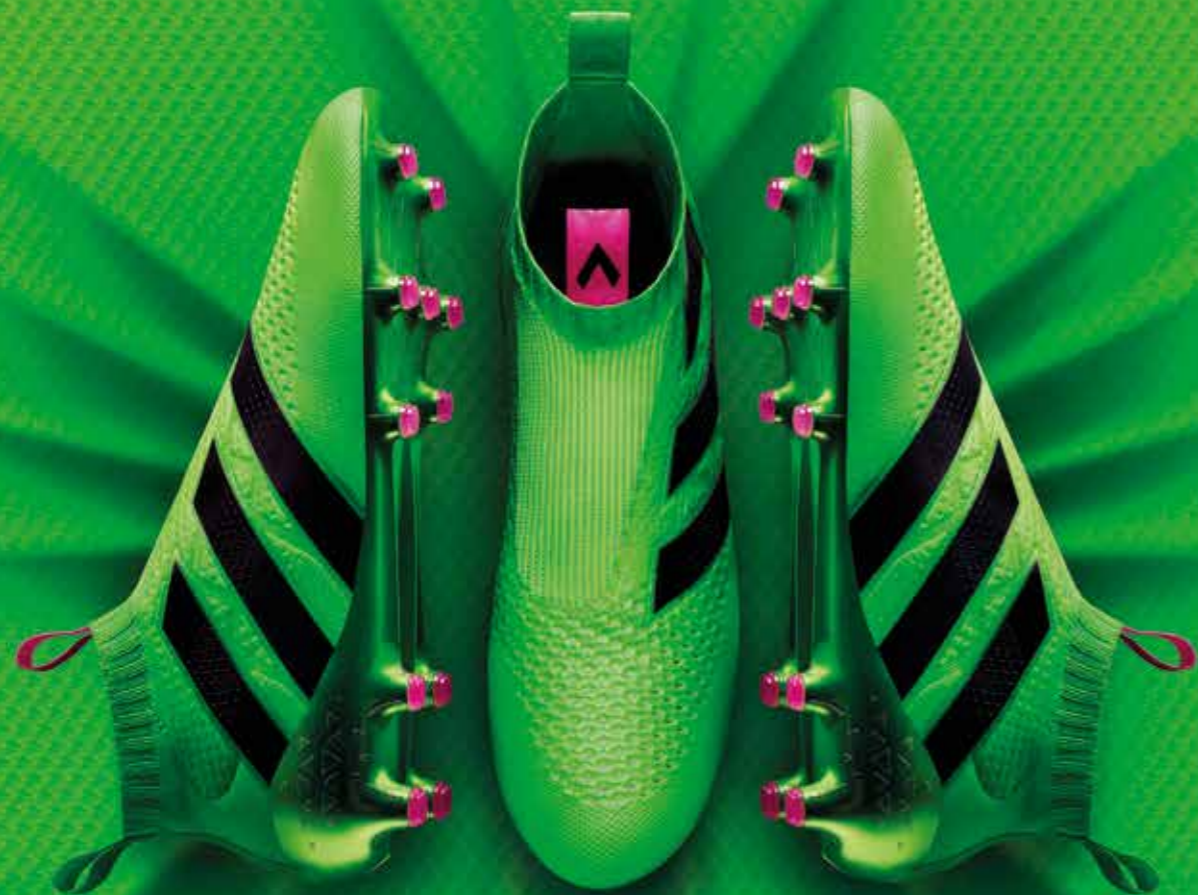




SERBIA 2016

2-13 February
Official programme



BOSS
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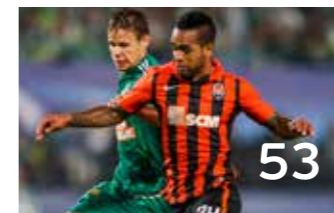
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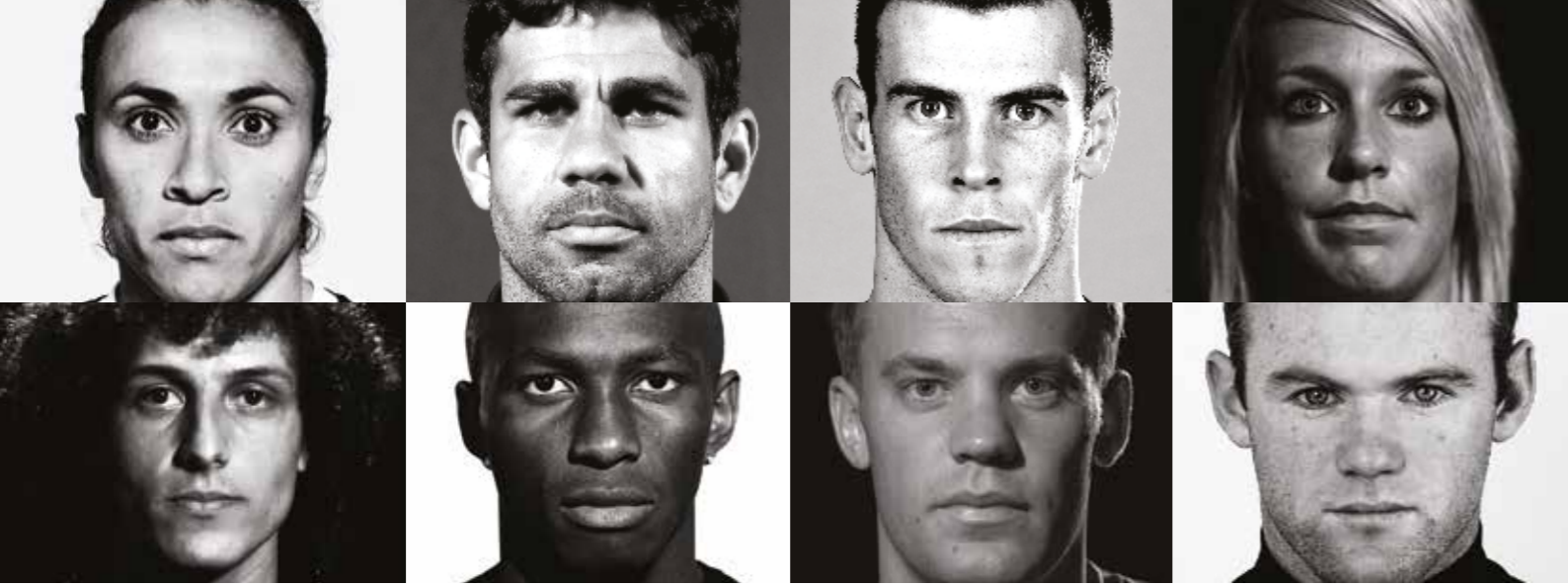
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Celebration time

Massimo De Luca joins the fans to celebrate Italy's 3-1 victory against Russia in the UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 final in Antwerp. It was Italy's second EURO triumph after 2003, and the holders are back to defend their crown in Belgrade.



NO TO RACISM



UEFA.org



UEFA General Secretary's message

“We hope that the quality of the sport and the spectacle will leave a lasting legacy”

The UEFA Futsal EURO has gone from strength to strength in recent final tournaments and we anticipate more excitement and drama at the 2016 finals at the Arena of Belgrade.

The competition in Antwerp two years ago not only saw Italy bring an end to Spain's recent monopoly of futsal at European international level, but also witnessed pace and skill that contributed to a growing global audience, while inspiring many to get involved in the game at grassroots level.

If the exhilarating conclusion to the qualifying rounds and the play-offs are anything to go by, we will have a similar standard of action in Serbia, which was a successful host of the UEFA European Under-17 Championship in 2011.

We hope that the quality of both the sport and the spectacle will leave a lasting legacy in the country for many years to come and that we will enjoy a tournament played out in the spirit of fair play and respect.

May the best team win!

Gianni Infantino
UEFA General Secretary

Tokom prethodnih finalnih turnira UEFA Futsal EURO je doživeo veliku ekspanziju, tako da i na prvenstvu 2016. godine, u beogradskoj Areni, očekujemo nova uzbuđenja i zanimljive utakmice.

Takmičenje u Antverpenu pre dve godine ne samo da je donelo trijumf Italiji i kraj španskog monopola u futsalu na evropskom nivou, već je bilo obeleženo brzim ritmom igre i sjajnom tehnikom, što je doprinelo porastu gledalaca širom sveta i istovremeno podstaklo mnoge da učestvuju u ovoj igri na bazičnom nivou.

Ako je suditi po spektakularnom finišu kvalifikacija i baraža, imaćemo utakmice sličnog nivoa i u Srbiji, koja je 2011. godine bila uspešan organizator UEFA Prvenstva Evrope za igrače uzrasta do 17 godina.

Nadamo se da će kvalitet utakmica, kao i atmosfera na tribinama, ostaviti trajni pečat na futsal u Srbiji i da ćemo prisustvovati turniru koji će biti odigran u duhu fer pleja i poštovanja.

Neka najbolji tim pobedi!

Dani Infantino
Generalni sekretar UEFA-e

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Welcome to Serbia



Tomislav Karadžić

Football Association of Serbia president

Predsednik Fudbalskog saveza Srbije

I warmly welcome you to Serbia for what promises to be an exciting UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 final tournament. As president of the Football Association of Serbia (FSS), I was delighted when we were chosen to host this event, which offers us the chance to boost the sport of futsal in our country after a number of successes in the 11-a-side game.

Being crowned Under-20 football world champions in Auckland last year gave many Serbian youngsters the inspiration to participate in the game we love, just as triumphing at European level with the Under-19s had done in 2013. Facilities such as the FSS training centre at Stara Pazova also provide us with the foundations for sustainable development, and through staging tournaments like these futsal finals and the UEFA European U17 Championship in 2011 we can gain greater organisational experience, which is something we really appreciate.

We hope that you enjoy the hospitality of the Serbian people and the competition will serve up some dramatic matches and thrilling futsal. We also thank UEFA for having faith in us, and wish you some wonderful memories to take home with you.

Želim Vam srdačnu dobrodošlicu u Srbiju na, verujem, uzbudljiv finalni turnir UEFA Futsal Euro 2016. Kao predsednik Fudbalskog saveza Srbije (FSS) bio sam oduševljen kada smo odabrani za domaćina ovog takmičenja, koje nam pruža priliku da unapredimo futsal u našoj zemlji nakon brojnih uspeha koje smo imali u velikom fudbalu.

Titula prvaka sveta koju je naša omladinska reprezentacija osvojila prošle godine u Oklendu bila je za mnoge srpske mladiće inspiracija da učestvuju u igri koju volimo, isto kao i trijumf na evropskom nivou sa selekcijom igrača uzrasta do 19 godina 2013. godine. Objekti, kao što je sportski centar FSS u Staroj Pazovi, omogućavaju nam održivi napredak, a organizovanjem takmičenja poput ovog finalnog turnira u futsalu i UEFA Prvenstva Evrope za igrače uzrasta do 17 godina 2011. godine stičemo veće organizaciono iskustvo, a to zaista umemo da cenimo.

Nadamo se da uživate u gostoprimstvu srpskog naroda i da će na takmičenju biti uzbudljivih utakmica i zanimljivog futsala. Takođe se zahvaljujemo UEFA-i što ima poverenja u nas i želimo Vam da ponese te divne uspomene sa ovog takmičenja.



The UEFA Futsal EURO trophy



Serbia celebrate winning the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup

Serbia profit from sound investment

The new Stara Pazova training facility is already producing golden results

These are exciting times for the development of football in Serbia. If hosting UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 will serve as a catalyst for growth for the indoor game in the country, then outdoors on the bigger pitches great strides are being taken to nurture the nation's young players.

Success is already tangible. Serbia won the 2013 UEFA European Under-19 Championship and built on that triumph by lifting the FIFA U-20 World Cup in New Zealand last year.

Those achievements are reward for the

investment being made in the Serbian game, and can be linked in particular to the improvement and modernisation of facilities in the country thanks to projects funded by the Football Association of Serbia (FSS), local partnerships and UEFA, through the HatTrick programme.

HatTrick was launched in 2004 and uses income generated by UEFA EUROs to foster the growth and development of European football at all levels, focusing on investment programmes, knowledge sharing and education projects within the 54 member associations.

