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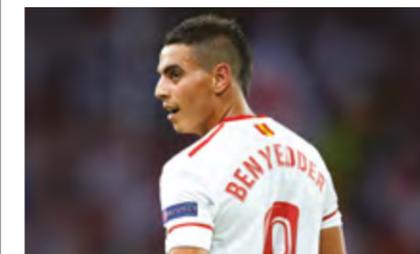
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BACK ON TOP

Spain reclaimed the UEFA European Futsal Championship crown in style in 2016. Having been surprisingly knocked out by Russia in the semi-finals of UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, they hit back with venom to win the competition for the seventh time in Belgrade. On the way to the title, they scored a record 27 goals, starting with a 5-2 rout of Hungary. Here Álex (right) congratulates Miguelín on scoring one of his two goals in the game. The forward hit four more during the tournament to finish as joint-top scorer with six.





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UEFA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SPOROČILO PRESEDNIKA UEFE

WELCOME TO THE EURO

Dobrodošli na UEFA Futsal EURO 2018

ALEKSANDER ČEFERIN
 UEFA President
 Predsednik UEFE



Every major European final tournament creates its own special atmosphere and the 2018 UEFA European Futsal Championship finals will be no exception.

The premier tournament in European national team futsal comes to Slovenia for its latest edition, and is certain to set new benchmarks on and off the field. The event also arrives at an exciting time of development for futsal on this continent, following a series of strategy decisions that will take the sport forward with purpose in the coming years.

This will be the last EURO finals played every two years and featuring 12 teams. Future finals will comprise 16 teams and take place every four years, starting in 2022, meaning that more national associations and players will have the opportunity to perform on this high-profile international stage.

In addition to this, new women's and national team youth competitions are being launched in 2019, and the UEFA Futsal Cup is to be renamed the UEFA Futsal Champions League from the 2018/19 season. All of these innovations will certainly help to enhance futsal's profile even further.

The last Futsal EURO, in Belgrade in 2016, produced new records for attendances and the number of goals scored, and demonstrated just how far futsal has come since UEFA began to organise futsal tournaments in the mid-1990s. Slovenia is keen to raise the bar even higher this time around. The impressive Arena Stožice in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana will be an ideal setting for the very best that European national team futsal can offer.

I am proud that my native Slovenia is hosting this tournament, and I hope that the teams, their fans and everyone involved in the event will enjoy their time in the country, which has many attractions and sights to savour. My thanks go to the Football Association of Slovenia (NZS) for staging the Futsal EURO, and I am sure that we can look forward to plenty of excitement and entertainment, with the finals played in a true spirit of fair play and respect.

Vsak veliki evropski zaključni turnir ustvari svoje posebno ozračje in finale evropskega prvenstva UEFA v futsalu 2018 ne bo izjema.

V Slovenijo prihaja najpomembnejši turnir v evropskem reprezentančnem futsalu, ki bo zagotovo postavil nove mejnike tako na igrišču kot zunaj igrišča. Dogodek prihaja v vznemirljivem času sprememb za futsal na tej celini, po vrsti strateških odločitev, ki bodo v naslednjih letih ta šport popeljale proti načrtani prihodnosti.

To bo zadnji zaključni turnir evropskega prvenstva, ki se igra na dve leti in vključuje 12 ekip. Prihodnji zaključni turnirji bodo vključevali 16 ekip in se odvijali na vsaka štiri leta z začetkom leta 2022, s čimer bo imelo več nacionalnih zvez in igralcev priložnost sodelovati na tem pomembnem mednarodnem prizorišču.

Poleg tega se bodo z letom 2019 začela ženska in mladinska reprezentančna tekmovanja, UEFA Futsal Cup pa se bo s sezono 2018/2019 preimenoval v UEFA Futsal ligo prvakov. Vse te novosti bodo zagotovo pripomogle k še boljši prepoznavnosti futsala.

Zadnji Futsal EURO v Beogradu leta 2016 je postavil nove rekorde v obiskanosti in številu doseženih golov ter pokazal, kako daleč je futsal prišel, odkar je UEFA sredi devetdesetih let prejšnjega stoletja začela organizirati turnirje v futsalu. Slovenija si prizadeva, da bi tokrat standarde dvignila na še višjo raven. Impresivna Arena Stožice v slovenski prestolnici bo popolno prizorišče za najboljše, kar evropski reprezentančni futsal lahko ponudi.

Ponosen sem, da moja domača Slovenija gosti to tekmovanje, in upam, da bodo ekipe, navijači in vsi, ki sodelujejo pri dogodku, uživali v naši državi, ki ponuja številne zanimivosti in znamenitosti. Zahvaljujem se Nogometni zvezi Slovenije (NZS) za pripravo Futsal EURO in prepričan sem, da se lahko veselimo obilice vznemirjenja in zabave ter da bo finale odigran v resničnem duhu fair playa in spoštovanja.

**"I AM PROUD
 THAT MY NATIVE
 SLOVENIA IS
 HOSTING THIS
 TOURNAMENT"**

**"PONOSEN SEM, DA
 MOJA SLOVENIJA
 GOSTI TO
 TEKMOVANJE"**

HOST MESSAGES

SPOROČILI GOSTITELJEV

WELCOME TO SLOVENIA

Dobrodošli v Sloveniji

RADENKO MIJATOVIČ
Football Association
of Slovenia president
Predsednik Nogometne
zveze Slovenije



Great stories are written from great opportunities. The Football Association of Slovenia (NZS) has been given such an opportunity – the proud honour of organising the biggest sports event in Slovenia this year, UEFA Futsal EURO 2018.

This is the second UEFA final tournament to take place in Slovenia after the UEFA European Under-17 Championship finals in 2012, and the first one at senior level. For the association, our role as hosts represents significant recognition. Now comes the challenge of organising such a major event to the highest possible standards.

We are fully aware of the opportunities created by this tournament. We are pleased that we will be contributing to the promotion of futsal, and we are confident that the finals will have a positive effect on the Slovenian economy and tourism as well.

In hosting the leading European national futsal teams and their players, we will be taking the name of Slovenia and Ljubljana not only to the countries participating in the finals, but beyond our borders as well, because the tournament will be watched throughout Europe and the world. We will naturally be following our Slovenian team with optimism and hope. We feel they could be one of the pleasant surprises of the tournament and home support should be an advantage for our players.

On behalf of the Slovenian FA, I sincerely thank everybody involved in this event. Special thanks also to UEFA and the city of Ljubljana for all of their support. See you in Stožice!

Odlične zgodbe nastanejo iz odličnih priložnosti. Nogometna zveza Slovenije (NZS) je dobila takšno priložnost – čast organizirati letošnji največji športni dogodek v Sloveniji, UEFA Futsal EURO 2018.

To je drugi zaključni turnir UEFA, ki se bo

odvijal v Sloveniji po zaključnem turnirju evropskega prvenstva UEFA do 17 let leta 2012, in prvi na članski ravni. Kot zvezi nam vloga gostitelja pomeni veliko priznanje. Zdaj sledi izziv organizirati tako velik dogodek po najvišjih možnih standardih.

