods@fai.ie

Venues

The tournament will take place in six venues in and around Dublin, with the final played at Tallaght Stadium



TALLAGHT STADIUM
DUBLIN

CAPACITY 5,901
HOME CLUB Shamrock Rovers FC
Rovers, who have won a record 17 titles, were the first Irish side to compete in the group stage of the UEFA Europa League in 2011/12. Cristiano Ronaldo made his Real Madrid CF debut at Tallaght Stadium in a 2009 friendly match.



TOLKA PARK
DUBLIN

CAPACITY 4,207
HOME CLUB Shelbourne FC
Shelbourne, title winners 13 times, were the first Irish side to reach the third qualifying round of the UEFA Champions League, bowing out 3-0 on aggregate to RC Deportivo La Coruña in 2004/05.



UCD BOWL
DUBLIN

CAPACITY 3,000
HOME CLUB University College Dublin AFC
Both the rugby and football teams of University College Dublin play here. UCD drew their first European match 0-0 in the 1984/85 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup against eventual winners Everton FC.



RICHMOND PARK
DUBLIN

CAPACITY 5,046
HOME CLUB Saint Patrick's Athletic FC
FIFA World Cup winner Gordon Banks played once for St Pat's, in 1977, at this ground. Paul McGrath and Kevin Doyle, who both later played for the Republic of Ireland, started their careers with the club.



HOME FARM FC
DUBLIN

CAPACITY 1,800
HOME CLUB Home Farm FC
Home Farm's renowned youth system has produced the likes of Liam Brady, Ronnie Whelan and Ian Harte. Former Scotland and FC Barcelona star Steve Archibald made his one appearance for the club here aged 42 in 1996.



CARLISLE GROUNDS
WICKLOW

CAPACITY 2,934
HOME CLUB Bray Wanderers FC
The Carlisle Grounds featured in the 1996 Hollywood movie Michael Collins to represent the Gaelic Athletic Association stadium Croke Park. It has been used as a sports venue since 1862, longer than any other top flight ground.

IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN

The "city of a thousand bands", Dublin is Ireland's footballing capital as well



Ha'penny Bridge, Dublin

In the 1980s, when four lads from the city were about to make U2 the biggest group in the world, Dublin was dubbed the "city of a thousand bands". City of a thousand footballers would be more accurate, as football is at the heart of the Republic of Ireland's capital. As flights descend to land at the city's airport on Saturday and Sunday mornings, there's a view on the green fields below of match after match, because the Dublin and District Schoolboy League, which has helped produce

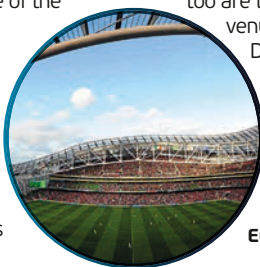
such talents as Robbie Keane, Damien Duff and Richard Dunne, is the biggest of its kind in Europe. Cork has spawned players such as Denis Irwin and Roy Keane, but Dublin is the pulse of the Irish game.

Dublin is a compact city, as visitors here for the UEFA Regions' Cup will discover, and its most popular attractions (according to Ireland's

tourist board) – the Guinness Storehouse, Dublin Zoo, the Book of Kells and St Patrick's Cathedral – are all in, or within walking distance of, the city centre. So

too are the city's key football venues. Between them, Dublin Arena (formerly Lansdowne Road) and Dalymount Park have hosted the vast majority of Republic

Dublin Arena staged the 2011 UEFA Europa League final



of Ireland home games since the side, then called the Irish Free State, first played here in 1927. Both are less than a 3km walk from O'Connell Street, the city's main thoroughfare.

Close to Dalymount Park in Cabra is the Liam Whelan Bridge, named to honour Liam 'Billy' Whelan, a local hero who tragically died aged 22 with his Manchester United FC team-mates in the 1958 Munich air disaster. Tolka Park (home to Shelbourne FC) and Richmond Park (St Patrick's



Temple Bar in the centre of Dublin

Athletic FC's home) are also walkable from the city centre. Richmond Park, in the southern suburb of Inchicore, is where Paul McGrath emerged with the Saints in the 1980s, but music also found a home here; Mungo Jerry headlined what is thought to be the city's first outdoor music festival in 1970.