In Serbia, HatTrick support has concentrated on the new FSS National Team Training Centre in Stara Pazova. Inaugurated in 2011, this modern facility is equipped with five grass pitches, one artificial pitch and a covered training surface,

providing Serbian players with the perfect platform on which to hone their skills.

"The sports centre was our top target for the best part of 20 years," FSS president Tomislav Karadžić said. "Finally, we finished it and we can be proud. Now, Serbian kids have a centre of footballing excellence and they can live, work and learn there."

All of Serbia's national teams are now based at Stara Pazova, and the FSS is also working nationwide to further the development of the sport. In particular, ongoing projects are bringing more mini and full-size pitches to areas across the country to nurture the grassroots levels of the game and to help ensure that the success Serbia's youth teams are currently enjoying can last long into the future.

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MATCH POINT DJOKOVIĆ

Serbian tennis star Novak Djoković appeared by video link at Belgrade City Hall to welcome the teams on the day of the final tournament draw on 2 October. "Hi everybody, welcome to UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 in Belgrade," he said. "I send my total support and wholehearted backing to our national team. Let's get behind our futsal players in their efforts to achieve the best possible result. Welcome to Serbia!"



WIN A EURO BALL

For the chance to win an official adidas UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 tournament ball, keep your eyes on the @UEFAFutsal Twitter account on the day of the final on 13 February. As well as details of how to enter the competition, @UEFAFutsal has all the latest news throughout the tournament.

RESPECT
YOUR HEALTH

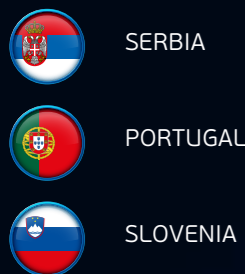
A SMOKE-FREE EURO

A no-smoking policy will be in operation at the Arena of Belgrade. This no-tobacco stance brings health benefits to fans and anyone working at matches by lowering exposure to passive smoking. Anybody found using tobacco or e-cigarette products at the venue will be asked to stop. Thank you for respecting the no-smoking policy and enjoy the action.

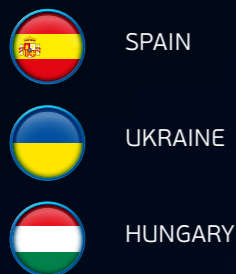


Match schedule

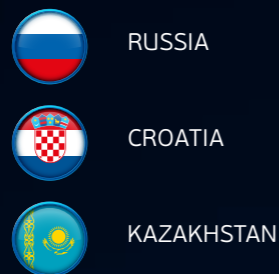
GROUP A



GROUP B



GROUP C



GROUP D



Arena of Belgrade

All matches will be played at the Arena of Belgrade, which has a capacity of 10,944 for the UEFA Futsal EURO.

GROUP STAGE

2 FEBRUARY

Group A	18.30	Serbia	V	Slovenia
Group B	21.00	Spain	V	Hungary

3 FEBRUARY

Group C	18.30	Russia	V	Kazakhstan
Group D	21.00	Italy	V	Azerbaijan

4 FEBRUARY

Group A	18.30	Slovenia	V	Portugal
Group B	21.00	Hungary	V	Ukraine

5 FEBRUARY

Group C	18.30	Kazakhstan	V	Croatia
Group D	21.00	Azerbaijan	V	Czech Republic

6 FEBRUARY

Group B	18.30	Ukraine	V	Spain
Group A	21.00	Portugal	V	Serbia

7 FEBRUARY

Group C	18.30	Croatia	V	Russia
Group D	21.00	Czech Republic	V	Italy

KNOCKOUT STAGE

QUARTER-FINALS

8 FEBRUARY

QF1	18.30	[]	V	[]
Winner Group A v Runner-up Group B				

QF2	21.00	[]	V	[]
Runner-up Group A v Winner Group B				

9 FEBRUARY

QF3	18.30	[]	V	[]
Winner Group C v Runner-up Group D				

QF4	21.00	[]	V	[]
Runner-up Group C v Winner Group D				

SEMI-FINALS

11 FEBRUARY

SF1	18.30	[]	V	[]
Winner QF1 v Winner QF3				

SF2	21.00	[]	V	[]
Winner QF2 v Winner QF4				

THIRD-PLACE MATCH

13 FEBRUARY

[]	V	[]
Loser SF1 v Loser SF2		

FINAL

13 FEBRUARY

[]	V	[]
21.00 Winner SF1 v Winner SF2		

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Follow UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 live and make sure you don't miss a kick by securing your tickets now. Tickets for all matches are priced at RSD 600 (€5) and RSD 350 (€3). With two games each day, one ticket will provide entry to both matches, and are available from www.eventim.rs and at all Eventim outlets.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Gerald Bauernfeind Austria	Eduardo Fernandes Coelho, Portugal	Fernando Gutiérrez Lumbreras, Spain	Ivan Shabanov Russia
Marc Birkett England	Oleg Ivanov Ukraine	Alessandro Malfer Italy	Bogdan Sorescu Romania
Ondřej Černý Czech Republic	Gábor Kovács Hungary	Timo Onatsu Finland	Saša Tomić Croatia
Kamil Çetin Turkey	Pascal Lemal Belgium	Cédric Pelissier France	Admir Zahovič Slovenia





Meet the teams

From champions Italy to newcomers Kazakhstan, 12 sides have their sights set on the UEFA Futsal EURO title

From left to right: Russia, Croatia, Kazakhstan and Italy all had plenty to celebrate on their journeys to Belgrade

1 AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan are contesting their fourth successive EURO after overcoming Slovakia 4-2 in the play-offs. They reached the semi-finals on their tournament debut in 2010 but have not progressed beyond the group stage since. Defeated 7-0 by Italy in Belgium last time out, they face another test against the holders in their opening game here.

2 CROATIA

Only Spain matched Croatia's average of seven goals a game in qualifying and of all the qualified teams none could better their ten goal-winning margin against Turkey. Mato Stanković's side also showed they could deliver when it mattered most, edging Slovakia 3-2 in their final main round Group 6 fixture in Dubrovnik to avoid the play-offs.

3 CZECH REPUBLIC

Long-serving coach Tomáš Neumann has guided the Czech Republic to every EURO since 2007. In fact, not since 1999 have the Czechs missed the final tournament, although they were pushed hard this time – having finished second behind Slovenia in main round Group 5, they narrowly squeezed past Belarus in the play-offs.

4 HUNGARY

Zoltán Dróth's last-second headed goal sparked wild celebrations in Debrecen as Hungary struck at the death to oust Romania in the play-offs and advance 6-5 on aggregate. The 2010 hosts lost all five matches in their two previous EURO appearances, yet whatever the outcome in Belgrade, this campaign will live long in the memory.

5 ITALY

Holders Italy are one of only three countries to have lifted the title and they qualified comfortably as main round Group 3 winners, beating Finland, Belarus and Poland. Roberto Menichelli's side remain packed with champions, including Gabriel Lima who scored in the 2014 final and led the Azzurri with three more in qualifying.

6 KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan are EURO debutants after an impressive qualifying effort that included victory over Portugal and a 9-0 aggregate play-off triumph against Bosnia and Herzegovina. Much of the squad is accustomed to success with club side Kairat Almaty, with Higuaita, Dinmukhambet Suleimenov, Leo and coach Cacau key figures for both.

7 PORTUGAL

Portugal have got to the knockout rounds of every EURO since 2007 and the final in 2010. They fell to Italy in the semi-finals last time, but with Ricardinho providing inspiration they will expect to go far again. A shock reverse to Kazakhstan in qualifying, though, served as a warning that nothing can be taken for granted.

8 RUSSIA

European heavyweights Russia claimed the title in 1999 and have made it to the final three times since, including 2014 when they succumbed to Italy after famously knocking out Spain in the last four. They start among the favourites again, having conceded just once in their three main round Group 1 qualifying games.

9 SERBIA

It is two and a half years since Serbia last featured in this competition, a play-off loss to Romania in September 2013 costing them a place at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. That ended a sequence of three straight EURO appearances and two quarter-finals; as hosts they will be targeting another expedition to the knockout rounds.

10 SLOVENIA

Captain Igor Osredkar led by example in qualifying with five goals, including one in the main round Group 5 decider against the Czech Republic to ensure Slovenia's progress as pool winners. Kicking off here against Serbia, they can look to 2014 for inspiration having begun that event with victory over eventual champions Italy.

11 SPAIN

Three wins from three matches in qualifying, 21 goals scored and just two conceded, Spain are back in their stride after being surprisingly stopped in their tracks by Russia in the 2014 semis. Having landed this trophy five times and lost only three of 39 final tournament fixtures, La Roja continue to set the benchmark.

12 UKRAINE

Ukraine were runners-up in 2001 and 2003 and last reached the semi-finals in 2005, when they were vanquished by current Group B rivals Spain. A perfect record in qualification augurs well, although the loss to injury of Mykola Bilotserkivets, who hit a competition-leading eight goals in those three qualifiers, is a big blow.



Official programme



UEFA.com



15



refresh, enjoy, win

“Special motivation”



Serbia forward Mladen Kocić expects his side to put on a show for the home fans in Belgrade

What does it mean to you to play at the Futsal EURO?

Every one of us works hard on a daily basis for a chance like this, to play at the highest level. This is like a dream come true.

How important will home advantage be for Serbia?

It will be a big advantage and a special motivation, no question. Serbia are hosting the Futsal EURO for the first time and for our generation this is a real privilege.

What are the strengths of the current Serbia side?

Our team spirit and the atmosphere within the group are our strongest weapons – and the fact we are playing at home. We must be clever and use that in the right way. And of course our team is made up of top-quality players.

Serbia missed out on a place at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. How difficult was it to watch on from the sidelines?

It was the most difficult moment of my career. Before that, Serbia participated at every major tournament – the EURO in Belgium was the only one we missed. That was a real setback for us.

Who are favourites to win the EURO?

The main favourite is Spain, for sure. On paper, they have the best team.

Does the fact that Italy ended Spain's run of four successive titles in 2014 give other nations more belief?

Yes, it gives every team hope, but hope is one thing, reality is something else. We all have the hardest job in front of us – to beat Spain. Everybody is trying to find the best solution to that problem.

What did you learn from Serbia's pair of games against the Spanish in June?

Playing against them means a lot to each player. We have to continue to mature and improve. Spain are at the top of European futsal, but I believe we are clever enough to see the mistakes we made and we will try to eliminate them in the future.

How were your preparations for the EURO?

We were together as often as possible. We achieved our goal in the qualifying round for the FIFA Futsal World Cup in Colombia and are now waiting for the play-offs. I also see that from an organisational perspective things have been going well. Belgrade and Serbia are ready to host a big tournament.

What are your thoughts on your group opponents?

We weren't lucky with the draw, getting Portugal and Slovenia. Portugal have the best player in the world in Ricardinho and are the favourites in our group. We have played Slovenia a lot and they are very well organised. Maybe they don't

have star names, but Slovenia have a good group of players.

How did you get into futsal?

I started in football but quickly changed to futsal, simply because I like it more. I am happy. I am myself playing futsal.

How popular is futsal in Serbia?

Serbians love futsal, but it's true that it's in football's shadow. I hope that will change after this EURO. That's what happened in Croatia [after UEFA Futsal EURO 2012] and maybe we can do the same thing here.

Who were your sporting heroes growing up?

It was and still is Falcão. For me he is the best – the top player in the history of futsal.

“Serbia are hosting the EURO for the first time and for our generation this is a real privilege”

RECI LAV

I NE MOŽEŠ DA PROMAŠIŠ



GROUP A

Serbia/Portugal/Slovenia



SERBIA



HOME COMFORTS

For Serbia coach Aca Kovačević the aim is clear: "Going beyond the quarter-finals would be great; that would be the biggest ever success in Serbian futsal." The 60-year-old has been looking forward to this moment for quite some time. After he twice led Serbia into Europe's last eight, as well as their first FIFA Futsal World Cup in 2012, his side missed out on a place at UEFA EURO 2014 – meaning this is a new generation looking to make a lasting impression on home soil. Mladen Kocić is Serbia's star man, with Marko Perić, Miodrag Aksentijević, Slobodan Rajčević and Miloš Stojković also taking centre stage in a team that have developed a reputation for their Brazilian playing style – highly technical and easy on the eye. If that is a sizeable comparison to live up to, Kovačević knows now is the time to do so. "Futsal is advancing in a major way in Serbia," he said. "Players like Aksentijević, Kocić, Marko Pršić and others are heroes for youngsters playing football or futsal all over the country. Futsal will be much better known and more popular after this EURO. This is the bonus for us, but also a big responsibility for my team and myself in front of our home crowd."