Popolnoma se zavedamo priložnosti, ki jih je ustvaril ta turnir. Veselimo se, da bomo prispevali k promociji futsala, in prepričani smo, da bo zaključni turnir pozitivno vplival tudi na slovensko gospodarstvo in turizem.

Kot gostitelji vodilnih evropskih futsal reprezentanc in njihovih igralcev bomo ponesli ime Slovenije in Ljubljane v države, ki sodelujejo na zaključnem turnirju, pa tudi onkraj naših meja, saj si bodo tekmovalje ogledali po vsej Evropi in svetu. Seveda bomo slovensko ekipo spremljali z optimizmom in upanjem. Verjamemo, da so lahko eno izmed prijetnih presenečenj turnirja, domača podpora pa je tudi prednost za naše igralce.

V imenu Slovenske nogometne zveze se iskreno zahvaljujem vsem, ki sodelujejo pri tem dogodku. Posebna zahvala gre tudi UEFA in Mestni občini Ljubljana za vso njuno podporo. Nasvidenje v Stožicah!

ZORAN JANKOVIČ
Mayor of the
City of Ljubljana
Župan Mestne
občine Ljubljana



I am proud that Ljubljana is hosting UEFA Futsal EURO 2018. The city's impressive Arena Stožice will be an ideal setting for hard-fought matches, contested in a spirit of fair play to determine who becomes European champions.

I am convinced that the fans will create an outstanding atmosphere. They have proved on many occasions how much they value and support the players, cheer every goal and, above all, respect fair play.



UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 Golden Player Miguelín gets the ball rolling in Ljubljana in the countdown to the 2018 tournament

Zlati igralec UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 Miguelín izvaja začetni udarec v Ljubljani ob odštevanju do turnirja 2018

Ljubljana is a clean, green, safe and kind city that loves sport. We will welcome you with open arms, and offer you the hospitality for which we are well known. Solidarity, comradeship and mutual respect are all characteristics which have a decisive impact on the Slovenian capital's everyday life. This is why, in my eyes, Ljubljana is the most beautiful city in the world. I am extremely proud that everybody can feel at home in Ljubljana, because we cherish diversity, and respect every individual that comes to our city.

During UEFA Futsal EURO 2018, the city's heart will beat for futsal, so be sure to check out all the social events taking place in the city centre. I am certain that you will enjoy them, and that you will want to come back again as a result. We will always be happy to greet you here! Good luck and may the best team win.

Ponosen sem, da Ljubljana gosti UEFA Futsal EURO 2018. Impresivna Arena Stožice bo popolno prizorišče za težke tekme, odigrane v duhu fair playa, ki bodo odločile, kdo bo postal evropski prvak.

Prepričan sem, da bodo navijači ustvarili izjemno ozračje. Velikokrat so dokazali, kako cenijo in podpirajo igralce, se razveselijo vsakega gola in predvsem spoštujejo fair play.

Ljubljana je čisto, zeleno, varno in prijazno mesto, ki ljubi šport. Sprejeli vas bomo odprtih rok in vam ponudili gostoljubje, po katerem slovimo. Solidarnost, tovarištvo in vzajemno spoštovanje so karakteristike, ki odločilno vplivajo na vsakdanjik slovenske prestolnice. Ravno zato je Ljubljana v mojih očeh najlepše mesto na svetu. Izjemno ponosen sem na to, da se lahko v Ljubljani vsakdo počuti kot doma, saj cenimo raznolikost in spoštujemo vsakega posameznika, ki pride v naše mesto.

V času UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 bo srce mesta bilo za nogomet, zato ne spreglejte vseh družabnih dogodkov, ki se bodo odvijali v središču mesta. Prepričan sem, da boste v njih uživali in se v Ljubljano želeli še vračati. Tukaj vas bomo vedno z veseljem sprejeli! Vso srečo in naj zmagaja najboljša ekipa.



Futsal's great leap forward

A bigger EURO and new competitions highlight the scale of UEFA's futsal ambitions

Packed stadiums, passionate fans, a global television audience and record participation – the UEFA Futsal EURO is booming and it is about to get even bigger as UEFA steps up its commitment to the small-sided game.

A record 47 nations took part in qualifying, and to meet a rise in standards, competition and demand, the UEFA Futsal EURO will be expanded to 16 teams in 2022. The final tournament, meanwhile, will be switched from every two to four years, in line with its men's and women's football equivalents.

"There has been a big development in the last few years and it is a sustained progression," says Laurent Morel, UEFA's senior futsal competitions manager. "The associations were asking for a bigger EURO

and it was the right moment to give the competition new impetus and to modernise. It has matured, just as the UEFA Futsal Cup has. They are becoming global. We are ready to make this step forward."

Changes will be felt throughout the game. A UEFA Women's Futsal EURO will be introduced, to be held every two years, with the first four-team final tournament in February 2019. At club level, the UEFA Futsal Cup will be renamed the UEFA Futsal Champions League from next season and expanded to allow the top three-ranked nations (Russia, Spain and Portugal) a second representative. The fourth-ranked nation, Italy, could also receive a second berth if the champions are already qualified via a top-three league.

At youth level, a new Under-19 Futsal EURO will take place every two years starting in 2019 and ending with an eight-team final tournament. Men's and women's competitions are also being introduced at the Youth Olympics.

"The impact of these changes will not only be felt in Europe, but also worldwide," Morel adds. "There were very few national women's teams two or three years ago, but the ambition is there and already new teams are being formed. Our ambition is to have 16 or 20 sides in qualifying for the new competition. People were waiting for a women's competition as the game is developing across Europe. Introducing women's competitions is also a key aspect to integrating futsal at the Olympics, so this is a very important step."



Celebrating the grassroots

Futsal Grassroots Day turns the spotlight on supporters

Fans will have the chance to show their skills on 7 February when Futsal Grassroots Day takes centre stage at the Arena Stožice. Futsal enthusiasts in the wider community will play on the official Futsal EURO 2018 court the day before the semi-finals, with the focus on taking part and enjoying the game, rather than simply winning. Boys and girls teams, Special Olympics Slovenia (SOS) players and veterans will all be involved, with the Heart Society (Društvo za srce) also giving a presentation of walking football for people over 60.

The initiative is part of the My game, My life (Moja igra moje življenje) campaign that has been promoting Football for All in the run-up to the tournament. "This is an opportunity to open the eyes of the national and international community to the true value of sport," UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 project leader Pierre Lienhard said.

"We want to feel futsal in Slovenia."

The tournament is being used to encourage people to lead healthy lifestyles and to play sport regularly in a fun, sporting atmosphere, whatever their age or level. It is a message directed at youngsters as well as the older generation, which is often treated as a marginal group but who also greatly benefit from the social aspect – as well as exercise – of playing sport.