Tallaght Stadium, home of Shamrock Rovers FC, is further outside the centre but accessible by tram. Visits to Dublin Arena can be arranged, while displays in the public bars in Dalymount Park, home of Bohemian FC, offer an insight into the history of the stadium, which has hosted some of the greatest ever players including Pelé, Franz Beckenbauer,

"Dalymount Park has hosted some of the world's greatest players"

George Best, Marco van Basten, Bobby Charlton, Zbigniew Boniek and Zinedine Zidane.

BBC DJ Steve Lamacq, on a recent visit to Dublin, found himself in Dalymount Park and was amazed to see a poster from Bob Marley's concert at the venue in July 1980. A keen football fan, Marley reportedly got a kick from knowing he was appearing on the same stage as greats of the likes of Pelé and Best, proof Dublin's football community welcomed one and all.



DON'T MISS

The Book of Kells

On display at Trinity College, this extraordinary manuscript (above) – over 1,300 years old – may be the ultimate in Celtic art.

Croke Park

Home to the Gaelic Athletic Association, the stunning stadium showcases Ireland's key indigenous sports: gaelic football and hurling.

Phoenix Park

The walled park is home to Dublin Zoo, where unusually you can find snakes (St Patrick allegedly drove all the wild ones into the Irish Sea).

Guinness brewery

Ireland's famous stout is now brewed overseas as well, but locals will maintain it never tastes quite the same outside Dublin. Tour and then taste while enjoying the best view in the city.

Kilmainham Gaol

Many Irish national heroes were imprisoned here during the struggle for independence, making the jail an excellent place to learn about Irish history.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

The UEFA Regions' Cup has given amateur players a fitting stage to display their talents since 1999

"It's incredible, beautiful, marvellous," beamed forward Francesco Gasparato after his side's shoot-out success in the 2013 final made Veneto the first two-time UEFA Regions' Cup winners. "This is the best thing going. But tomorrow, we return to our normal lives – back to work on Monday, but certainly with a bigger smile."

There were 38 entrants for this the ninth edition of the UEFA Regions' Cup, which makes dreams come true for

amateur players. "It's their UEFA Champions League," explained the UEFA Youth and Amateur Football Committee chairman, Jim Boyce. "These are the guys who usually turn out to play on a Saturday afternoon for fun. They never dreamed they would be getting on aeroplanes and playing in a European competition."

The UEFA Regions' Cup is for players who have never featured at any professional level. Contested by the winners of national amateur



The eight champions since 1999 enjoy their moment of triumph

competitions – with smaller nations fielding national teams – it is a showcase for the wealth of talent that exists under the radar in European football.

The successor to the UEFA Amateur Cup, which ran from 1965 to 1978, the UEFA Regions' Cup was first contested in 1999, when Italian contenders Veneto won the first of their two titles. The Czech Republic's Central Moravia won the second edition as hosts in 2001, with Italy's Piemonte Valle d'Aosta taking the 2003 crown in Germany.

A team representing Spain's Basque Country won the 2005 tournament in Poland, while it was the latter nation's Dolnośląski Region who prevailed in Bulgaria in 2007. Another Spanish side, Castilla y León, won in Croatia in 2009, and Portuguese hosts Braga triumphed in 2011.

Players who have featured in the UEFA Regions' Cup have gone on to greater things – some past alumni have featured in the UEFA Champions League proper and been capped at senior level – but playing for love rather than money is the competition's central principle. We do it because we love it.

ROLL OF HONOUR

- 1999 Veneto
- 2001 Central Moravia
- 2003 Piemonte Valle d'Aosta
- 2005 Basque Country
- 2007 Dolnośląski Region
- 2009 Castilla y León
- 2011 Braga
- 2013 Veneto

Zagreb Region



Zagreb Region coach Sreten Ćuk is confident that the UEFA Regions' Cup will be some of his players' last hurrah as amateurs, with scouts in Croatia eager to sign up some of the team's top performers. "We've had players who ended up in professional teams, even playing professionally abroad," the 51-year-old said. "There are more and more scouts coming to our matches and asking about the players, as there is plenty of potential in this side."