FIXTURES

2 February v Slovenia
6 February v Portugal

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 5
Best performance Quarter-finals 2010, 2012
Record P12 W4 D2 L6
Biggest win 2-0 v Slovenia 2010 group stage
Biggest loss 1-5 v Spain 1999 group stage, 2010 quarter-finals

COACH



Aca Kovačević
Kovačević is a futsal pioneer in his homeland, first as a player and then as coach. He took the Serbia helm in 2006 and performed a key role in helping to bring the EURO to Belgrade. "This is a great honour for me and a big reward for Serbian futsal," he said. "It is recognition that Serbian futsal is on the right path."

	Date of birth	Caps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
--	---------------	------------	------------------------	------

Goalkeepers

Miodrag Aksentijević	22/07/1983	79/2	11/1	Tyumen (RUS)
Nemanja Momčilović	15/04/1991	14/1	0/0	Nikars Riga (LVA)

Outfield players

Slobodan Janjić	17/02/1987	79/38	12/2	Informatica Timișoara (ROU)
Mladen Kocić	22/10/1988	79/47	16/7	Nacional Zagreb
Vladimir Lazić	19/06/1984	65/23	14/2	Deus
Marko Perić	05/02/1984	94/52	16/9	Kaos Futsal (ITA)
Marko Pršić	13/09/1990	48/15	8/0	Ekonomac Kragujevac
Marko Radovanović	10/10/1991	1/0	0/0	Ekonomac Kragujevac
Slobodan Rajčević	28/02/1985	48/6	20/5	Al Mayadeen (LIB)
Stefan Rakić	22/11/1993	37/12	4/1	Informatica Timișoara (ROU)
Darko Ristić	22/08/1988	3/0	0/0	Ekonomac Kragujevac
Miloš Simić	12/08/1989	33/12	0/0	Ekonomac Kragujevac
Miloš Stojković	03/10/1991	19/4	0/0	Ekonomac Kragujevac
Aleksandar Živanović	24/07/1988	41/7	8/2	Deus

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Recent results

26 June 2015 Spain 2-5 Serbia*	19 October 2015 Serbia 6-4 Czech Republic*
1 September 2015 Serbia 2-1 Bosnia and Herz*	20 October 2015 Serbia 3-3 Czech Republic*
2 September 2015 Serbia 4-2 Bosnia and Herz*	10 December 2015 Turkey 0-6 Serbia**
22 September 2015 Slovenia 4-5 Serbia*	11 December 2015 Serbia 1-2 Russia**
23 September 2015 Slovenia 2-2 Serbia*	13 December 2015 Finland 1-2 Serbia**

*Friendly match
**FIFA Futsal World Cup qualifier



Serbia are back in the finals for the first time since 2012



FINAL AMBITIONS

Portugal have been mainstays ever since their first final tournament in 1999, but they were pushed to the limit in the race for these finals, losing in qualifying for the first time since 2001. That defeat by Kazakhstan put their place in jeopardy, yet they rallied to beat Romania and advance on goal difference. "If we don't play with 100% motivation and focus, we can slip any time," coach Jorge Braz said. "Every country is getting better and better in European futsal, and Kazakhstan showed they have made a huge improvement in recent years." If losing was a wake-up call, according to Braz it has not dented morale. "Our main goal is to progress from the group stage to the quarter-finals, then anything is possible. We reached the semi-finals at the last EURO, so maybe we can go a step further here in Belgrade. Why not to the final?" While Portugal have a fresh feel following the retirements of João Benedito, Gonçalo Alves and Pedro Costa after their last-four exit in 2014, the experienced Ricardinho, João Matos, Pedro Cary, Cardinal and Arnaldo Pereira are still influential. Pivots Joel Queirós and Leitão are seeing less action, however, as Braz moves towards a more fluid, mobile playing style.

FIXTURES

4 February v Slovenia
6 February v Serbia

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 8

Best performance Runners-up 2010

Record P27 W9 D8 L10

Biggest win 5-0 v Netherlands 2014 group stage

Biggest loss 3-8 v Italy 2005 group stage,
1-6 v Spain 2010 group stage

COACH



Jorge Braz

A former assistant coach with the national side, Braz was handed the reins when Orlando Duarte stood down following Portugal's run to the final in 2010 – and the 43-year-old has subsequently maintained their upwards trajectory. He renewed his contract in 2014 and has rejuvenated his squad, successfully infusing new blood to complement an impressive nucleus of veterans.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Vitor Hugo	30/11/1982	3/0	9/0	SC Braga
André Sousa	25/02/1986	3/0	14/0	Sporting CP
Bebé	19/05/1983	3/0	12/0	SL Benfica
Outfield players				
Tiago Brito	22/07/1991	3/1	3/1	SC Braga
Cardinal	26/06/1985	2/1	20/14	Inter FS (ESP)
Pedro Cary	10/05/1984	3/2	22/6	Sporting CP
Fábio Cecílio	30/04/1993	3/0	3/0	SL Benfica
Bruno Coelho	01/08/1987	3/1	11/3	SL Benfica
Djô	11/01/1986	3/1	6/2	Sporting CP
Fábio Lima	16/10/1988	0/0	3/0	Sporting CP
João Matos	21/02/1987	3/0	21/4	Sporting CP
Arnaldo Pereira	16/06/1979	3/0	38/15	Latina (ITA)
Ricardinho	03/09/1985	3/5	22/19	Inter FS (ESP)
Ré	04/10/1985	0/0	0/0	SL Benfica

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	2	0	1	12	4	6
Kazakhstan	3	2	0	1	11	7	6
Romania*	3	2	0	1	11	9	6
Georgia	3	0	0	3	1	15	0

*Hosts

Portugal 7-0 Georgia, Romania 6-4 Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan 3-1 Portugal, Romania 4-1 Georgia, Georgia 0-4 Kazakhstan, Portugal 4-1 Romania



Ricardinho makes a young fan's day



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Igor Bratič	29/10/1988	0/0	0/0	KMN Kobarid
Alen Mordej	13/03/1990	3/0	10/0	KMN Dobovec
Damir Puškar	03/09/1987	3/0	13/0	Brezje Maribor
Outfield players				
Kristjan Čujec	30/11/1988	3/2	19/14	Nacional Zagreb (CRO)
Alen Fetič	14/10/1991	3/3	14/6	Brezje Maribor
Matej Fideršek	04/07/1991	3/0	3/0	Brezje Maribor
Nejc Hozjan	31/07/1996	3/1	3/1	Città di Montebelluna (ITA)
Uroš Kroflič	02/11/1985	3/0	9/1	KMN Dobovec
Rok Mordej	03/03/1989	3/2	17/7	KMN Dobovec
Igor Osredkar	28/06/1986	3/5	18/9	Nacional Zagreb (CRO)
Anže Širok	10/11/1989	0/0	0/0	KMN Kobarid
Jaka Sovdat	02/06/1983	0/0	4/0	KMN Kobarid
Tilen Štendler	08/10/1991	3/0	9/0	Adriatica C/5 (ITA)
Gašper Vrhovec	18/07/1988	3/3	15/10	Litija

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia*	3	3	0	0	18	3	9
Czech Republic	3	2	0	1	10	6	6
France	3	1	0	2	8	17	3
Norway	3	0	0	3	1	11	0

*Hosts

Slovenia 4-0 Norway, Czech Republic 5-3 France, Norway 0-4 Czech Republic, Slovenia 11-2 France, France 3-1 Norway, Czech Republic 1-3 Slovenia



Slovenia won all three of their qualifiers

NEW HEIGHTS

Slovenia kicked off UEFA EURO 2014 with a shock victory against eventual champions Italy and will expect to match their run to the quarter-finals that year. After beating the Czech Republic to top spot in their qualifying section, confidence should be high – as you would want from a group of players competing in their third EURO. The average age of the squad is just 26, but the core built around goalkeeper Damir Puškar, captain Igor Osredkar, Rok Mordej, Gašper Vrhovec and Kristjan Čujec has plenty of experience, while Alen Fetič, Jaka Sovdat and Uroš Kroflič provide further options. In fact, coach Andrej Dobovičnik's biggest challenge has been to get his side together for training camps given most of his players are based at various clubs across Europe, while others juggle futsal commitments with jobs away from the sport. Dobovičnik, though, has fostered a terrific team spirit and with Belgrade only a short trip away, Slovenia – who will host UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 – will not be short of support. "We have been building this team for a number of years," Dobovičnik said. "I'd be very satisfied if they have two peaks: one in Belgrade in 2016, the other in Ljubljana in 2018. We're capable of that."

FIXTURES

2 February v Serbia
4 February v Portugal

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 5

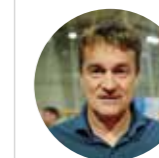
Best performance Quarter-finals 2014

Record P10 W1 D0 L9

Biggest win 3-2 v Italy 2014 group stage

Biggest loss 3-8 v Czech Republic 2003 group stage

COACH



Andrej Dobovičnik

Dobovičnik is in his tenth year at the helm and has helped Slovenia to four successive Futsal EUROs. Approachable and very much one of the team, the 48-year-old takes pride in the strong group ethic and combines that with a fanatical attention to detail. There will be no nasty surprises for Slovenia in Belgrade.

Ones to watch

Be it providing the moment of inspiration that turns a game or having the strength of character to push a team to the limit, these 12 exceptional players could make all the difference in Belgrade



VITALIY BORISOV, AZERBAIJAN

BorISOV, 33, and captain Rizvan Farzaliyev, 36, are the cornerstones of the squad, bringing leadership and experience – and in the case of BorISOV crucial goals. He scored three times in qualifying and has hit four in the nine final tournament matches that Azerbaijan have contested since first reaching this stage in 2010.



DARIO MARINOVIĆ, CROATIA

The 25-year-old represents Croatia's chief offensive threat, having top-scored with five goals during qualification. Not only is the quick and agile MarinoVIĆ a natural leader of the line, he is strong defensively as well. After recently signing for Murcia, his career is very much on the rise.



LUKÁŠ REŠETÁR, CZECH REPUBLIC

Always one to rise to the occasion, the Czech captain, 31, boasts a wealth of experience as well as outstanding skill and a blistering shot. He has won seven Czech futsal titles with Chrudim and also plays football for Czech second-tier club Pardubice. He passed 100 caps and 50 goals for his country this season.



ZOLTÁN DRÓTH, HUNGARY

At 194cm tall, Dróth has the physique of a football centre-forward, yet for nearly a decade he has spearheaded Hungary's attack with deft touches and direct, powerful shooting. The 27-year-old's last-second, extra-time headed winner against Romania sealed qualification and earned a place in Hungarian futsal folklore.



Clockwise from top left: Ukraine captain Yevgen Ivanyak; Dario Marinović on the ball for Croatia; Slovenia pivot Kristjan Čujec; Azerbaijan's Vitaliy BorISOV; Serbia talisman Marko Perić



GABRIEL LIMA, ITALY

The Italy captain was UEFA Futsal EURO 2014's Golden Player after leading the Azzurri to the title in Belgium, and the 28-year-old has come on even further since joining Murcia. Coach Roberto Menichelli always values teamwork but the Italy No3 is one of a kind, a prolific scorer with great timing and exceptional skill.



DINMUKHAMBET SULEIMENOV, KAZAKHSTAN

Suleimenov first played in the competition in 2007 and nine years on leads Kazakhstan into their first finals. The 34-year-old skipper made his Kazakhstan bow in 2001 and remains the focal point of the side. Like coach Cacau and many of his team-mates, he has twice won the UEFA Futsal Cup with Kairat Almaty.