A sustainability guide, meanwhile, highlights the efforts made to ensure the EURO is as environmentally friendly as possible and to educate readers on steps that can be taken to help preserve the natural environment. There is also a special focus on the importance of exercise to children living in cities. Youngsters from schools near the Arena Stožice will be given tickets to matches to further encourage participation in sport.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Don't miss a kick during UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 by securing your tickets now. Tickets for all matches are priced at €7 and €5. There are two games each day, and one ticket will provide entry to both at the Arena Stožice. Tickets are available online through the Slovenian UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 website futsaleuro2018.si and eventim.si, as well as at Petrol gas stations in Slovenia.



TOBACCO-FREE EURO

A no-smoking policy will be in operation at the Arena Stožice throughout the tournament, bringing health benefits to fans and anyone working at matches by eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke. Any person 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 tournament.

ACCESS FOR ALL

UEFA is committed to ensuring accessibility to matches, in particular for disabled persons, so that many more can enjoy the live experience. The venue for the UEFA Futsal EURO, the Arena Stožice in Ljubljana, fulfils all accessibility requirements in terms of parking, specific wheelchair positions including accompanying persons, toilets, lifts and direction signs.



Win a match ball

For the chance to win an official adidas UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 tournament ball, sign up to uefaprogrammes.com now – the home for the official UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Women's Champions League and UEFA Super Cup final programmes.

ROAD TO LJUBLJANA

The key facts and figures from a record-breaking qualifying campaign

From a record field of 47 nations, it took 86 matches to determine the 11 teams joining hosts Slovenia in the finals. The campaign kicked off just over a year ago in the preliminary round, with Switzerland, England, Georgia and Albania the winners on the first day of action on 24 January 2017. The seven group winners from an initial field of 26 advanced to the main round, where they were joined by the 21 top-ranked sides. From there, the seven main round group winners qualified directly, followed soon after by the four teams triumphant in the play-offs – Serbia, Romania, Poland and France.



France have reached the final tournament for the first time. They are also the first team to qualify from the preliminary round since Turkey in 2012



Clockwise from top: Rock-solid Kazakhstan did not concede in qualifying; France's Samir Alla bears down on the Croatia goal; Ukraine and Portugal both won all three of their games; Italy's Alex Merlim fires at goal against Belarus



Spain's 1-1 draw with Poland in main round Group E was the first time they had failed to win a qualifying game since 2004



Kazakhstan and Russia had the meanest defences in qualifying, neither conceding a goal in three games



Georgia were the highest scorers with 30 goals



Games France played to reach the finals, a tournament record

PRELIMINARY ROUND

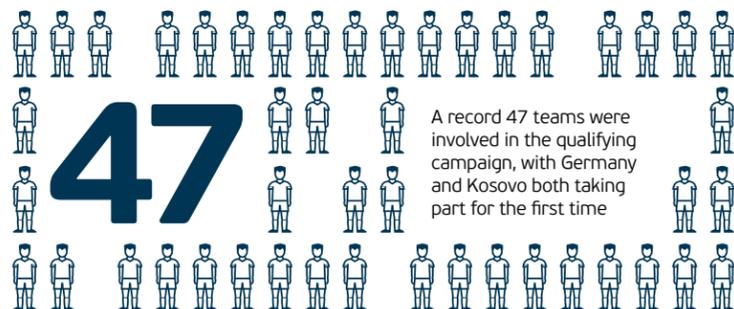
7 groups | 26 teams
36 matches | 229 goals

MAIN ROUND

7 groups | 28 teams
42 matches | 227 goals

PLAY-OFFS

8 teams
8 matches | 54 goals



47

A record 47 teams were involved in the qualifying campaign, with Germany and Kosovo both taking part for the first time

6

Savio Valadares scored six of Romania's nine goals in their play-off triumph against Georgia



Montenegro's preliminary round win against Sweden was the highest scoring match



Georgia recorded the biggest victory, against Scotland



Russia's 1-0 main round victory against Slovakia was the lowest scoring game



5.33

Azerbaijan scored the most goals per game (16 in 3) closely followed by Spain (14 in 3)

TOP SCORERS

9	HALIM SELMANAJ	Albania
9	ARCHIL SEBISKVERADZE	Georgia
7	BOJAN BAJOVIĆ	Montenegro
7	ARTURS JEROFEJEVS	Latvia
6	SAVIO VALADARES	Romania
6	AZEM BRAHIMI	Albania
6	ABDESSAMAD MOHAMMED	France

ASSISTS

5	DOUGLAS JUNIOR	Kazakhstan
5	ANDRIAN LAȘCU	Moldova
4	FLORIN MATEI	Romania
4	FRANKO JELOVČIĆ	Croatia
4	TIHOMIR NOVAK	Croatia
4	SERGIU TACOT	Moldova
4	RONINHO	Georgia

ATTEMPTS ON TARGET

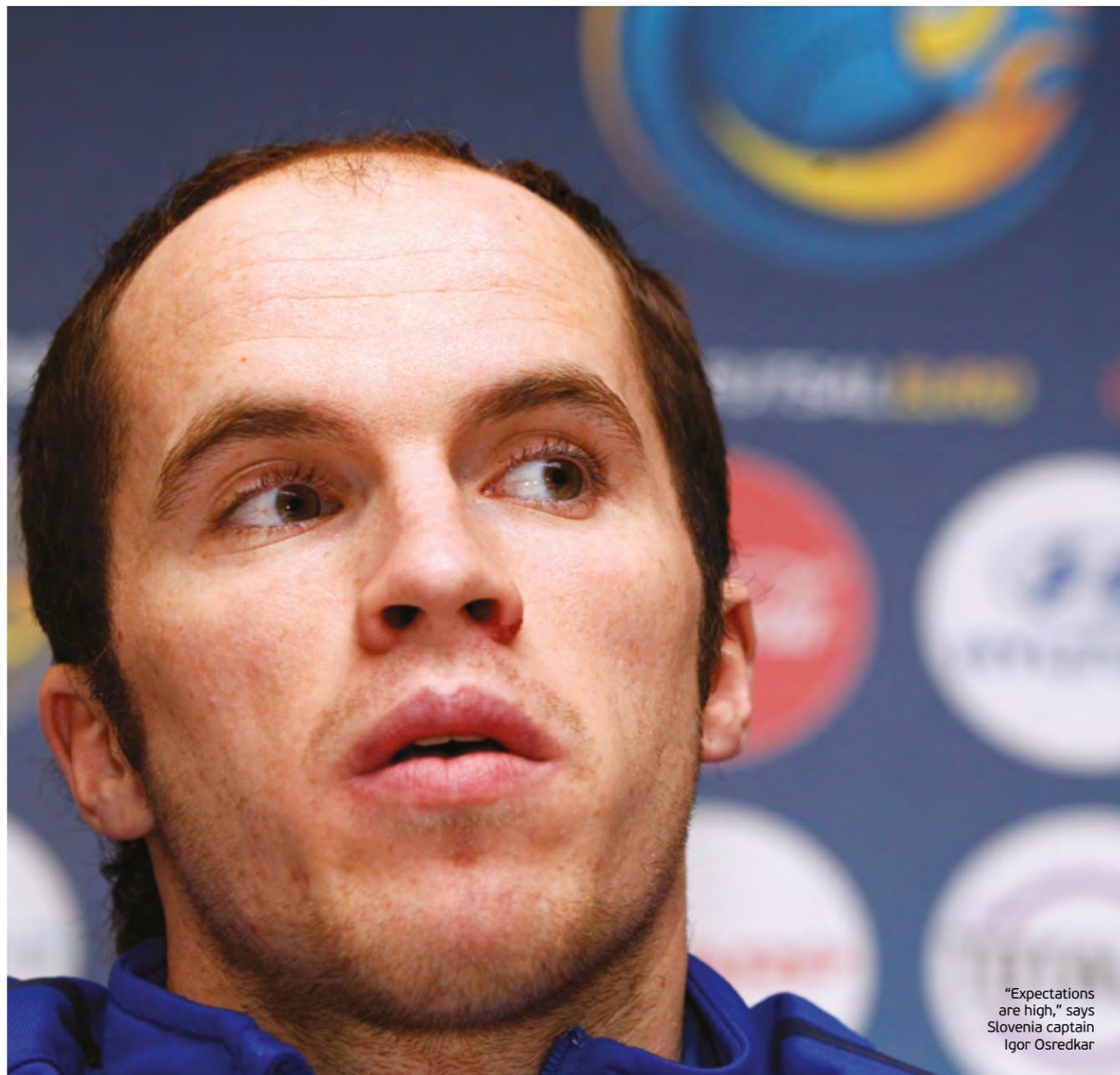
31	ARCHIL SEBISKVERADZE	Georgia
26	MICHAL SEIDLER	Czech Republic
24	ABDESSAMAD MOHAMMED	France
21	HALIM SELMANAJ	Albania
19	ZOLTÁN DRÓTH	Hungary
19	AZEM BRAHIMI	Albania
19	BOJAN BAJOVIĆ	Montenegro