Zagreb outstripped sides from Azerbaijan, Sweden and Latvia in Group 1 to become the last side to qualify, and Ćuk hopes his team can now also make an impression here. "Croatia is a relatively small

country and our region can't compare with some of the others at the final tournament in terms of population," he said. "However, for years now we have shown we're doing a great job in Croatia. We have a lot of talented players, and a good coaching and scouting system is crucial here."

Fashioning amateur players into a coherent side for the UEFA Regions' Cup is no easy task. "A lot of them have day jobs and university commitments, so it's a hard to get them together to play," Ćuk said. "Our captain, 31-year-old Željko Štulec, works at a rolling stock company and had trouble getting time off work to help us in qualifying, but he is a really passionate and hard-working player who even put his job at risk to help the team. Nikica Bruić at 28 has a catering company and he loses out financially when he is on duty with the team, but he wouldn't miss these games for anything."

COACH Sreten Ćuk

Ćuk notably led NK Lokomotiva from the third division to the top flight in Croatia, and since coaching Zagreb at the 2009 UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament has been in charge of HNK Gorica and NK Croatia Sesvete. He has also worked as assistant coach at GNK Dinamo Zagreb – briefly taking sole command for a UEFA Champions League qualifier. As well as being a regional coach, Ćuk is also in charge of Dinamo's B team.



"We have shown we're doing a great job in Croatia"

BEST PERFORMANCE

Group stage 2009

QUALIFYING TOP SCORER

Arjan Rexhepi (3)

GROUP B MATCHES

26 June v Dolnośląski Region, 28 June v Eastern Region NIR, 1 July v Württemberg



PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps./goals	All-time Apps./goals
Goalkeepers			
Elmar Hadžić	02/08/1988	2/0	2/0
Stipe Nevistić	11/06/1993	1/0	1/0
Nikola Durdek	06/12/1983	0/0	2/0
Defenders			
Mislav Čunčić	13/05/1987	2/0	5/0
Matej Ivkovčić	11/05/1993	3/0	3/0
Lovre Špadina	04/02/1993	3/0	3/0
Matej Vrbat	14/03/1990	3/0	3/0
Midfielders			
Antonio Boroša	17/09/1994	2/1	2/1
Josip Juranović	16/08/1995	3/0	3/0
Josip Mohač	08/07/1994	3/0	3/0
Dorian Puretić	04/01/1994	3/0	3/0
Filip Rihtar	13/01/1991	3/0	3/0
Forwards			
Nikica Bruić	21/09/1986	2/1	8/2
Arjan Rexhepi	14/03/1995	3/3	3/3
Antun Strjački	09/02/1993	2/2	2/2
Željko Štulec	19/06/1983	3/2	4/2
Ivan Zelenika	26/03/1987	3/2	3/2

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

GO FIGURE

11

Number of goals scored by Zagreb in qualifying, the joint highest total.



4

Assists supplied by Josip Juranović in qualifying, the most of any player.

QUALIFYING RESULTS INTERMEDIARY ROUND GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zagreb Region*	3	2	1	0	11	7	
RTU Futbola Centrs	3	2	0	1	3	5	6
Västergötland	3	1	1	1	9	6	4
Çağırğan	3	0	0	3	5	16	0

*Hosts

Çağırğan 1-7 Zagreb, Futbola Centrs 2-1 Västergötland, Çağırğan 0-1 Futbola Centrs, Västergötland 0-0 Zagreb, Västergötland 8-4 Çağırğan, Zagreb 4-0 Futbola Centrs



Dolnośląski Region



Two-time UEFA Regions' Cup winners Veneto have set the standard for Dolnośląski Region to follow. The Italian team won the inaugural UEFA Regions' Cup in 1999 and then triumphed again in 2013, and the Polish side hope to emulate them by adding to their 2007 triumph in Bulgaria. "Veneto are an inspiration for us," said coach Grzegorz Kowalski, whose side got the better of opponents from France, FYR Macedonia and Romania in qualifying. "My team has the potential to win it again. We have plenty of ideas of how to play, depending on the situation and the opponent."

The holder of a UEFA Pro licence, Kowalski is a coach educator and is also

"Even playing amateur football you can make a leap into the professional world"

in charge of Ślązka Wrocław, where he has recently seen one of his top players – Paweł Zieliński, older brother of Udinese Calcio's Piotr Zieliński – picked up by a professional side. "He played for Dolnośląski in the national competition in Poland and now he is one of the best players in the Ekstraklasa at Śląsk Wrocław," Kowalski said. "Some people even think he deserves a senior cap. That shows that, even playing amateur football, you can make a leap into the professional world."