RICARDINHO, PORTUGAL

The undisputed star of the team and one of the world's best players, Ricardinho gives Portugal an extra dimension. The 30-year-old can win a match single-handed or dictate its rhythm, his move to Spanish club Inter having further heightened his competitive edge. According to coach Jorge Braz, "above all, he is a leader".



DMITRI LYSKOV, RUSSIA

Lyskov was on the scoresheet in Russia's momentous semi-final victory over Spain two years ago and he remains the focal point of their attack. The 28-year-old's goals fired Ugra Yugorsk to their maiden Russian Super League title in 2015 – and duly earned him plaudits as the best forward in the division.



MARKO PERIĆ, SERBIA

Serbia's captain and leader on and off the court, the 32-year-old is their most seasoned player having made his international debut aged 18. The rock in the Serbian defence yet also the catalyst of their attacks, he and Marko Kocić make up the formidable axis that offers home fans plenty of reason to believe.



KRISTJAN ČUJEC, SLOVENIA

When this tall, strong pivot plays well, Slovenia prosper. A regular marksman, he also impresses with his workload, ball retention and ability to break down opposition attacks. The 27-year-old averages a goal every other game for Slovenia and eight years on from his debut is fast approaching 50 goals and 100 caps.



ORTIZ, SPAIN

After missing the 2014 semi-final loss to Russia through suspension, Ortiz will be doubly determined to help Spain regain the trophy. The 32-year-old Inter player's experience and tactical nous are key to the five-time champions' game. He arrives in Belgrade with three UEFA Futsal EURO titles already to his name.

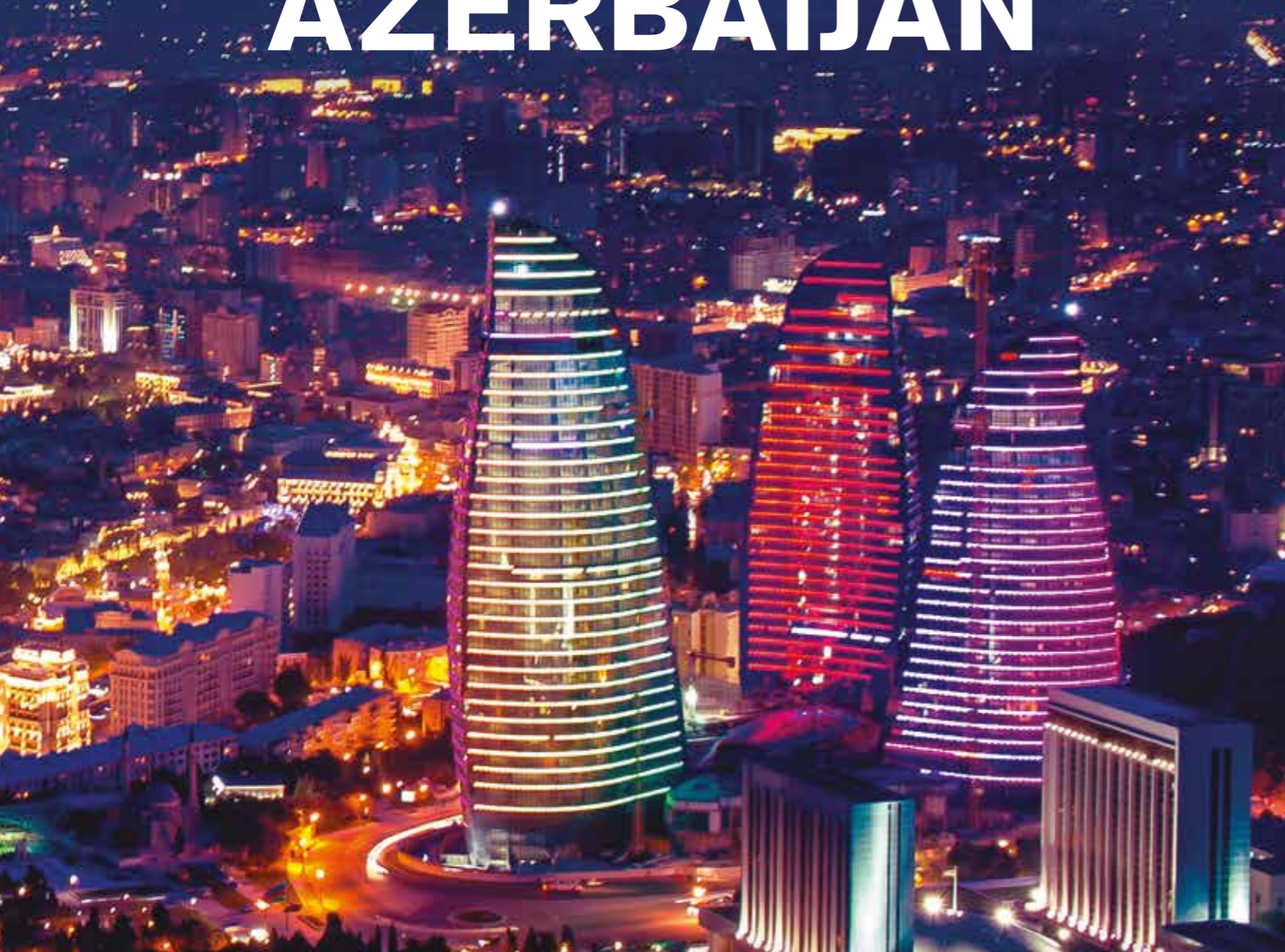


YEVGEN IVANYAK, UKRAINE

Ukraine's captain and goalkeeper is their on-field general, inspiring with his words as well as his deeds. Dependable and assured in goal, the 33-year-old is also an asset in open play and his two goals and assist – including Ukraine's winning strike in their 3-2 victory against Azerbaijan – proved vital in qualifying.



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Record breaker

Daniel is congratulated by his team-mates after scoring in Spain's 4-2 victory against Portugal in the 2010 final in Debrecen, Hungary. It was his 16th and last goal in a UEFA Futsal EURO, setting a record that still stands today. Daniel opened his account in his first EURO match, registering twice in a 4-1 win against Ukraine in the 2001 group stage, and went on to feature in 21 games for Spain in five final tournaments. His goals helped propel La Roja to the title in 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2010.

Dejan Stanković: My Belgrade

The Futsal EURO ambassador and Serbian football legend gives the inside track on his native city

The banks of the Danube and Sava rivers provide the focal point of life in Belgrade

When I'm away, I miss everything about Belgrade: the atmosphere, the great people and the lifestyle. After almost 20 years spent overseas, I enjoy every day I get to spend in my native city, and whenever I'm back I have a long list of places I want to visit. It's a city that's open to everyone and has a very special and unique sense of humour.

"As a sportsman I'd have to recommend a visit to Belgrade's two big football clubs and their stadiums: Crvena zvezda, with their rich museum, and Partizan. After that, my top suggestion would be a trip to one of Belgrade's superb restaurants and a taste of some delicious, traditional Serbian cuisine – and there are many of these in Zemun on the banks of the river Danube.

"Belgrade has a lot of museums and culture lovers have plenty of options, while the city's night life is fantastic as well. I'd also recommend Skadarlija in the heart of Belgrade, which has preserved the spirit of the city in the 19th century, and Knez Mihailova Street, the most popular pedestrian zone.

"Much of life in the city revolves around the Danube and Sava rivers. In the last 25 years especially, the riverbanks have become places to really enjoy life. Starting in Zemun on the Danube and ending in Ada Ciganlija on the Sava, you will find plenty of restaurants, nightclubs, modern bars and big coffee shops. The lake that forms part of the Ada Ciganlija peninsula is also popularly known as the 'Sea of Belgrade'.

"The cradle of the city is Kalemegdan (Belgrade Fortress). In the past it was the last line of defence, but today it's a vast, green park. It is home too to one of Belgrade's most famous symbols – the statue of Pobednik (the Victor) – and it's a phenomenal place to take photographs. Belgrade's large and excellent zoo is also in Kalemegdan. In fact, there are millions of reasons to spend more than a day there.

"Belgrade's main meeting point is Republic Square. That's where youngsters meet up for their first dates. At the centre of Republic Square is the monument of Miloš Obrenović, one of Serbia's most important leaders, who ruled in the 19th century. As he is sitting on a horse, we say we'll meet 'near the horse'. If you had to identify one place as the heart of the city and the true city centre, that would be it.

"Hosting UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 will be fantastic for Belgrade and a glorious moment in our history. Serbia has already held European and world championships in a lot of sports, but never in futsal, which has long been very popular. During the 1970s, lots of leading footballers ended their careers in futsal and the stands were always full. I'm expecting a huge number of supporters at Arena of Belgrade, which is a superb and modern venue that both players and fans will enjoy.

"When I look back at my own football career, I can honestly say it started with futsal, though at the time it was simply street football or football in the school playground. I've also been lucky

enough to come up against leading futsal players in Serbia and Italy, and they are truly football masters – grandmasters, even. If you want to be a great futsal player, you have to know how to use the ball in a confined space sometimes the size of a coin. The action is often amazing and tends to produce brilliant goals.

"Organising this tournament means a lot for the image of our country and our city, and I expect that all our guests will have a great time. We have a unique chance to accommodate them and invite everyone to visit Belgrade and Serbia. Welcome – and enjoy!"

"Belgrade's main meeting point is Republic Square. That's where youngsters meet up for their first dates"

DON'T MISS

Kalemegdan

The oldest section of urban Belgrade and home to a sixth-century fortress and sprawling park, plus a zoo and military museum as well as amazing views of the Sava and Danube rivers.

Ada Ciganlija

Formerly an island and now an artificial peninsula popular with locals and tourists alike for its restaurants, bars and eye-catching fountain.

Republic Square

Lined with major landmarks such as the National Museum and National Theatre, the square also hosts many concerts and events.

Skadarlija

Teeming with writers and artists in the past, this cobblestoned street enjoys a reputation as the bohemian quarter of Belgrade.

Fine food

"I like everything," says Stanković, "but everyone must try our čevapčići (grilled mincemeat) and pljeskavice (local burgers)."



The Miloš Obrenovic statue in Republic Square



EURO ambassador

Born in the Serbian capital and raised in the municipality of Zemun, the former midfielder began his career at local heavyweights Crvena zvezda before an illustrious spell in Italy, where he won the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup with Lazio and the UEFA Champions League with Internazionale Milano along with several domestic titles. Capped 103 times by Serbia, Stanković is now assistant coach at Inter.



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GROUP B



SPAIN

Spain/Ukraine/Hungary



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Jesús Herrero	04/11/1986	3/0	8/0	Inter FS
Juanjo	19/08/1985	3/0	29/0	SL Benfica (POR)
Paco Sedano	02/12/1979	3/0	3/0	Barcelona
Outfield players				
Adri	03/10/1986	3/1	6/1	Murcia FS
Aicardo	04/12/1988	2/1	12/8	Barcelona
Alex	12/03/1989	3/2	3/2	Murcia FS
Raúl Campos	17/12/1987	3/2	11/8	Murcia FS
Fernandão	16/08/1980	3/1	20/15	FC Dynamo (RUS)
Lin	16/05/1986	3/5	25/14	Barcelona
Miguelín	09/05/1985	3/3	15/12	Murcia FS
Ortiz	03/10/1983	3/0	31/12	Inter FS
Pola	26/06/1988	3/2	13/7	Inter FS
Mario Rivillos	13/12/1989	3/3	3/3	Inter FS
José Ruiz	06/06/1983	0/0	0/0	Murcia FS

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	21	2	9
Hungary	3	1	1	1	11	10	4
FYR Macedonia*	3	1	1	1	11	16	4
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	9	24	0

*Hosts

Spain 9-1 Switzerland, FYR Macedonia 3-3 Hungary, Hungary 0-5 Spain, FYR Macedonia 7-6 Switzerland, Switzerland 2-8 Hungary, Spain 7-1 FYR Macedonia



Adri takes aim against FYR Macedonia in qualifying

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Ever since Robinho's extra-time strike settled a thrilling semi-final in Russia's favour two years ago to end Spain's nine-year reign as European champions, La Roja have been plotting their return to the top. They reached their ninth final tournament at a canter, with Switzerland, Hungary (whom they meet again in Belgrade) and FYR Macedonia all beaten comfortably, as coach José Venancio López concocts a winning blend capable of recapturing the crown. Sergio Lozano, Aicardo, Fernandão, Miguelín and Ortiz provide the experienced spine, which is complemented by the youthful zeal of Mario Rivillos, Adri and Alex. Confidence and expectations are high as La Roja target a record sixth title (or seventh if you include the unofficial 1996 event), yet Venancio López knows nothing can be taken for granted. "We always go out with the idea of winning, but I've learned that we have to take it step by step, without being too obsessed with the final," he said. "Small details can mean the difference between winning and losing." Spain invariably get those details right. It is 22 matches spanning a decade since they last lost a game – against Italy – inside 40 minutes at a UEFA Futsal EURO and they remain the only European side to have won the FIFA Futsal World Cup, in 2000 and 2004.