TOTAL ATTEMPTS

46	ARCHIL SEBISKVERADZE	Georgia
43	ABDESSAMAD MOHAMMED	France
41	MICHAL SEIDLER	Czech Republic
37	ZOLTÁN DRÓTH	Hungary
37	HALIM SELMANAJ	Albania

WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

MINUTES	GOALS	MINUTES	GOALS
1-5	51	21-25	59
6-10	62	26-30	53
11-15	67	31-35	74
16-20	63	36-40	81



"Expectations are high," says Slovenia captain Igor Osredkar

'WE BREATHE AS ONE'

Captain Igor Osredkar believes his side's collective spirit and the support of the home crowd will take Slovenia far

Igor Osredkar has been at the forefront of Slovenia's success since they began their run of five consecutive EURO qualifications in 2010. His distinctive beard, bald pate and expressive features make him stand out on the court, but it is the 31-year-old's instinctive futsal talent that truly sets him apart. Slovenia's most-capped player (142 games) and all-time top scorer (70 goals) is the man for the big occasion. He scored the last-minute goal that sealed victory against Italy four years ago to clinch a place in the quarter-finals for the first time and the captain is now relishing the chance of leading his side out on to the court at UEFA Futsal EURO 2018.

What will captaining Slovenia at home in a UEFA Futsal EURO mean to you?

Being captain of the national team is a great honour and a great responsibility. I do it with immense pleasure and joy. Of course, leading your team in front of the home crowd, in front of your nation, is a big honour. There will be pressure because of the expectation, but that's normal.

How much of an advantage will it be to play at home?

Of course, it's an advantage. We all know what having that sixth man in the stands means, and playing in front of a capacity crowd is always great. It gives you an extra boost of adrenaline, picks you up when you're down and enables you to give more than you're usually capable of. Our nation knows how to support its athletes, and I hope that happens in Ljubljana.

How much of a buzz is there around the tournament?

The closer we get to the opening match, the more the anticipation grows – and even the players like me who play abroad can feel it. People are asking questions and there's a lot of talk on social media, so no one can forget that Slovenia is hosting the Futsal EURO.

How has a small nation like Slovenia become such a futsal force?

Slovenians are proverbially a hard-working nation. We are fighters, and we know that other countries are investing large amounts of money in futsal. If we want to stay competitive, we have to sacrifice a lot. We give 150% in every game because that's the only way we can match the bigger teams. We may not have the best technique and tactics, but we make up for that with our heart and spirit.

Slovenia kick off against Serbia having lost to them in the opening game at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016. How keen are you to avenge that defeat?

It will certainly be a factor. But there's also the added notion of playing a Balkan derby. There are no secrets between us; we know each other very well. Some of us have played together at club level, but it would be great to return the favour after that relatively heavy defeat. I hope we can turn the tables, but I would be quite satisfied with a simple 1-0 win.

What do you make of your group opponents?

Serbia are a very good team and reached the semi-finals at the last EURO. A few of their players play abroad, and we know what



Igor Osredkar celebrates his goal in Slovenia's win against Italy at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014

PROUD PEDIGREE

SLOVENIAN FUTSAL IS USED TO PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

Any smaller nation striving for futsal success would do well to study Slovenia. Andrej Dobovičnik's side may have qualified automatically as hosts, but this will be their fifth consecutive finals appearance and sixth overall – a proud record that includes a last-eight finish in 2014. "We beat Italy in our group that year and they later went on to become champions," recalls Osredkar, part of the team eventually stopped by holders Spain. The Balkan hopefuls also finished narrow 7-6 losers to Azerbaijan in the competition's highest-scoring game, enough to get them through on goal difference, and their promising campaign had much to do with a squad based entirely in Slovenia.

That made it far easier for long-serving coach Dobovičnik to organise training sessions and get his team to practise together. Indeed, it was a different story in Croatia two years later, with Slovenia falling at the group stage after several players had moved abroad. The majority have since returned and it will be interesting to see if Slovenia again show the benefits.

In all, there are 3,547 registered male and 243 registered female players and the Football Association of Slovenia (NZS) is dedicated to futsal success. Young enthusiasts are blessed with excellent facilities, while players from the top two futsal divisions avoid playing competitive football. This helps create futsal specialists and protects the sport, which already had a strong local presence due to a tradition of mini-football in the former Yugoslavia.

their captain Marko Perić can do. He might not play, but that just gives another player a chance to impress. They have extremely good technique and they're very dangerous at set pieces. As for Italy, there's no need to waste words. They're one of the top European teams and two-time European champions. They've undergone a small change of generation and that could have an impact, but they remain an excellent side. Their best player by far is Alex Merlim. He can decide a match by himself. And I don't think they will underestimate us at all.

Tell us a little about your own team.

Who can do the best tricks on the ball?

I think it's 'Feta', Alen Fetić. He is the freestyler.

Who picks the music in the dressing room?

In Belgium [at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014], we had a playlist that everybody contributed to, but we don't have a specific music ritual. Maybe this EURO is a chance to install a new tradition!

What has your coach Andrej Dobovičnik done for Slovenian futsal?