For now, Kowalski's players are very much in the amateur world. Of his top talents, goalkeeper Jarosław Krawczyk works in a bank, defender Jacek Mądrzejewski is a director at a shopping centre, and forward Jakub Jakóbczyk is studying physical education. However, their coach is certain Dolnośląski will show professional commitment in Ireland. "We're going there to play football, not have a nice break. We'll do our very best."

COACH Grzegorz Kowalski

A defender with Lotnik Wrocław, Śląsk Wrocław and Ślązka Wrocław among others, Kowalski also played abroad in Germany and Malaysia before moving into coaching. Currently coach of his old club, Ślązka, in the Polish fourth tier, the 52-year-old has also led Śląsk, MKS Kluczbork, Lechia Zielona Góra and GKP Gorzów. "I usually play an attacking game, but sometimes we go more defensive and mix it up," he said of his style.



BEST PERFORMANCE

Winners 2007

QUALIFYING TOP SCORER

Adrian Leśniarek (3)

GROUP B MATCHES

26 June v Zagreb Region, 28 June v Württemberg, 1 July v Eastern Region NIR

PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps./goals	All-time Apps./goals
Goalkeepers			
Marcin Gąsiorowski	12/11/1989	2/0	2/0
Jarosław Krawczyk	23/01/1985	1/0	1/0
Marcin Kula	24/09/1986	1/0	1/0
Defenders			
Jacek Mądrzejewski	10/01/1988	3/0	3/0
Szymon Przystalski	18/12/1992	2/0	2/0
Kamil Żbik	02/07/1987	3/0	3/0
Midfielders			
Konrad Babeczko	16/11/1990	3/1	3/1
Paweł Boczański	09/03/1989	2/0	2/0
Marek Budny	18/06/1987	2/1	2/1
Marek Gacek	09/03/1989	1/2	1/2
Patryk Gołębiewski	03/09/1993	2/1	2/1
Damian Niedojad	07/11/1994	3/2	3/2
Adrian Leśniarek	24/12/1992	3/3	3/3
Mariusz Paszkowski	08/10/1989	3/0	3/0
Forwards			
Marcin Buryło	06/02/1990	3/0	3/0
Łukasz Deneka	17/06/1985	3/0	3/0
Jakub Jakóbczyk	29/10/1990	2/0	2/0
Łukasz Maciejewski	15/10/1991	3/0	3/0

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS INTERMEDIARY ROUND GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dolnośląski Region*	3	2	1	0	11	4	7
Paris Île-de-France	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
News Amateurs Macedonia	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
Braşov	3	0	1	2	4	11	1

*Hosts

Paris Île-de-France 1-0 News Amateurs Macedonia, Braşov 2-5 Dolnośląski, Braşov 0-4 Paris Île-de-France, News Amateurs Macedonia 1-5 Dolnośląski, News Amateurs Macedonia 2-2 Braşov, Dolnośląski 1-1 Paris Île-de-France



GO FIGURE

114

Time of Dolnośląski's extra-time winner in the 2007 final (below) against Bulgaria's Yugoiztochen.



55

Fouls suffered by Dolnośląski in qualifying; more than any other finalist side.



Eastern Region NIR



Fair play winners at the 2007 and 2013 UEFA Regions' Cup finals, Eastern Region NIR are hoping they can get their hands on an even more substantial prize in the Republic of Ireland. "It means a lot that we have won two fair play awards," said coach Harry McConkey. "My father always said that if you had manners you could go anywhere. At the same time it's hard to forget that we just missed out on second place in the group in 2007 and 2013. On both occasions we were pipped to a bronze medal on goal difference."