FIXTURES

2 February v Hungary
6 February v Ukraine

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 9
Best performance Winners 2001, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012
Record P39 W29 D7 L3
Biggest win 9-1 v Belarus 2010 group stage
Biggest loss 1-3 v Italy 2005 group stage

COACH



José Venancio López
The 51-year-old took charge of Spain in 2007 has led La Roja to three Futsal EURO titles and two World Cup finals. He has certainly risen to the challenge of replacing Javier Lozano, impressing notably with his analytical eye, tactical awareness and by successfully rejuvenating the team.



UKRAINE



HUNGARY



FRESH INSPIRATION

There is a new coach on the bench but otherwise Ukraine are largely unchanged from the side eliminated in the 2014 quarter-finals. Lokomotiv Kharkiv supply the core, with the experienced Denys Ovsyannikov, Petro Shoturma and Yevgen Valenko all key players. Ukraine reached the final in both 2001 and 2003 and those successes remain the inspiration for the current crop. This generation are being drilled by coach Oleksandr Kosenko, a veteran of both runners-up finishes, to play free-flowing attacking football. Results in qualifying show Ukraine are on the right track. Belgium and Denmark were comfortably beaten and Kosenko's men kept their cool under pressure by overcoming Azerbaijan 3-2 to take top spot. Unfortunately, Mykola Bilotserkivets, the main round's eight-goal leading scorer, misses out through injury yet if Kosenko can find another source of goals, Ukraine's high pressing game should still produce results. "We have to find other solutions, though it is almost impossible to replace such a high-quality player," Kosenko said. "It won't be easy to get out of the group stage. Of course that's our aim – and anything is possible in the knockout stage. We saw at the last EURO how many very even matches were decided by small details."

FIXTURES

4 February v Hungary
6 February v Spain

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 8

Best performance Runners-up 2001, 2003

Record P27 W10 D4 L13

Biggest win 8-3 v Poland and 5-0 v Croatia, both 2001 group stage; 7-2 v Belgium 2003 group stage

Biggest loss 0-5 v Spain 2005 semi-finals

COACH



Oleksandr Kosenko

Kosenko is a Ukrainian futsal legend who featured in the team that came second at the 2001 and 2003 UEFA European Futsal Championships. As coach, the 46-year-old guided Energy Lviv to Ukrainian Cup triumphs in 2013 and 2014, before taking over from Yevhen Ryvkin at the Ukraine helm in June 2014.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Yevgen Ivanyak	28/09/1982	3/2	21/2	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
Dmytro Lytvynenko	16/04/1987	3/0	21/0	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
Outfield players				
Olexiy Fetko	03/01/1988	3/0	3/0	Sportleader
Mykhailo Grytsyna	19/10/1991	0/0	0/0	Energy Lviv
Mykola Grytsyna	03/06/1989	0/0	0/0	Energy Lviv
Vitaliy Kiselyov	20/02/1983	0/0	0/0	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
Sergiy Koval	23/08/1986	0/0	0/0	Energy Lviv
Denys Ovsyannikov	10/12/1984	3/2	23/11	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
Volodymyr Razuvanov	01/08/1992	3/0	7/1	Progress (RUS)
Yevgen Rogachov	30/08/1983	3/0	22/7	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
Petro Shoturma	27/06/1992	0/0	6/0	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
Oleksandr Sorokin	13/08/1987	3/1	10/1	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
Yevgen Valenko	01/11/1984	3/0	10/2	Lokomotiv Kharkiv
Serhiy Zhurba	14/03/1987	3/0	12/1	Lokomotiv Kharkiv

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	3	3	0	0	17	6	9
Azerbaijan*	3	2	0	1	16	6	6
Belgium	3	1	0	2	8	15	3
Denmark	3	0	0	3	7	21	0

*Hosts

Ukraine 5-2 Denmark, Azerbaijan 3-1 Belgium, Belgium 2-9 Ukraine, Azerbaijan 11-2 Denmark, Denmark 3-5 Belgium, Ukraine 3-2 Azerbaijan



Mykola Bilotserkivets's injury is a blow to Ukraine



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Csaba Tihanyi	13/07/1981	2/0	3/0	MVFC Berettyóújfalu
Gyula Tóth	14/08/1982	5/0	10/0	Győri ETO
Outfield players				
Richárd Dávid	04/08/1990	5/0	10/2	MVFC Berettyóújfalu
Zoltán Dróth	14/09/1988	4/3	14/15	Győri ETO
István Gál	18/05/1986	5/1	5/1	MVFC Berettyóújfalu
Ákos Harnisch	24/08/1987	5/4	12/7	Győri ETO
Norbert Horváth	05/12/1992	3/0	3/0	Dunaújváros
Ádám Hosszú	20/02/1993	5/4	5/4	Dunaújváros
Bence Klacsák	28/02/1995	1/0	1/0	Dunaújváros
Péter Németh	31/08/1981	5/1	13/1	Veszprém
Norbert Öreglaci	29/08/1991	1/0	1/0	Haladás VSE
János Rábl	15/06/1989	5/1	13/1	MVFC Berettyóújfalu
Szabolcs Szeghy	18/07/1991	2/0	4/0	Aramis
János Trencsényi	02/07/1980	5/1	13/1	MVFC Berettyóújfalu

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	21	2	9
Hungary	3	1	1	1	11	10	4
FYR Macedonia*	3	1	1	1	11	16	4
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	9	24	0

*Hosts

Spain 9-1 Switzerland, FYR Macedonia 3-3 Hungary, Hungary 0-5 Spain, FYR Macedonia 7-6 Switzerland, Switzerland 2-8 Hungary, Spain 7-1 FYR Macedonia

Play-offs

Romania 2-2 Hungary
Hungary 4-3 Romania

Hungary win 6-5 on aggregate after extra time

LATE DRAMA

It is only the second time that Hungary – who hosted the event six years ago – have advanced through the qualifying competition to reach the final tournament and just their third finals appearance overall. Being placed in a group with powerhouses Spain and Ukraine will hardly help in their quest for a first win at this level, though they have already made their mark on the campaign thanks to Zoltán Dróth's last-second header that brought victory against Romania in the play-offs. Dróth and Győr team-mate Ákos Harnisch are the focal points of Hungary's direct, attacking style of play and their fierce shooting is complemented by a safe pair of hands in goal, courtesy of Gyula Tóth. "It is great to be here, especially given the dramatic way we qualified," coach Sito Rivera said. "Hungary have proved again that we are part of this elite European futsal family. The feeling after the second leg with such great support in Debrecen was unlike anything ever before – simply fantastic. I coached Romania for four years, so I know them very well, but in the end it was down to the players and their moment of inspiration on the pitch." After losing 5-0 to Spain in qualifying, such inspiration will be in high demand when they meet the five-time champions again in their opening Group B game here.

FIXTURES

2 February v Spain
4 February v Ukraine

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 3

Best performance Group stage 2005, 2010

Record P5 W0 D0 L5

Biggest win None

Biggest loss 0-5 v Italy 2005 group stage

COACH



Sito Rivera

After taking Romania to UEFA Futsal EURO 2012, Rivera was named Hungary coach in 2013 and masterminded victory over his old side in the play-offs to reach UEFA Futsal EURO 2016. The much-travelled 59-year-old Spaniard has also worked in Italy and Japan.



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Qualifying by numbers

The key facts and figures on the road to Belgrade

Qualifying consisted of three stages. Twenty-four teams took part in the preliminary round, with the six group winners and the best runner-up advancing to the main round, involving Europe's 21 top-ranked sides. The seven main round group winners joined Serbia, who qualified automatically as hosts, in the final tournament with the seven runners-up and the best third-placed team contesting two-legged play-offs for the remaining four places.

LEADING SCORERS

Overall	
Mykola Bilotserkivets, Ukraine	8
Réda Rabei, France	7
Mads Falck, Denmark	6
Preliminary round	
Panu Autio, Finland	5
Mads Falck, Denmark	5
Archil Sebiskveradze, Georgia	5
Main round	
Mykola Bilotserkivets, Ukraine	8
Play offs	
Florin Matei, Romania	4

SHOT STATISTICS

Total goal attempts	
Réda Rabei, France	47
Leo, Kazakhstan	35
Zoltán Dróth, Hungary	34
Attempts on target	
Réda Rabei, France	32
Kevin Jørgensen, Denmark	22
Leo, Kazakhstan	21

MOST ASSISTS

Rafael, Azerbaijan	5
Sargon Abraham, Sweden	5
Jukka Kytölä, Finland	5

MOST GOALS PER TEAM

Denmark (6 games)	22
France (6 games)	22
Switzerland (6 games)	22
Spain (3 games)	21
Croatia (3 games)	21



Scotland took part for the first time, with a competition record 46 nations involved.



Russia had the most miserly defence, with just one goal conceded in three matches.



Record number of matches played to determine the 11 qualifiers.



Amadeu (Azerbaijan) and Kevin Ramirez (France) hit the woodwork more than any other players, four times each.



Adrijan Micevski scored the fastest hat-trick, striking three times in 87 seconds within two minutes of kick-off in FYR Macedonia's 7-6 win against Switzerland. He ended the game with four goals.



Mykola Bilotserkivets scored the most goals in a game, five against Belgium in Ukraine's 9-2 triumph.



Sweden's 13-0 victory over Scotland was the biggest winning margin.



Spain and Croatia averaged a competition-high seven goals per game.



Greatest games

Choosing the most memorable matches from nearly two decades of UEFA Futsal EURO action is no easy task, but for skill, passion and sheer excitement these six take some beating

Russia revel in their semi-final victory against Spain in 2014



Clockwise from top left: An incredible scoreline; Spain goalkeeper Luis Amado lifts the trophy in 2012 and jumps for joy in Porto five years earlier; Martin Dlouhý celebrates the Czechs' fifth goal against Hungary in 2010

RUSSIA 3-3 SPAIN

(aet; Russia win 4-2 on penalties)

1999 UEFA European Futsal Championship final, Granada

The first official final set the bar high as Spain discovered they would not have things all their own way on the European stage. The match flowed back and forth with the 'Tsar' of Russian futsal – the late, great Konstantin Eremenko – hitting his side's third. Javier Lorente's second goal for Spain took the game into extra time, but after a scoreless additional period it was Russia who captured the historic first crown when Eremenko stroked home the winning penalty.

PORTUGAL 2-2 SPAIN

(aet; Spain win 4-3 on penalties)

UEFA Futsal EURO 2007 Semi-final, Porto

Spain's success down the years owes as much to their refusal to ever accept defeat as it does to the brilliance of their players – and in Porto they dug deep to eke out victory when the home team looked sure to get to their first final. With six minutes left Portugal were 2-0 up, Ricardinho raising the roof with a brilliant scissor kick for the second. As ever, Spain held their nerve and battled back to force extra time before prevailing on penalties.

CZECH REPUBLIC 6-5 HUNGARY

UEFA Futsal EURO 2010 Group stage, Budapest

A point was all hosts Hungary needed to reach the quarter-finals and there appeared little danger of missing out when they jumped 4-0 in front shortly after half-time. Then the wheels fell off. The Czech Republic pulled a goal back, then struck four more in six incredible minutes to take a 5-4 lead and leave 7,000 home fans in despair. The drama, though, did not end there. Zsolt Gyurcsányi picked Hungary off the floor by equalising with a minute to play, only for Marek Kopecký to break home hearts with the Czech winner with 15 seconds remaining.