He's a great coach. The duration of his tenure alone is testament to that. He's achieved great successes with the national team, and we're a fixture at the EURO. He's also a good person off the court. He communicates well and jokes with us and tells us stories from his playing days. It's a good thing we have him.

How far can Slovenia go?

Expectations are high. We wouldn't be sportsmen if we weren't aspiring to win. We'll play to win every game and see where that takes us. Our goal is to progress from the group to the quarter-finals, and we're certainly capable of that. When you reach the knockout phase, there are no favourites any more – everything becomes possible.

SHOOTING STARS

Twelve sensational players who could have a major say on how far their nations go at UEFA Futsal EURO 2018



RICARDINHO

PORTUGAL

"No one is near his level," coach Jorge Braz says of Portugal's star attraction. "He is a reference point on and off the court. All eyes are always on him." O Mágico – the Magician – needs no introduction. If the clip of his wonder goal against Serbia at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 reached 10 million people on Facebook, his sublime left foot and mesmerising skills have kept him firmly in the spotlight for over a decade. This is his fifth UEFA Futsal EURO since UEFA.com picked him as Golden Player on his finals debut in 2007. Now aged 32, he continues to shine as brightly as ever – his nine goals at the 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup earned the Golden Shoe.



LANDRY N'GALA

FRANCE

A commanding figure at 1.89m tall, N'Gala's skill and pace complement his power. YouTube clips highlight his close control, while coach Pierre Jacky describes him as "a spectacular player" capable of breaking open a game. N'Gala scored five times in seven games in qualifying – the pick of the bunch being his stunning hat-trick in the play-off second leg in Croatia.



FLORIN MATEI

ROMANIA

Matei made an instant impression at Romania's first UEFA Futsal EURO final tournament in 2007, scoring a hat-trick in their opening 8-4 win against the Czech Republic. Fast-forward a decade and the 34-year-old is now star and fulcrum of the team. He netted four times in qualifying, giving Romania a lifeline with a last second goal against Finland to secure a crucial 5-5 draw.



RIZVAN FARZALIYEV

AZERBAIJAN

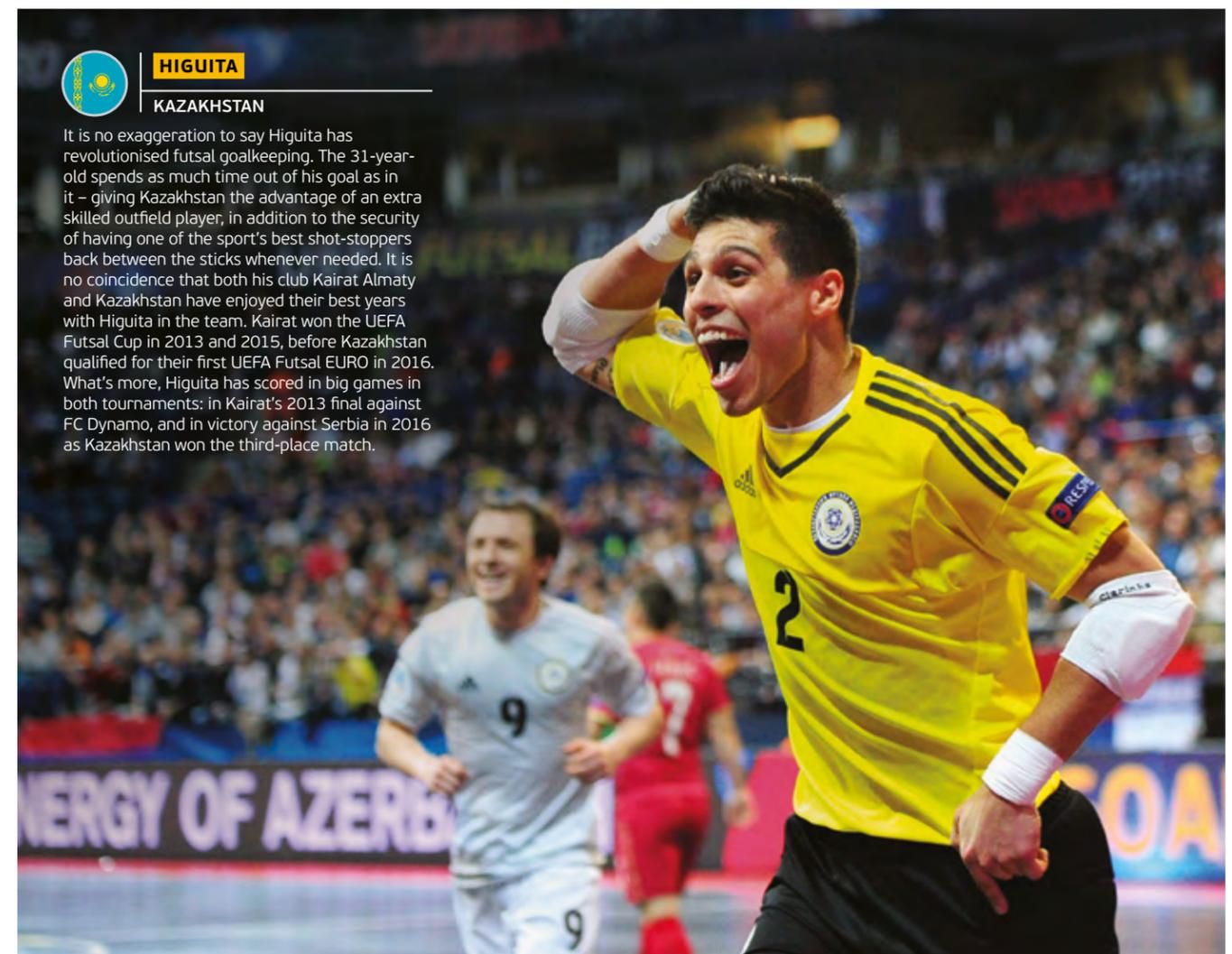
It is over 17 years since Farzaliyev made his debut in this competition and he has helped Azerbaijan grow as a force ever since. The 38-year-old, who offers defensive nous, solidity and authority, captained Azerbaijan on their final-tournament debut in 2010 and has featured in every finals match they have played. He is also captain of club side Araz Naxçivan, who provide the backbone of the national team.



GABRIEL LIMA

ITALY

Lima's leadership and skill combined to brilliant effect four years ago when Italy shrugged off an opening loss to Slovenia to go on and lift the trophy. Lima was named UEFA.com Golden Player after scoring four times in five matches, including the opener in the 3-1 final win against Russia. He also set up the second goal for Murilo, one of his three assists during that tournament. Keep an eye out for the 30-year-old captain's trademark sombrero move.



HIGUITA

KAZAKHSTAN

It is no exaggeration to say Higuita has revolutionised futsal goalkeeping. The 31-year-old spends as much time out of his goal as in it – giving Kazakhstan the advantage of an extra skilled outfield player, in addition to the security of having one of the sport's best shot-stoppers back between the sticks whenever needed. It is no coincidence that both his club Kairat Almaty and Kazakhstan have enjoyed their best years with Higuita in the team. Kairat won the UEFA Futsal Cup in 2013 and 2015, before Kazakhstan qualified for their first UEFA Futsal EURO in 2016. What's more, Higuita has scored in big games in both tournaments: in Kairat's 2013 final against FC Dynamo, and in victory against Serbia in 2016 as Kazakhstan won the third-place match.