Football in Northern Ireland can

"There was just an unbelievable sense of achievement and satisfaction"

be very physical, but McConkey's sides have impressed with their skill and agility. They also caused a substantial upset by winning their qualifying group in Moldova, seeing off the highly rated Spanish side Selección Catalana in their last match. "When the final whistle went, there was just an unbelievable sense of achievement and satisfaction," beamed McConkey. Richard Thompson and Stephen Murray provide pace and a cutting edge in attack, while goalkeeper Brian Neeson, captain Scott McMillan, centre-back Andrew Doyle and midfielder Marcus Dallas also caught the eye in qualifying. A short journey to the final tournament may also play into the team's hands. "There are a lot of positives to take from the location and that's the way we'll be approaching it – in a very positive frame of mind," McConkey said.

COACH

Harry McConkey

A schoolteacher by profession, McConkey played for Glenavon FC and Coleraine FC among others, and has coached a variety of local clubs. The 55-year-old has led the national amateur side since 2005 and is taking them to their third final tournament. "It's a huge achievement for us to feature in three of five tournaments since 2007," he said. "The UEFA Regions' Cup is a wonderful tournament."



BEST PERFORMANCE

Group stage 2007, 2013

QUALIFYING TOP SCORER

Stephen Murray and Richard Thompson (4)

GROUP B MATCHES

26 June v Württemberg, 28 June v Zagreb Region, 1 July v Dolnośląski Region

PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps./goals	All-time Apps./goals
Goalkeepers			
Patrick Flood	23/03/1990	2/0	3/0
Brian Neeson	28/06/1989	2/0	3/0
Defenders			
William Armstrong	28/10/1989	3/0	13/0
Jeff Brady	10/04/1989	0/0	0/0
Kyle Buckley	23/11/1990	1/0	1/0
Andrew Doyle	28/10/1990	3/0	3/0
Ultan Lennon	04/08/1989	3/0	5/0
Scott McMillan	07/04/1988	3/0	11/0
Daniel McMurray	12/02/1987	2/0	5/0
Gareth Ringland	11/01/1995	1/0	1/0
Midfielders			
Daniel Culbert	07/07/1992	1/0	1/0
Colum Curtis	21/10/1989	2/0	8/2
Marcus Dallas	31/12/1989	3/0	11/0
Jordan Gibson	23/06/1995	1/0	1/0
Eamon Kelly	19/08/1983	3/1	3/1
Colm O'Riordan	02/05/1985	3/1	5/1
Barry Walsh	07/01/1987	3/0	3/0
Forwards			
Paul Maguire	27/11/1983	0/0	0/0
Stephen Murray	29/12/1988	3/4	3/4
Richard Thompson	09/06/1989	3/4	3/4

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS INTERMEDIARY ROUND GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
⚔ Eastern Region NIR	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
🇪🇸 Selección Catalana	3	2	0	1	14	1	6
🇵🇱 Piatykhatska	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
🇷🇺 Telenești*	3	0	0	3	1	20	0

*Hosts

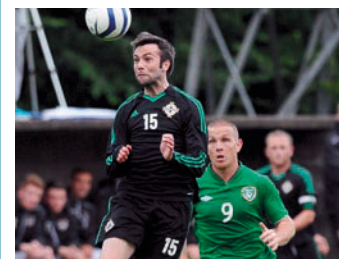
Piatykhatska 0-4 Selección Catalana, Eastern Region NIR 5-1 Telenești, Piatykhatska 0-4 Eastern Region NIR, Telenești 0-10 Selección Catalana, Telenești 0-5 Piatykhatska, Selección Catalana 0-1 Eastern Region NIR



NUMBERS

2

Eastern Region NIR have won two, lost two and drawn two of their previous UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament matches.



30

UEFA Regions' Cup matches for Harry McConkey as coach.



Württemberg



 "It is just a great competition," said Württemberg coach Michael Rentschler as he looked ahead to the UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament. "The grassroots are an important part of football and this helps to keep grassroots alive. I really enjoy this competition. It is a highlight for me as well as the players, and it is always exciting to get to know new people and new surroundings."

Rentschler has both coached and played in this competition previously with Württemberg, and several members of his squad have also played in it before. They too know that the UEFA Regions' Cup is something special. "It gets the players out of their everyday lives and is very professionally

organised by UEFA, and of course they get to wear a Germany shirt," Rentschler said. "Wearing the eagle on your chest: that matters."

Württemberg got the better of sides from Slovakia, England and Scotland in qualifying, scoring ten times and conceding just once, against Eastern Slovakia in their opening game. They were one of five teams to advance with a perfect three wins from three games and come into the tournament with confidence high. "We want to attack and dominate all the time," Rentschler said. "We like quick transitions and getting shots on goal. Of course, this means keeping the ball a lot of the time."