RUSSIA 1-3 SPAIN

UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 Final, Zagreb

Europe's heavyweights met in their third UEFA Futsal EURO final, with Spain targeting a fourth straight title. They succeeded in reclaiming the trophy, but only after José Venancio López's side once more came back from the brink. In a tight contest the deadlock was broken with seven minutes left as Pula fired past Luis Amado in the Spanish goal. The holders pushed to restore parity and the pressure increased when Cirilo was shown a second yellow card. Still Russia resisted – until, with 34 seconds to go, Sergio Lozano finally beat the brilliant Gustavo with a deflected shot. Mentally and physically drained, Russia faded in extra time and Spain scored twice more to seal an intense, nerve-racking triumph.

AZERBAIJAN 8-9 SERBIA

UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 Group stage, Zagreb

With a quarter-final place at stake, Azerbaijan and Serbia went for broke, producing the highest-scoring match in UEFA Futsal EURO history. It also boasted the competition's fastest goal, with Felipe giving Azerbaijan the advantage after eight seconds. Four times Azerbaijan were ahead only to be pegged back on each occasion. They were even able to recover from 7-5 down before eventually succumbing to late strikes from Bojan Pavićević and Vidan Bojović. In fact, Bojović scored five in all – four for Serbia and a last-minute own goal to keep fans guessing right to the finish.

RUSSIA 4-3 SPAIN

(aet)

UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 Semi-final, Antwerp

Spain's nine-year reign, and unbeaten streak in Europe, was halted by their old rivals. From the fascinating tactical battle between Sergei Skorovich and Venancio López, to the players' mental and physical intensity and utter talent, this was modern futsal at its best. And of course it was tight until the end. Once again Spain trailed as the clock ticked down and once again they fought back to earn extra time. However, now Russia would have the final say, Robinho settling matters with 66 seconds left to ruin Spain's quest for a fifth successive title.



RUSSIA



TROPHY TARGET

Russia will be champions if they can surpass their runners-up finishes at the past two UEFA Futsal EUROs – and having beaten Spain in the semi-finals in Antwerp, they will fear no one. Although Italy proved a step too far in that 2014 final Sergei Skorovich's team will have gained from the experience and, further invigorated by fresh talent, will be targeting their first title since 1999. Cirilo has retired but Russia still boast plenty of experience: Dmitri Lyskov and Sergei Abramov lead by example, captain Nikolai Pereverzev and Ivan Milovanov add drive and character, with Eder Lima and Robinho other key figures. Russia have a rich pool of talented youngsters to draw from, with the Under-21s and the side that overcame Brazil to lift the 2014 Student World Cup giving Skorovich plenty of options as he strives to introduce new faces. With Russia also suffering a final defeat in 2005, there is no disguising the aim this time. "Reaching the final is a huge achievement in itself and we have done it on the last two occasions," Skorovich said. "It is a very difficult step to reach the very top but I am sure we can do it."

FIXTURES

3 February v Kazakhstan
7 February v Croatia

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 9
Best performance Winners 1999
Record P36 W20 D5 L11
Biggest win 7-1 v Netherlands 2014 group stage, 6-0 v Romania 2014 quarter-finals
Biggest loss 1-4 v Spain 2007 group stage

COACH



Sergei Skorovich
The 42-year-old's greatest success at club level came with Ekaterinburg whom he steered to UEFA Futsal Cup glory in 2008. He also became Russia coach in 2008 yet did not relinquish the Ekaterinburg reins until 2011, since when he has guided his country to two Futsal EURO finals.



Nikolai Pereverzev on the attack in victory against Bosnia and Herzegovina

	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Gustavo	05/02/1979	3/0	16/0	FC Dynamo
Ivan Poddubny	04/04/1986	0/0	8/0	FC Dynamo
Outfield players				
Andrei Afanasyev	23/05/1986	0/0	3/1	Ugra Yugosrk
Daniil Davydov	23/01/1989	0/0	3/0	Ugra Yugosrk
Ruslan Kudziev	12/12/1995	0/0	0/0	Sibiryak
Danil Kutuzov	13/03/1987	3/2	13/2	Dina Moskva
Eder Lima	29/06/1984	0/0	5/8	Ugra Yugosrk
Dmitri Lyskov	24/09/1987	3/2	12/5	Ugra Yugosrk
Ivan Milovanov	08/02/1989	3/0	11/0	Tyumen
Nikolai Pereverzev	15/12/1986	3/1	16/2	Tyumen
Robinho	28/01/1983	3/0	11/5	Ugra Yugosrk
Romulo	28/09/1986	3/1	3/1	FC Dynamo
Renat Shakirov	04/03/1990	0/0	0/0	MFK KPRF
Nikolai Shisterov	24/07/1991	3/0	6/0	Sinara Ekaterinburg

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina*	3	2	0	1	10	6	6
Netherlands	3	0	1	2	4	8	1
Latvia	3	0	1	2	6	15	1

*Hosts

Bosnia and Herzegovina 2-1 Netherlands, Russia 5-0 Latvia, Bosnia and Herzegovina 7-3 Latvia, Netherlands 0-3 Russia, Latvia 3-3 Netherlands, Russia 2-1 Bosnia and Herzegovina



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RUNNING ON INNOVATION





CROATIA



GROWING FORCE

Croatia have been moving in the right direction ever since Mato Stanković took charge in 2010, the inspiring coach and a very talented generation of players combining to make the Croats a force on the European stage. Dario Marinović, Tihomir Novak and Franco Jelovčić are influential players in a side that has no shortage of belief following an incredible ride to the semi-finals in 2012, roared on by record crowds in Split and Zagreb. More recently, their 3-3 draw with Spain and narrow loss to eventual champions Italy at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 show just how equipped they are to mix it with the very best. Croatia reached the quarter-finals in Belgium and arrive in Belgrade with sights set even higher after a brilliant qualifying campaign that featured a trio of impressive wins against Turkey (10-0), Armenia (8-0) and Slovakia (3-2). "Good performances raise the interest at home and the fans will come to nearby Belgrade for the matches," Stanković said. "We want to play well and attractively – if this proves enough to get through the group stage, even better. I don't want to promise anything spectacular; we'll do our best."

FIXTURES

5 February v Kazakhstan
7 February v Russia

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 5

Best performance Fourth place 2012

Record P14 W4 D3 L7

Biggest win All four Croatia wins have been by one-goal margins

Biggest loss 8-3 v Netherlands 1999 group stage, 5-0 v Ukraine 2001 group stage

COACH



Mato Stanković

Stanković, a brilliant motivator and tactical perfectionist, is leading Croatia in a third straight EURO. The highlight of his tenure so far was Croatia's quarter-final victory on penalties against Ukraine in 2012, achieved in Split in front of 9,800 roaring home supporters.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Franko Bilić	18/08/1988	3/0	3/0	Ekonomac (SRB)
Ivo Jukić	13/04/1986	3/0	22/0	MNK Split
Marin Stojkić	30/09/1984	3/0	16/0	MNK Split
Outfield players				
Saša Babić	04/08/1989	3/1	16/3	PesaroFano (ITA)
Duje Bajrušović	27/10/1984	3/0	17/4	MNK Split
Kristijan Grbeša	17/01/1990	3/2	11/3	Nacional Zagreb
Jakov Grcić	12/04/1983	3/3	18/8	MNK Split
Toni Jelavić	28/11/1991	0/0	0/0	PesaroFano (ITA)
Franco Jelovčić	06/07/1991	3/4	16/11	MNK Split
Dario Marinović	24/05/1990	3/5	19/18	Murcia FS (ESP)
Vedran Matošević	27/08/1990	3/0	9/0	Nacional Zagreb
Tihomir Novak	24/10/1986	3/2	19/7	Nacional Zagreb
Andrej Pandurević	05/07/1993	3/1	3/1	MNK Osijek
Josip Suton	14/11/1988	3/1	11/1	MNK Split

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia*	3	3	0	0	21	2	9
Slovakia	3	2	0	1	14	5	6
Turkey	3	1	0	2	8	18	3
Armenia	3	0	0	3	4	22	0

*Hosts

Slovakia 7-1 Armenia, Croatia 10-0 Turkey, Turkey 1-5 Slovakia, Croatia 8-0 Armenia, Armenia 3-7 Turkey, Slovakia 2-3 Croatia



Tihomir Novak on the ball against Slovakia



KAZAKHSTAN



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Higuita	06/06/1986	5/1	5/1	Kairat Almaty
Grigoriy Shamro	31/05/1984	5/0	16/0	Inzhu
Outfield players				
Douglas Jr.	15/10/1988	2/3	2/3	Kairat Almaty
Alexandr Grebonos	09/10/1987	5/0	5/0	Astana-Tulpar
Arnold Knaub	16/01/1995	0/0	0/0	Astana-Tulpar
Leo	21/05/1987	5/2	5/2	Kairat Almaty
Timur Murzabayev	21/03/1989	0/0	0/0	Ayat Rudny
Dauren Nurgozhin	21/05/1990	5/2	14/4	Kairat Almaty
Nikolay Pengrin	07/08/1984	5/3	16/6	Astana-Tulpar
Mikhail Pershin	19/10/1989	5/3	16/4	Kairat Almaty
Dinmukhambet Suleimenov	25/08/1981	5/0	21/5	Kairat Almaty
Pavel Taku	30/08/1988	5/1	8/2	Astana-Tulpar
Chingiz Yesenamanov	10/03/1989	5/3	17/5	Kairat Almaty
Serik Zhamankulov	18/11/1983	5/1	11/2	Kairat Almaty

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	2	0	1	12	4	6
Kazakhstan	3	2	0	1	11	7	6
Romania	3	2	0	1	11	9	6
Georgia	3	0	0	3	1	15	0

*Hosts

Portugal 7-0 Georgia, Romania 6-4 Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan 3-1 Portugal, Romania 4-1 Georgia, Georgia 0-4 Kazakhstan, Portugal 4-1 Romania

Play-offs

Bosnia and Herzegovina 0-5 Kazakhstan
Kazakhstan 4-0 Bosnia and Herzegovina
Kazakhstan win 9-0 on aggregate

'WE'VE MADE IT'

"This is a great achievement for the whole country, we've finally made it," coach Cacau said after Kazakhstan reached the final tournament for the first time at their sixth attempt. A comprehensive play-off victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina caught the eye, as did their surprise 3-1 win against heavyweights Portugal in main round Group 7. Kazakhstan are the only newcomers at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016, though Cacau and his players will be well known to European futsal fans. The team draws heavily on the Kairat Almaty side that Cacau guided to victory in the 2013 and 2015 UEFA Futsal Cups, and the tactics too are familiar – with Higuita frequently deployed as flying goalkeeper to help monopolise possession. "Eight Kairat players are now with the national team, so I see these boys almost every day which is very important for me," Cacau said. Chingiz Yesenamanov, Dauren Nurgozhin, Mikhail Pershin, leading scorer Nikolay Pengrin and veteran Dinmukhambet Suleimenov have been together with the national side for the past six years, while Leo, Douglas Jr and Higuita have more recently made an impact. Having come this far, Cacau is determined to take his squad to the next level. "We are ambitious, we don't want to stop here."

FIXTURES

3 February v Russia
5 February v Croatia

COMPETITION FACT FILE

Final tournament appearances 1

Qualifying record P18 W10 D2 L6

Biggest win 13-0 v Malta 2007 preliminary round

Biggest loss 7-0 v Spain 2010 qualifying round

COACH



Cacau

Cacau contested three UEFA Futsal Cup semi-finals as a player and has twice steered Kairat to the European title as a coach. The 44-year-old Brazilian has also combined Kairat duties with training the national side since 2013, overseeing their finest moment so far by qualifying for this tournament.