**EDER LIMA**

RUSSIA

A prolific forward with a penchant for the spectacular, Sao Paulo-born Eder Lima is Russia's most potent offensive weapon. He was top scorer at the 2012 Futsal World Cup and repeated the feat at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014, where his breath-taking scissor kick against Portugal was the pick of his eight goals. Russia lost that 2014 final 3-1 to Italy – Eder Lima getting their goal – and after being suspended for the 2016 final defeat by Spain, he will be more determined than ever to leave Ljubljana with the trophy. The 33-year-old currently plays his club futsal with Magnus Brazil, having left a mark in Europe by scoring the goals that fired Ugra Yugorsk to the 2016 UEFA Futsal Cup.

**SERHIY ZHURBA**

UKRAINE

Ukraine's strength lies in the collective, but if they go far it may be down to the individual skills of Zhurba. The 30-year-old has the ability to surprise and beat his marker and the striker's instinct to shoot on sight. Zhurba came up through the FC Dynamo Kyiv youth academy, and has since flourished at Lokomotiv Kharkiv, winning Ukrainian titles in 2013, 2014 and 2015. This is the forward's third UEFA Futsal EURO final tournament.

**MICHAŁ KUBIK**

POLAND

The 27-year-old former law student is the architect of Poland's play and can set the pace of a match. The Record Bielsko-Biala player has great vision on the court, with his superb passing range making him as dangerous setting up colleagues as scoring himself. Poland's go-to guy stood tall when the going got tough in play-off against Hungary, scoring twice to help Poland overturn a 2-1 first-leg deficit to advance 7-6 on aggregate.

**SLOBODAN RAJČEVIĆ**

SERBIA

Rajčević is fondly remembered by Serbian fans for his match-winning strike against Portugal at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 – one of three he notched during a memorable championship on home soil. More recently, the 32-year-old scored three times in qualifying, including in the play-off second-leg draw with the Czech Republic that confirmed Serbia's ticket to Slovenia.

**CARLOS ORTIZ**

SPAIN

"It's my job to teach the team's philosophy, which is that the team always comes first," says the Spain captain. "I am a team player. I like to help my colleagues and to fill in the gaps behind them." That selfless approach has brought outstanding success. Participating in his sixth EURO, Ortiz has never lost a game he has played in this competition. Now 34, he aims to equal Luis Amado's record of five tournament wins.

**KRISTJAN ČUJEC**

SLOVENIA

Čujec is embarking on his fifth UEFA Futsal EURO, having played more final-tournament matches (nine) and scored more goals (five) than any other Slovenian player, including a strike in Slovenia's famous 3-2 win against Italy at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014. The 29-year-old pivot is the fulcrum of the hosts' attack, one whose delicate first touch and excellent close control make him a safe option for a pass even with a defender on his back. His strength and stamina, allied with great vision and positioning, have always caused defences problems. Čujec now has the defensive know-how too, having gained vast experience at clubs in Spain, Italy, Azerbaijan and Croatia before returning to Slovenia with FK Dobovec.



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Slovenia



HOME COMFORTS

A strong collective spirit, a desire to go far on home soil and a singular focus are the hallmarks of Andrej Dobovičnik's side. Dobovičnik has been Slovenia coach since 2005 and has put a clear stamp on his team, notably raising skill levels and confidence on the ball. Even against stronger nations, Slovenia's quality shines through, whether pressing or defending from deep. Their greatest strength, however, is in attack, with their versatility and armoury of set plays. Veteran and captain Igor Osredkar leads from the front, supplying goals and experience, Alen Fetič can split the best defences with his eye for a pass, while Kristjan Čujec has developed into a world-class pivot following spells at club level in Spain, Croatia, Italy and Azerbaijan. The draw has been tough for the hosts, but with a chance to redeem their opening-day loss to Serbia in 2016 providing added motivation, a quarter-final place is the least they expect.



EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **5** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 **Group stage**

BEST PERFORMANCE **Quarter-finals 2014**

MOST EURO APPS
Kristjan Čujec



MOST EURO GOALS
Kristjan Čujec



2017 FRIENDLY RESULTS

6 December	Slovenia 4-6 Portugal
5 December	Slovenia 0-2 Portugal
14 October	Slovenia 3-1 Poland
13 October	Slovenia 6-6 Poland
26 September	Slovenia 5-1 Germany
25 September	Slovenia 4-0 Germany
6 April	Slovenia 3-0 Japan
4 April	Slovenia 2-2 Japan
3 April	Slovenia 5-2 Japan
22 February	Hungary 0-5 Slovenia
31 January	Slovenia 3-2 Finland
29 January	Poland 6-6 Slovenia
28 January	Slovenia 6-3 Bosnia & Herzegovina

GOALKEEPERS

	Date of birth	Slovenia Apps/Goals*	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
Damir Puškar	03/09/1987	104/0	6/0	FK Dobovec
Vid Sever	21/09/1989	6/0	0/0	FC Litija

DEFENDERS

Dejan Bizjak	21/04/1988	32/3	3/0	Lazio (ITA)
Rok Mordej	03/03/1989	99/39	7/1	FK Dobovec
Igor Osredkar (c)	28/06/1986	142/70	8/2	MNK Novo Vrijeme (CRO)
Tilen Štendler	08/10/1991	54/5	5/0	ASD Prata C/5 (ITA)
Teo Turk	15/03/1996	14/0	0/0	FC Litija
Žiga Čeh	25/01/1995	16/4	0/0	Imola C/5 (ITA)

FORWARDS

Kristjan Čujec	30/11/1988	108/55	9/5	FK Dobovec
Alen Fetič	14/10/1991	92/38	7/2	FC Litija
Matej Fideršek	04/07/1991	36/14	2/0	Tommy Split (CRO)
Anže Širok	10/11/1989	25/5	2/0	KMN Oplast Kobarid
Denis Totoškovič	18/11/1987	21/10	0/0	FC Litija
Gašper Vrhovec	18/07/1988	78/38	5/5	FC Litija

*As of 15 January 2018. See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES

30 JAN	v SERBIA
3 FEB	v ITALY



COACH

ANDREJ DOBOVIČNIK

A superb player in his day, Dobovičnik has put Slovenia firmly on the futsal map. Under his guidance, Slovenia qualified for four successive finals between 2010 and 2016 before earning the right to host the tournament this year. Victories against Italy at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 and Spain during 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup qualifying highlight Dobovičnik's coaching acumen and the danger his side pose.