To that end, midfielder and business administrator Martin Kleinschrodt is a key player. He is featuring in his third UEFA Regions' Cup and offers "danger in front of goal", according to his coach. Attacker and university student Marian Asch also gets a special mention for his "pace and versatility".

COACH **Michael Rentschler**

Rentschler is a coach instructor at the local football association in Württemberg and also oversees local youth and women's teams. Once coach of VfL Kirchheim/Teck, the 44-year-old was on the staff of Germany's Under-21s between 2009 and 2013. Rentschler coached Württemberg in 2012/13 as they came to within one game of the UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament, and was a defender in the Württemberg side that staged the event in 2003.



BEST PERFORMANCE

Group stage 2003, 2011

QUALIFYING TOP SCORERS

Mario Marinić, Jonas Wiest (3)

GROUP B MATCHES





26 June v Eastern Region NIR, 28 June v Dolnośląski Region, 1 July v Zagreb Region

PLAYER STATISTICS

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps./goals	All-time Apps./goals
Goalkeepers			
Marcel Susser	17/03/1987	2/0	2/0
Julian Hauser	20/12/1989	1/0	7/0
Luis Loução	03/09/1989	0/0	0/0
Defenders			
Tizian Amon	15/03/1994	2/0	2/0
Valentin Asch	09/08/1991	1/0	1/0
Sven Franzen	21/04/1987	0/0	0/0
Andreas Grimmer	05/08/1988	0/0	0/0
Lukas Hartmann	25/07/1992	3/0	3/0
Nico Nierichlo	12/08/1989	2/0	7/0
Manuel Pflumm	18/07/1985	3/0	9/1
Benjamin Sturm	01/06/1988	3/0	3/0
Johannes Volk	15/05/1986	2/0	3/0
Midfielders			
Mario Di Biccari	07/06/1985	2/0	2/0
Pierre Eiberger	13/07/1991	0/0	0/0
Martin Kleinschrodt	13/08/1985	3/2	10/6
Jonas Wiest	07/01/1992	3/3	3/3
Marc Wissmann	08/08/1990	0/0	0/0
Forwards			
Marian Asch	15/12/1987	3/2	10/6
David Braig	22/07/1991	3/0	3/0
Marcel Brandstetter	05/03/1988	0/0	0/0
Mario Marinić	09/09/1984	3/3	3/3
Daniel Schachtschneider	20/04/1989	3/0	3/0
Daniel Seemann	28/12/1991	3/0	3/0

Visit UEFA.com for the final tournament squad.

QUALIFYING RESULTS INTERMEDIARY ROUND GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
 Württemberg	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
 Eastern Slovakia*	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
 Isle of Man	3	1	0	2	2	8	3
 EWC Scotland	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

*Hosts

Württemberg 2-1 Eastern Slovakia, Isle of Man 2-0 EWC Scotland, Württemberg 7-0 Isle of Man, EWC Scotland 0-2 Eastern Slovakia, EWC Scotland 0-1 Württemberg, Eastern Slovakia 1-0 Isle of Man



GO FIGURE

10

Martin Kleinschrodt and Marian Asch have each played in ten of Württemberg's 18 UEFA Regions' Cup matches and both scored six times.



14-1

Württemberg's record score against Greek side Fthiotida in 2011.

"Wearing the eagle on your chest: that matters"

GETTING INVOLVED

UEFA is working with member associations around Europe to increase participation

The UEFA Regions' Cup is the world's top amateur football tournament and its success and popularity are an example of how the grassroots game across Europe is flourishing. Inspiring people to play, whatever their age, sex or ability, is an essential part of UEFA's mission, and to do that the right infrastructure needs to be in place. This is one of the principal aims of the UEFA Grassroots Charter, which was set up in 2005 to protect the development and growth of the European game. The charter was devised to help upgrade grassroots programmes as well as to evaluate and reward UEFA member associations for their grassroots work, with membership gained by achieving certain criteria.