KADA SI NAJBOLJI ONDA SI JEDINI



— Moment
in time



Ricardinho's scissor kick in the 2007 semi-final against Spain was one of the best goals of any Futsal EURO. It gave Portugal a 2-0 lead with five minutes to go in front of their frenzied supporters in Porto. Spain hit back to win a thrilling match in extra time, but the Portuguese fans' disappointment was tempered by the knowledge they had seen something very special. From the halfway line, Pedro Costa picked his team-mate out on the far corner of the D with a lofted pass, and from the tightest of angles and without letting the ball drop, Ricardinho leapt and twisted and, when horizontal to the floor, smashed an unstoppable shot beyond Luis Amado in the Spain goal. Simply amazing.

Rules of the game

A quick guide to the basics



Italy push Russia back during the 2014 final in Antwerp

TEAMS

The game is five-a-side, but each squad at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 consists of 14 players, 12 of whom are selected per match.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions are unlimited and can take place at any time during play provided a player does not go on before his teammate 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 is made up of two 20-minute halves, with a timekeeper stopping the clock whenever the whistle is blown.

TIE-BREAKER

If the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final are drawn, two five-minute periods of extra time are played, followed by a penalty shoot-out if the scores are still level.

REFEREES

Three officials take part in every game – one on either 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

After a team has committed five fouls in one half, for every subsequent foul their opponents get a free shot at goal from the second penalty mark, ten metres out. If the foul is closer to the goal, the shot can be taken from where the infringement occurred. At half-time both foul counts are reset to zero but not prior to either period of extra time, where second-half fouls continue to count.

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 full strength immediately, though the sent-off player still cannot be used.

FLYING GOALKEEPER

An outfield player can come on and off as a substitute for the goalkeeper, but the referee must make sure that this so-called flying goalkeeper is wearing a keeper's jersey with his own number – and that all of a team's flying goalkeepers wear the same colour (different from both the standard keepers' and the outfield players').

KICK-IN

Play is restarted with a kick-in if the ball crosses either touchline (but not the goal line) or hits the ceiling. Goals cannot be scored direct from a kick-in.

RESTART

Players have four seconds to restart play from a kick-in or free-kick. At set plays or when the keeper has the ball, the referee raises an arm and counts down with his fingers those four seconds.

TIME-OUT

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

THE BALL

With a circumference of 62-64cm, the futsal ball is about 10% smaller than the outdoor ball, but the weight (400-440gm) is about the same and so is the pressure. The ball shapes the way the game is played: headers are rare, passes need to be fast and firmly struck and a top-class first touch is essential. Shots tend to fly straight rather than swerve or dip.

THE COURT

The UEFA Futsal EURO court is 44.4m long and nearly 25m wide and is composed of 1,273 laminated black and red wooden tiles, which take up to six hours to install. It is designed to offer the best balance between ball speed and shoe grip, and is faster than the parquet floors generally used for futsal at club level. The striking black flooring was selected with television in mind after viewers showed a preference for it.

THE KEEPER

Futsal goalkeepers usually don't wear gloves to give them greater control when rolling or throwing the ball to a teammate. Goalkeepers are the key player in any team and are important for far more than their shot-stopping skills. The tactics behind the flying goalkeeper vary: late in – or when chasing – a game the rule allows for an extra attacker, with the main goalkeeper being substituted to gain an outfield player wearing a keeper's jersey. However, the device is often used earlier as well as a defensive ploy if a team is looking to keep possession.

THRILLS AND SKILLS

Futsal is famed for the players' technique, their skill on the ball and the pace of the game. From the Sombrero to the Bicicleta and Elástica, players love to turn on the style when the opportunity arises. The secret, though, is keeping the ball. Teams are most vulnerable after losing possession and those that master the lightning-quick transition from defence to attack prosper. Players use the sole of the boot to control the ball, enabling them to protect it at close quarters and also pick a pass. In contrast to football, the toe-poked shot is common – players can release the ball quickly, at pace and perfectly straight.

Nacionalni sponzor



KOMERCIJALNA BANKA
Meni najbliža

Back for more



Italy coach Roberto Menichelli warns the Azzurri that defending the trophy will be harder than winning it two years ago

What does it mean to Italy to be back defending the trophy?

We are back as champions so we will have an even more difficult task this time. It will be a great championship in Belgrade, because all the teams that have qualified are top quality.

What do you think of your Group D opponents?

The Czech Republic and Azerbaijan are both in the top echelon of European teams so from the start of the group phase we will have to be very focused and well prepared.

What is your goal in Belgrade?

The first, actually the only aim for the Italian squad is to play as well as we can – to play at a high level. We achieved something great by winning the EURO two years ago, but to repeat that is probably even more difficult than doing it first time around.

What did the win in Antwerp mean to Italian futsal?

It wasn't only a huge success for this team; what was particularly important was that Italian futsal as a whole took a massive step forward. The European title was very significant for youngsters who are now much more interested in playing futsal. It was a big deal for football too, not just futsal. A lot of coaches and trainers were inspired by our success and futsal became part of the conversation in major football circles in Italy. There were only positives for futsal because of our achievement in Belgium.

How much has confidence grown within the side since Italy became champions?

When I started with this team, the boys were much less experienced, especially in big tournaments. Since playing the EURO in Croatia, the World Cup in Bangkok and another EURO in Antwerp, I can now say that the majority of the team have grown and are mature and prepared for any challenge. Of course the biggest factor in that was our gold medal in Belgium.

You still have most of the squad available from 2014. How important is that continuity?

Of course continuity is important. Futsal is quite unique when it comes to putting a team together, as players have to know each other really well. Hopefully in Belgrade we will be a mature side, influenced by a few younger players knocking on the door of the first team. But European futsal is full of big teams like Spain, Russia, Portugal and some others, and any one of them can go far. Hopefully Italy will be there again on the last day of the competition.

"Italian futsal as a whole took a massive step forward"



Gabriel Lima lifts the trophy in 2014



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GROUP D



ITALY

Italy/Czech Republic/Azerbaijan



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Stefano Mammarella	02/02/1984	3/0	25/2	Marina CSA
Francesco Moliterno	14/10/1989	0/0	0/0	Carlisport Cogianco
Outfield players				
Mauro Canal	25/06/1986	3/1	3/1	Pescara
Massimo De Luca	07/10/1987	3/0	11/0	Asti
Marco Ercolessi	15/05/1986	3/1	20/3	Pescara
Rodolfo Fortino	30/04/1983	3/2	19/13	Sporting CP (POR)
Daniel Giasson	24/08/1987	3/2	11/3	Luparense
Humberto Honorio	21/07/1983	3/0	16/4	Luparense
Luca Leggiero	11/11/1984	1/0	9/2	Pescara
Gabriel Lima	19/08/1987	3/3	20/14	Murcia FS (ESP)
Alex Merlim	15/07/1986	3/0	11/1	Sporting CP (POR)
Murilo	10/03/1989	3/1	8/2	Marina CSA
Alessandro Patias	08/07/1985	3/1	14/7	SL Benfica (POR)
Sergio Romano	28/09/1987	3/0	22/4	Asti

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	12	4	9
Belarus	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Finland	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
Poland*	3	0	1	2	5	9	1

*Hosts

Italy 4-0 Finland, Poland 0-0 Belarus, Belarus 1-2 Italy, Poland 2-3 Finland, Finland 0-2 Belarus, Italy 6-3 Poland



Alessandro Patias keeps his Polish marker at arm's length

TOP OF THEIR GAME

"We did a great thing winning the EURO two years ago, but to repeat that is probably even more difficult than to achieve it first time," Italy coach Roberto Menichelli said. That, though, is the dream and Italy have the same ambition and virtually the same squad from 2014. The two-time champions booked their place with the minimum of fuss, winning all three main round games against Belarus, Finland and Poland. Of that squad, 12 of the 14 players featured at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 and only Vampeta and Saad Assis are no longer with the team. Goalkeeper Stefano Mammarella is reliability personified, captain Gabriel Lima needs no introduction and 32-year-old Humberto Honorio is as solid and creative as ever since overcoming a serious knee injury. Rodolfo Fortino, Alex Merlim and Murilo provide the creativity, Sergio Romano, Daniel Giasson, Marco Ercolessi and Massimo De Luca the drive. Watch out too for rising star Mauro Canal, who has helped Pescara win the Scudetto and reach the UEFA Futsal Cup finals. What matters most, however, is the group itself and the players' ability to keep level heads under intense pressure. Who would have predicted Italy as champions in 2014 after losing their opening match against Slovenia? Few would doubt they could do it again though.

FIXTURES

3 February v Azerbaijan
7 February v Czech Republic

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 9

Best performance Winners 2003, 2014

Record P38 W26 D6 L6

Biggest win 7-0 v Azerbaijan 2014 group stage

Biggest loss 1-3 v Spain 2007 final and 1999 semi-final; 2-4 v Russia 2005 semi-final

COACH



Roberto Menichelli

Capped 28 times by Italy as a player, the 53-year-old is nearing his sixth anniversary as coach. He recently passed 100 games at the helm and boasts a winning percentage of over 70%. Menichelli led the Azzurri to European glory in 2014 after twice taking bronze in 2012 at the UEFA Futsal EURO and FIFA Futsal World Cup.



CZECH REPUBLIC



AZERBAIJAN



'WE ARE OPTIMISTS'

The Czech Republic left it late to see off Belarus in the play-offs and qualify for their eighth straight UEFA Futsal EURO. After winning the home leg 2-1, Tomáš Neumann's side only earned some breathing space with 13 seconds to go in the second leg when Radim Záruba scored into an empty net to put them 1-0 up. Even then Belarus still equalised, though the Czechs held on for a 3-2 aggregate victory. Goalkeeper Libor Gerčák was the hero with vital saves in both games, and he, captain Lukáš Rešetár, veteran Roman Mareš and forward Michal Seidler form the backbone of a team hardly changed since UEFA EURO 2014. Sharp-shooter Seidler has grown in stature since then, with youngsters Michal Kovács and Záruba also impressing. "We are stronger for the great experience of two difficult matches against a very tough and disciplined Belarus side," said Neumann ahead of his next tests against Azerbaijan and Italy in Belgrade. "We are optimists because every game begins at 0-0. Our group will be very, very hard, so the quarter-finals are our main aim." The Czech Republic were knocked out in the group stage in 2014, but will draw strength from semi-final showings in 2003 and 2010.

FIXTURES

5 February v Azerbaijan
7 February v Italy

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 8

Best performance Third place 2010

Record P22 W5 D3 L14

Biggest win 8-3 v Slovenia 2003 group stage

Biggest loss 1-8 v Spain 2010 and 2014 group stages

COACH



Tomáš Neumann

The former Czechoslovak and Czech international went into coaching after ending his stellar playing career in 2000, starting at Viktoria Žižkov. Following a stint with the Under-21s he stepped up to the seniors after UEFA Futsal EURO 2005 and has subsequently taken his charges to every FIFA Futsal World Cup and UEFA Futsal EURO.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Libor Gerčák	22/07/1975	5/0	21/1	Nejzbach Vysoké Mýto
Ondřej Vahala	25/05/1990	5/0	5/0	Slavia Praha
Outfield players				
Michal Belej	16/11/1982	5/3	20/11	Benago
David Cupák	27/05/1989	5/0	10/0	Helas Brno
Jan Janovský	20/06/1985	5/0	24/1	Rekord Bielsko-Biala (POL)
Michal Kovács	17/04/1990	5/3	7/3	EP Chrudim
Michal Mareš	03/02/1976	2/0	34/12	EP Chrudim
Roman Mareš	15/03/1975	2/0	31/23	EP Chrudim
Jiří Novotný	12/07/1988	5/1	20/3	Slavia Praha
Lukáš Rešetár	28/04/1984	5/0	29/10	EP Chrudim
Marcel Rodek	07/11/1988	0/0	2/0	Benago
Michal Seidler	05/04/1990	5/2	12/7	Györi ETO (HUN)
Zdeněk Sláma	28/12/1982	5/0	29/3	Sparta Praha
Radim Záruba	28/12/1994	2/1	5/1	EP Chrudim

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovenia*	3	3	0	0	18	3	9
Czech Republic	3	2	0	1	10	6	6
France	3	1	0	2	8	17	3
Norway	3	0	0	3	1	11	0