Italy



POINT TO PROVE

Kick-off cannot come soon enough for an Azzurri side desperate to make amends for the disappointment of UEFA Futsal EURO 2016. After beating Russia 3-1 in the 2014 final to lift the trophy for a second time, the defending champions were eliminated in the quarter-finals by Kazakhstan last time out, and now return intent on reclaiming the crown. Coach Roberto Menichelli was the architect of their 2014 triumph, and while he has retained the core of that championship-winning team, he has begun introducing new faces since being eliminated by Egypt in the round of 16 at the 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup. European champions Gabriel Lima, Alex Merlim, Marco Ercolessi and Sergio Romano – who recently celebrated winning his 100th cap with the Azzurri – provide continuity and experience in front of goalkeepers Stefano Mammarella and Francesco Moliterno, while newcomers such as Júlio De Oliveira, Giuliano Fortini and Nicolò Baron are also pushing for places.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **10** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 Quarter-finals

BEST PERFORMANCE
Winners 2003, 2014

MOST EURO APPS
Adriano Foglia

19

MOST EURO GOALS
Adriano Foglia,
Nando Grana

11

QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND	*Hosts							
GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Italy	3	2	1	0	8	5	7	
Georgia*	3	0	3	0	4	4	3	
Belarus	3	0	2	1	5	6	2	
Netherlands	3	0	2	1	6	8	2	

Italy 2-1 Belarus, Georgia 1-1 Netherlands, Netherlands 2-4 Italy, Georgia 1-1 Belarus, Belarus 3-3 Netherlands, Italy 2-2 Georgia



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Stefano Mammarella	02/02/1984	0/0	16/2	Acqua e Sapone C/5
Francesco Moliterno	14/10/1989	3/0	0/0	Kaas Reggio Emilia C/5
DEFENDERS				
Paolo Cesaroni	14/04/1991	0/0	0/0	Pesarofano C/5
Marco Ercolessi	15/05/1986	3/0	13/0	Pescara C/5
Gabriel Lima (c)	10/08/1987	3/0	14/7	Acqua e Sapone C/5
Alex Merlim	15/07/1986	3/0	8/3	Sporting Clube de Portugal (POR)
Sergio Romano	28/09/1987	3/1	16/3	Pescara C/5
FORWARDS				
Giacomo Azzoni	20/02/1985	0/0	0/0	Pescara C/5
Nicolò Baron	30/08/1996	0/0	0/0	Feldi Eboli C/5
Fabrizio Calderoli	22/01/1986	3/1	0/0	Acqua e Sapone C/5
Massimo De Luca	07/10/1987	0/0	8/0	Napoli C/5
Júlio De Oliveira	08/06/1991	0/0	0/0	Acqua e Sapone C/5
Juliao Ferreira	10/03/1989	0/0	0/0	Acqua e Sapone C/5
Giuliano Fortini	08/09/1996	0/0	0/0	SS Lazio C/5

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES	
1 FEB	v SERBIA
3 FEB	v SLOVENIA



COACH

ROBERTO MENICHELLI

Capped 28 times as a player for Italy, Menichelli has been in charge of the national side for the past eight years, and since 2015 has also coached the Italy women's futsal team. Menichelli led Italy to bronze medals at the 2012 UEFA Futsal EURO and FIFA Futsal World Cups before clinching the European title in 2014.



Serbia



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

The eruption of joy that greeted the final whistle in Nis during the play-offs showed just what this tournament means to Serbia's fans – and how tense that 8-7 aggregate triumph against the Czech Republic had proved. Those same fans will now enjoy the short trip across the border to Slovenia, where they will hope for another strong performance following their fourth-place finish on home soil two years ago. Serbia sold out all five of their matches in Belgrade and can expect another full house for their opener against the hosts – a repeat of the fixture that Serbia won 5-1 to kick off the tournament two years ago. Serbia's stars of UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 are back again – with goalkeeper Miodrag Aksentijević, defender Marko Perić and forward Mladen Kocić all looking to build on the impressive showings that earned them places in UEFA's all-star squad last time out.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **5** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 Fourth place
(Including as Yugoslavia in 1999)

BEST PERFORMANCE
Fourth place 2016

MOST EURO APPS
Slobodan Rajčević

14

MOST EURO GOALS
Mladen Kocić

8

QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND	*Hosts							
GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Spain	3	2	1	0	14	1	7	
Serbia	3	2	0	1	11	9	6	
Poland*	3	1	1	1	5	7	4	
Moldova	3	0	0	3	5	18	0	

Spain 7-0 Moldova, Poland 0-4 Serbia, Serbia 0-6 Spain, Poland 4-2 Moldova, Moldova 3-7 Serbia, Spain 1-1 Poland

PLAY-OFF
v Czech Republic W4-3 (a) / D4-4 (h)
Serbia win 8-7 on aggregate



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Miodrag Aksentijević	22/07/1983	5/0	8/0	MFK Tyumen (RUS)
Nemanja Momčilović	15/04/1991	5/0	5/0	KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac
Jakov Vulić	10/03/1992	0/0	0/0	KMF Nova Pazova
DEFENDERS				
Vladimir Milosavac	01/12/1985	5/0	3/1	KMF Internacional
Marko Perić (c)	05/02/1984	5/2	11/3	Napoli C/5 (ITA)
Denis Ramić	17/11/1994	5/1	0/0	KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac
Miloš Simić	12/08/1989	5/5	5/3	CS Informatika Timișoara (ROU)
FORWARDS				
Mladen Kocić	22/10/1988	5/2	11/8	MFK Tyumen (RUS)
Nikola Matijević	26/12/1991	0/0	0/0	KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac
Marko Pršić	13/09/1990	5/2	8/1	KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac
Marko Radovanović	10/10/1991	0/0	5/0	Club Louaize (LIB)
Slobodan Rajčević	28/02/1985	4/3	14/4	KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac
Stefan Rakić	22/11/1993	5/1	5/1	CS Informatika Timișoara (ROU)
Dragan Tomić	25/03/1991	5/3	0/0	Beirut SC (LIB)

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES	
30 JAN	v SLOVENIA
1 FEB	v ITALY



COACH

GORAN IVANČIĆ

The 46-year-old faced the huge task of taking over from Aca Kovačević when the veteran coach stepped down after UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 – and he has risen to the challenge. No stranger to the national set-up having worked as Kovačević's assistant, Ivančić also enjoyed success at club level, notably winning the Serbian title with Marbo Beograd.