This quality mark system operates on three levels – gold, silver and bronze – and each of UEFA's 54 associations is classified according to the quality and depth of the grassroots football they provide. The charter also seeks to help associations better understand



Children play on the maxi-pitch donated to Lisbon (above)

how the game is played in their territory – and by whom. "Grassroots is the basic foundation of all our activities, in order to create football for all and at the same time develop skills and talented players," said UEFA grassroots ambassador Per Ravn Omdal.

Like most UEFA members, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) – currently a silver award holder – has its own grassroots projects to highlight the importance of

understanding the football community. One such initiative is the Soccer Sisters scheme, which encourages girls to take up the sport and began when the FAI realised it was mainly boys who were attending regular football camps. Weekly sessions were started in areas where football was not widely played by girls despite facilities being available, and this soon spread to clubs so they could engage more with the grassroots. The use of ambassadors such as FIFA Puskás Award nominee Stephanie Roche afforded star endorsement to the project.

"The Soccer Sisters camps



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Grassroots



Soccer Sisters camps have got more girls playing the game across Ireland



are a great way to introduce girls to the game. I used to really look forward to them," said Irish senior international Lauren Dwyer. "Growing up, boys' football used to be the focus of schools and clubs, but the camps really gave us girls the opportunity to develop our skills, make friends and have lots of fun too."

Grassroots initiatives can boost various sectors of society. A walking football scheme for players aged about 60 offers a framework for participation as well as health benefits. The Late Night League, inaugurated in 2010, endeavours to keep youngsters away from alcohol and drugs; in areas where matches take place, instances of anti-social behaviour have decreased. The FAI chief executive, John Delaney, is full of praise. "This has proven to be a great success keeping at-risk teenagers off the streets at night," he said. "Football

"The camps gave us girls the chance to develop our skills, make friends and have fun"

can be used as a tool to bring people together and to improve relationships and this is exactly what it has succeeded in doing."

Such grassroots efforts have encouraged more people to get involved in football and also to play the game in a respectful manner. Ireland's Don't X the Line campaign has had a positive impact on the behaviour of spectators, parents and children by teaching tolerance and giving a platform to messages about safe participation.

UEFA's member associations are also urged to keep players in football so that they continue enjoying the sport. The subject

is regularly on the agenda at the UEFA Grassroots Workshop – held every three years – where the associations gather to exchange ideas and share best practice examples of the latest trends. This is one of several ventures that enable European football's governing body to promote the grassroots game throughout the continent. The next workshop is scheduled for April 2016 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Meanwhile, UEFA Grassroots Week takes place each year and will now be part of the European Week of Sport in September, organised in cooperation with the European Commission. This year, national associations will be encouraged to arrange grassroots activities at a time when football is in the spotlight – between important fixtures in the European Qualifiers and the launch of the European club competition season.

What's more, each year, maxipitches are donated to the host cities of the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League finals to leave a legacy for the grassroots long after the showpiece matches have been played. In 2014, Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale lit up Lisbon in the UEFA Champions League final, and the grassroots game in the city continues to profit from the maxi-pitch donated by UEFA. From the grassroots to the stars, we all play the same game.



THE NEXT STEP UP

The UEFA Regions' Cup provides match officials with vital experience

For most of the players here, competing in the UEFA Regions' Cup is the pinnacle of their footballing careers. For the referee teams at the final tournament, though, it is only the start. The referees involved in the UEFA Regions' Cup are all regulars in their domestic top flights and have been earmarked by UEFA and their national associations for a bright future in the game.

At the final tournament, UEFA's team of referee observers passes on its experience, hosting practical sessions in which the match officials watch and discuss video footage of thought-provoking match incidents. Referee fitness trainers, meanwhile, ensure the officials stay in shape. "Control is important, as are respect and man management," explained Ray Ellingham, an observer at the

2013 final tournament, referring to what UEFA wants to see from the up-and-coming referees. "And it's about getting the big, game-changing decisions right."

Success at this level leads to bigger things. Paolo Tagliavento, referee of the 2007 final, is now a regular in the UEFA Champions League, while the man who took charge of the 2013 final, Artur Soares Dias, features regularly in the UEFA Europa League and the European Qualifiers. "Being here with all the other referees from different backgrounds gives you a different perspective," said the Portuguese official (pictured above on a UEFA referee training course). The 2015 final tournament will doubtless broaden horizons for a new generation of officials.



MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREES

Vasilis Dimitriou
Cyprus
Nikolaj Haenni
Switzerland
Markus Hameter
Austria
Dzianis Shcharbakou
Belarus
Sergejus Slyva
Lithuania
Mikhail Vilkov
Russia

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Danijel Dević
Montenegro
Alexandros Grevenis
Greece
Sanzhar Iskakov
Kazakhstan
Nikola Karakolev
FYR Macedonia
Birkir Sigurdarson
Iceland
Levan Todria
Georgia
Rien Vanyzere
Belgium
Martin Venev
Bulgaria

FOURTH OFFICIALS

Robert Harvey
Republic of Ireland
Graham Kelly
Republic of Ireland



WIN A MATCH BALL

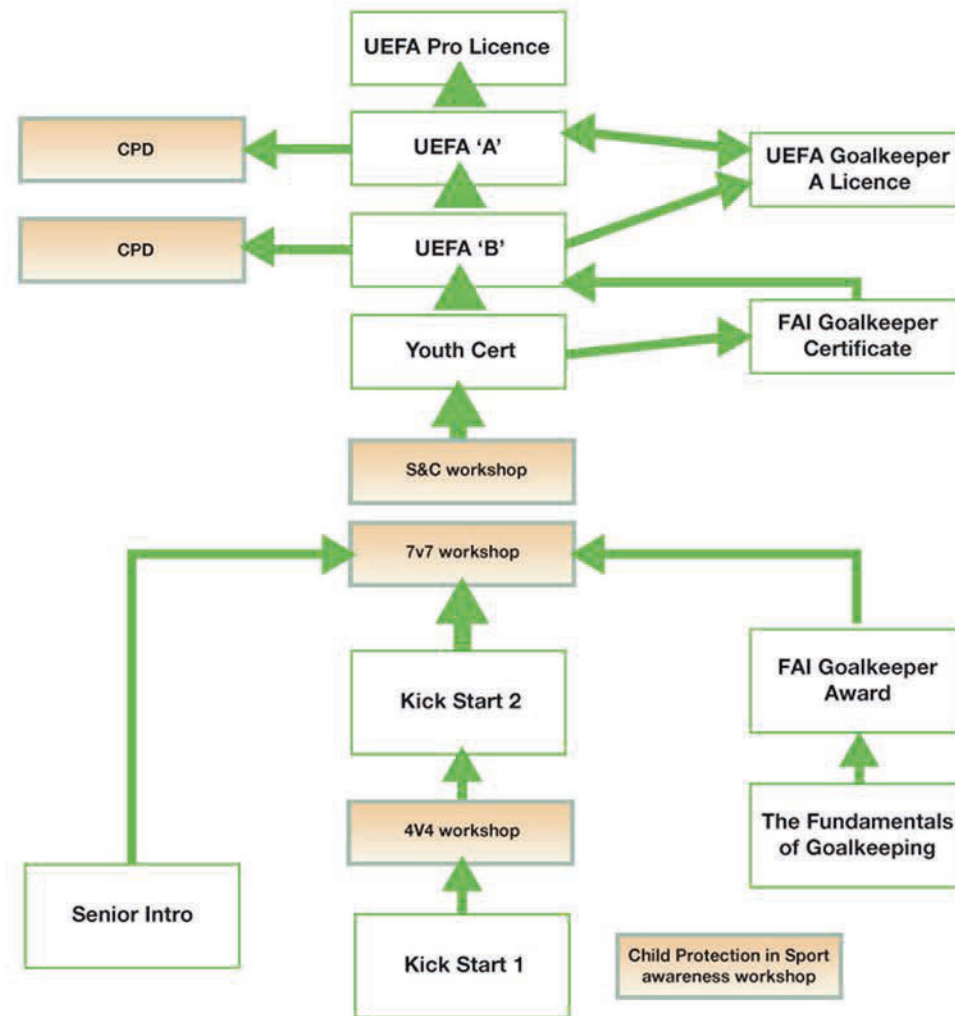
For a chance to win an official 2015 UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament ball, keep your eyes on the @UEFAcom Twitter account on the day of the final, 4 July. As well as details of how to win the adidas Conext 2015 ball, @UEFAcom has all the latest news throughout the tournament.



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