*Hosts

Slovenia 4-0 Norway, Czech Republic 5-3 France, Norway 0-4 Czech Republic, Slovenia 11-2 France, France 3-1 Norway, Czech Republic 1-3 Slovenia

Play-offs

Czech Republic 2-1 Belarus
Belarus 1-1 Czech Republic

Czech Republic win 3-2 on aggregate



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Competition Apps/Goals	Club
Goalkeepers				
Rovshan Huseynli	03/04/1991	5/0	5/0	Araz Naxçıvan
Elnur Zamanov	17/05/1981	0/0	8/0	Neftchi Baku
Outfield players				
Amadeu	06/03/1990	5/2	7/3	Araz Naxçıvan
André	01/04/1983	0/0	0/0	Douai Gayant (FRA)
Augusto	25/02/1980	5/2	7/3	Araz Naxçıvan
Vitaliy Borisov	05/07/1982	5/3	24/13	Araz Naxçıvan
Ramiz Chovdarov	28/07/1990	5/2	5/2	Araz Naxçıvan
Sergey Chuykov	04/09/1980	0/0	0/0	Progress (RUS)
Fineo De Araujo	10/04/1987	3/3	3/3	Araz Naxçıvan
Eduardo	14/10/1986	5/2	10/3	Araz Naxçıvan
Rizvan Farzaliyev	01/09/1979	5/1	31/5	Araz Naxçıvan
Samir Hamzayev	01/08/1989	2/0	2/0	Araz Naxçıvan
Rafael	26/12/1982	5/0	7/2	Araz Naxçıvan
Zeynal Zeynalov	06/12/1979	0/0	0/0	Neftchi Baku

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

Qualifying results

Main round Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	3	3	0	0	17	6	9
Azerbaijan*	3	2	0	1	16	6	6
Belgium	3	1	0	2	8	15	3
Denmark	3	0	0	3	7	21	0

*Hosts

Ukraine 5-2 Denmark, Azerbaijan 3-1 Belgium, Belgium 2-9 Ukraine, Azerbaijan 11-2 Denmark, Denmark 3-5 Belgium, Ukraine 3-2 Azerbaijan

Play-offs

Azerbaijan 3-1 Slovakia
Slovakia 1-1 Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan win 4-2 on aggregate

NEW LOOK

Azerbaijan qualified the hard way, beating Slovakia in the play-offs to reach a fourth consecutive EURO. Their biggest success had come on their final-tournament debut in 2010 when the little-known Azeris surprised many by getting to the semi-finals where they lost to Portugal on penalties. Since then Azerbaijani futsal has grown in stature. Azerbaijan are now an established and experienced force on the international stage, while Araz Naxçıvan have flown the flag at club level, contesting two UEFA Futsal Cup semi-finals in the past six seasons. Coach Faustino Pérez's principal challenge has been to introduce a number of new faces, and goalkeeper Rovshan Huseynli in particular has impressed. An opening game against champions Italy is about as tough as it gets for the youngsters. "New players have come in with fresh ideas and we have to use their potential to the full," Pérez said. "With new players there is also a new concept in our game. I'm certain we can be very solid and hard to beat. They are young but ambitious and disciplined." Watch out too for Azerbaijan's use of the flying keeper, Vitaliy Borisov's mastery of the role making it a key part of their tactical arsenal.

FIXTURES

3 February v Italy
5 February v Czech Republic

FINAL TOURNAMENT FACT FILE

Appearances 4

Best performance Fourth place 2010

Record P9 W3 D2 L4

Biggest win 6-1 v Czech Republic 2010 group stage

Biggest loss 7-0 v Italy 2014 group stage

COACH



Faustino Pérez

The experienced 46-year-old Spaniard replaced Alesio at the helm after the 2014 tournament, having previously enjoyed a brilliant run of success at club level. Twice a UEFA Futsal Cup winner with Playas de Castellón, Pérez also led Dynamo to the final on two occasions as well as clinching a hat-trick of Russian titles.

EURO facts and figures

The eight final tournaments in numbers, from the first official event in 1999 to Italy's triumph in 2014

THE FINALS

2014 Italy 3-1 Russia Antwerp, Belgium	2005 Spain 2-1 Russia Ostrava, Czech Republic
2012 Spain 3-1 Russia (aet) Zagreb, Croatia	2003 Italy 1-0 Ukraine Caserta, Italy
2010 Spain 4-2 Portugal Debrecen, Hungary	2001 Spain 2-1 Ukraine (Golden goal) Moscow, Russia
2007 Spain 3-1 Italy Porto, Portugal	1999 Russia 3-3 Spain (aet, Russia win 4-2 on pens) Granada, Spain

LEADING SCORERS

Daniel, Spain	16
Serhiy Koridze, Ukraine	15
Javi Rodríguez, Spain	13
Konstantin Eremenko, Russia	12
Gonçalo, Portugal	12
Adriano Foglia, Italy	11
Fernando Grana, Italy	11
Torras, Spain	11

MOST APPEARANCES

Luis Amado, Spain	33
Kike, Spain	29
João Benedito, Portugal	23
Daniel, Spain	21
Aleksandr Fukin, Russia	20
Gonçalo, Portugal	19
Sergey Zuev, Russia	19

Appearance = selection for match day squad

TOP SCORER BY EURO

2014 Eder Lima (Russia)	8
2012 Torras (Spain), Dario Marinović (Croatia)	5
2010 Saad Assis (Italy), Biro Jade (Azerbaijan), Javi Rodríguez (Spain), Joel Queirós (Portugal)	5
2007 Cirilo (Russia), Daniel (Spain), Predrag Rajić (Serbia)	5
2005 Nando Grana (Italy)	6
2003 Serhiy Koridze (Ukraine)	7
2001 Serhiy Koridze (Ukraine)	7
1999 Konstantin Eremenko (Russia)	11

14,300

Tournament-record crowd that saw Russia beat Croatia 4-2 in the 2012 semi-finals in Zagreb.

9-1

Spain's 2010 group stage win against Belarus was the biggest ever at a Futsal EURO.

5

Most goals in a game, by Ukraine's Serhiy Koridze in a 7-4 win against Portugal in the 2003 group stage.

9-8

Serbia's incredible victory over Azerbaijan in the 2012 group stage remains the highest-scoring match in a Futsal EURO.

11

Konstantin Eremenko still holds the record for most goals scored at a Futsal EURO – 11 for Russia at the first official tournament in 1999.

18

18 countries have competed in a Futsal EURO final tournament – the current 12 plus Belgium, Netherlands, Romania, Belarus, Poland and Turkey.



The fastest Futsal EURO goal was scored by Felipe after just eight seconds of Azerbaijan's 9-8 loss to Serbia in the 2012 group stage.



Italy, Russia and Spain have each featured in a record **NINE** final tournaments.

YOUNGEST

PLAYER

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

OLDEST

PLAYER

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

GOALSCORER

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

GOALSCORER

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

SHADOW-BOXING

Kristjan Čujec stretches to block José Ruiz's shot as their shadows dance on the court tiles during the 2014 UEFA Futsal EURO quarter-final between Spain and Slovenia. Spain won 4-0 to maintain their record of having reached the semi-finals at least of every UEFA European Futsal Championship, but their run ended there – beaten 4-3 by Russia after extra time in the last four.




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Futsal first

Like countless Brazilian stars before him, Shakhtar Donetsk playmaker Alex Teixeira honed his craft playing futsal as a youngster



With its emphasis on quick feet, close ball control and dazzling technique, futsal is as Brazilian as a colourful Rio street carnival or a balmy evening on Copacabana beach.

The game itself was actually born in neighbouring Uruguay in the 1930s, but it was in Brazil where futsal – or 'futebol de salão' (indoor football) – truly exploded into life. The country's crowded cities and a lack of outdoor pitches forced many football enthusiasts to take their passion indoors, and the skills fostered in the small-sided game soon spilled over into the traditional form of the sport.

Seleção legends such as Pelé, Socrates, Zico and Ronaldinho all grew up playing futsal and have credited the discipline with helping shape their mastery of the ball – as have some of the biggest names in European football including Andrés Iniesta and Cristiano Ronaldo.

That tradition continues to this day, as Shakhtar Donetsk attacking midfielder Alex Teixeira is well-placed to attest. Yet another Brazilian gem to have passed through the futsal school of refinement, the 26-year-old first discovered the game at Vasco da Gama and feels indebted to its unique challenges for sharpening his talents.

"I started playing when I was nine or ten and I played it for three years," he said. "That was at Vasco, where I began my career – everything started there. And futsal helps you a lot. What I later took with me onto the pitch was how to turn quickly, as well as speed and the ability to sprint. It's where you learn everything, where you practise a lot. It helped me with short dribbles and you accelerate quite often, so that was all useful."

As a boy looking up to Romário, Alex Teixeira could not get enough of football whether it was indoors or out, and focusing on both forms gave him a release for his boundless energy – while also building his stamina. "As a ten-year-old you don't really get tired, you always want to play," he said. "I learned a lot from always working on my physical fitness. Football is a game where you can't stay still for long – you need to move – so I learned that and was able to take it onto the pitch."

The prolific schemer eventually had to choose between the two pursuits, but even after his promotion to Vasco's first team in 2008, he would regularly stop and watch the club's youngsters playing futsal after training. He left Brazil for Shakhtar in 2010 and has emerged as the Ukrainian giants' talisman this term – scoring three goals in their UEFA Champions League group stage bid – though he retains a keen interest in the small-sided game, like so many of his compatriots.

"Futsal is very popular in Brazil," he explained. "Brazil have the best player in the world, Falcão, so the stadiums are always full whenever there are futsal matches." The national team have certainly guarded their status jealously, winning five of the seven editions of the FIFA Futsal World Cup – Spain won the other two – including the most recent in 2012. Perhaps just as importantly, however, Brazil continues to give youngsters a grounding in the indoor game – and Alex Teixeira will surely not be the last to thrill crowds with tricks picked up on the futsal court.

"Futsal helps you a lot. It's where you learn everything"



Brazil beat Spain 3-2 after extra time to win their fifth FIFA Futsal World Cup in 2012



TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Futsal is famous for tricks, flicks and the incredible skills of its players. Keep your eyes out for these favourites at the UEFA Futsal EURO.

● ROULETTE

A Zinédine Zidane special: control the top of the ball with one foot as you start to turn your back on the defender; then roll on the top of the ball with the other foot as you spin 360° and away from them.

● RABONA

Plant one leg on the floor and bring the other leg around it to strike the ball.

● HOCUS POCUS

A close relative of the Rabona: position your weaker foot beside the ball and use the other foot to drag it back around your standing leg. As you push forward you will take two touches with your still-active foot – one with the instep, the next with your laces.

● PANNAS – FLIP FLAP – ELÁSTICO

Flick the ball forward with the outside of the boot, then immediately cut it back inside you using the instep of the same foot. The defender goes one way; you and the ball travel the other.

● SOMBRERO – CABRITO

Using the outside of both ankles in a scissors movement, lift the ball up off the ground and then scoop it back over your head as you spin around in the direction you wish to run.

● SOMBRERO II

A fiendish variant of the Sombrero involves you nudging the ball deceptively away from yourself before chipping it back up over your head – and your opponent – in order to tear round and retrieve it.

● STEPOVER DOUBLE CHOP – PEDALADA

A Cristiano Ronaldo trademark: roll the ball forward and perform a stepover; then with one foot chop the ball softly in one direction before knocking it back the other way with pace to leave the defender behind.

● LAMBRETTA – RAINBOW FLICK

An outrageously stylish move whereby you roll the ball with your back heel up across your other leg to then lift it over the head of your opponent.

● NUTMEG

Knock the ball through your opponent's legs then burst past them to get it back.

● AROUND THE WORLD

Balance the ball between your foot and the front of your ankle; flick it up and pass your leg over and around the ball as it remains in the air.

● FAKE EXIT

Twist 180 degrees with your foot on top of the ball, rolling it behind you as you change direction and leave the defender in your wake.

● FAKE PASS

Drag the ball back and short of your standing foot as if you are going to change direction. Once the defender commits, reverse the move and hit the accelerator.



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