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Russia



TITLE AMBITIONS

Although Russia have contested each of the past three finals and six in all, they have lifted the trophy just once. That triumph came against Spain on penalties in 1999, but it is the Iberian side who have enjoyed the upper hand in recent years, notably winning the 2016 decider. Despite the pain of that loss, it was still a breakthrough year for Russia, who also graced the FIFA Futsal World Cup final for the first time before succumbing to Argentina. Surely it is only a matter of time for Sergei Skorovich's team, and the coach remains relentless in his pursuit of perfection. "One thing is for sure, success doesn't come by itself," he has said. "There's always something to work on, something you can improve." Russia could hardly improve on their perfect record in qualifying, reaching the finals without dropping a point or conceding a goal. Veterans Eder Lima and Robinho provide the spark, while Sergei Abramov – a quick and potent striker – and newcomer Artem Niyazov are also impressing.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **10** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 **Runners-up**

BEST PERFORMANCE **Winners 1999**

MOST EURO APPS
Aleksandr Fukin



MOST EURO GOALS
Konstantin Eremenko



QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND								*Hosts
GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Russia	3	3	0	0	10	0	9	
France	3	2	0	1	9	7	6	
Slovakia	3	1	0	2	9	6	3	
Turkey*	3	0	0	3	2	17	0	

Turkey 1-8 Slovakia, Russia 5-0 France, Turkey 1-5 France, Slovakia 0-1 Russia, France 4-1 Slovakia, Russia 4-0 Turkey



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Dmitri Putilov	05/12/1994	3/0	0/0	MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg
Georgi Zamtaradze	12/02/1987	3/0	0/0	MFK KPRF
DEFENDERS				
Sergei Abramovich	15/01/1990	3/1	0/0	MFK Tyumen
Ivan Chiskala	11/07/1995	2/1	0/0	Ugra Yugorsk
Ivan Milovanov	08/02/1989	3/0	13/1	MFK Tyumen
Romulo	28/09/1986	0/0	5/5	Ugra Yugorsk
Vladislav Shayakhmetov (c)	25/08/1981	3/0	22/10	Ugra Yugorsk
FORWARDS				
Sergei Abramov	09/10/1985	3/0	15/6	MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg
Yanar Asadov	11/10/1995	0/0	0/0	MFK KPRF
Danil Davydov	23/01/1989	3/1	5/0	Ugra Yugorsk
Eder Lima	29/06/1984	3/3	9/12	Magnus Futsal (BRA)
Dmitri Lyskov	24/09/1987	3/0	10/2	Ugra Yugorsk
Artem Niyazov	30/07/1996	2/0	0/0	MFK KPRF
Robinho	28/01/1983	3/3	10/4	SL Benfica (POR)

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES

30 JAN	v POLAND
3 FEB	v KAZAKHSTAN



COACH

SERGEI SKOROVICH

Skorovich has led Russia to five straight EUROs – and three finals – since taking charge in 2008, initially in tandem with his duties at club side Sinara Ekaterinburg, then going full time in 2011. With Sinara, the 44-year-old won the Russian Super League in 2009 and 2010 and the UEFA Futsal Cup in 2008, reaching the final again the year after.



Kazakhstan



BACK AFTER BRONZE

In 2016, Kazakhstan became the first final tournament debutants since the inaugural 1996 edition to finish in the top three. Two years on, they are now seeking to underline their new powerhouse status, bolstered by a round of 16 finish on their FIFA Futsal World Cup bow and a convincing qualifying campaign. stalwarts like Leo, Mikhail Pershin, Douglas Junior, Dinmukhambet Suleimenov and Chingiz Yessenamanov, plus forward-running goalkeeper Higuita – badly missed when suspended for the 2016 semi-final loss to Spain – have been vital not just to Kazakhstan's rise but also to Kairat Almaty's two UEFA Futsal Cup triumphs. Cacau is the coach of both teams, returning to the national helm in September after stepping down in 2016 in favour of then assistant and now Azerbaijan boss Alecio. "Our qualifying group was relatively easy and we did not let in a goal," Cacau said. "But come January it will be a different ball game."

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **1** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 Group stage

BEST PERFORMANCE **Third place 2016**

MOST EURO APPS **12 Players**



MOST EURO GOALS **Serik Zhamankulov**



QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND								*Hosts
Group F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Kazakhstan*	3	3	0	0	11	0	9	
Czech Republic	3	2	0	1	12	10	6	
FYR Macedonia	3	1	0	2	7	13	3	
Denmark	3	0	0	3	7	14	0	

Czech Republic 5-4 Denmark, Kazakhstan 3-0 FYR Macedonia, FYR Macedonia 3-7 Czech Republic, Kazakhstan 5-0 Denmark, Denmark 3-4 FYR Macedonia, Czech Republic 0-3 Kazakhstan



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Higuita	06/06/1986	3/0	4/1	Kairat Almaty
Grigoriy Shamro	31/05/1984	3/0	0/0	Aktobe
DEFENDERS				
Douglas Junior	15/10/1988	3/3	5/4	Kairat Almaty
Leo	21/05/1987	3/2	5/3	Kairat Almaty
Dauren Nurgozhin	21/05/1990	0/0	5/1	Kairat Almaty
Mikhail Pershin	19/10/1989	3/2	5/0	Kairat Almaty
Dinmukhambet Suleimenov (c)	25/08/1981	3/1	5/1	Kairat Almaty
FORWARDS				
Albert Akbalikov	05/01/1995	3/1	0/0	Aktobe
Arnold Knaub	16/01/1995	3/0	5/0	Zhetysu Taldykorgan
Birzhan Orazov	17/10/1994	3/0	0/0	Zhetysu Taldykorgan
Pavel Taku	30/08/1988	0/0	5/0	Aktobe
Dauren Tursagulov	16/01/1996	3/0	0/0	Zhetysu Taldykorgan
Chingiz Yessenamanov	10/03/1989	3/0	4/1	Kairat Almaty
Serik Zhamankulov	18/11/1983	3/2	5/6	Kairat Almaty

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES	
1 FEB	v POLAND
3 FEB	v RUSSIA



COACH

CACAU

In February 2013, Cacau took over both Kairat – with whom he played for five years – and Kazakhstan; two UEFA Futsal Cup wins and a UEFA Futsal EURO bronze on debut are the results so far. A top-level player in his native Brazil, Spain, Russia and the Czech Republic as well as for Kairat, Cacau was coaching Chrudim when Kairat and Kazakhstan came calling.



Poland



NO FEAR

Poland pulled off one of the shocks of the qualifying campaign when they fought back to hold champions Spain to a 1-1 draw, and they built on that achievement by ousting Hungary in the play-offs. Captain Marcin Mikołajewicz got the crucial goal against the holders and feels his side now have nothing to fear. "Nobody believed we could do something positive against Spain, but we did," he said. "Of course, we won't be favourites at the finals, but that's to our advantage." Mikołajewicz, Mikołaj Zastawnik and goalkeeper Michał Kałuża are all key figures along with top scorer in qualifying Michał Kubik, but there are no stars in this squad. Each player fits his passion for futsal around a career away from the sport, helping foster a strong team ethic. Poland have reached the final tournament just once before, when they bowed out in the group stage in 2001, but expectations are greater this time around.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **1** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 Did not qualify

BEST PERFORMANCE **Group stage 2001**

MOST EURO APPS **Nine Players**



MOST EURO GOALS **Krzysztof Jasiński**



QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND								*Hosts
Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Spain	3	2	1	0	14	1	7	
Serbia	3	2	0	1	11	9	6	
Poland*	3	1	1	1	5	7	4	
Moldova	3	0	0	3	5	18	0	

Spain 7-0 Moldova, Poland 0-4 Serbia, Serbia 0-6 Spain, Poland 4-2 Moldova, Moldova 3-7 Serbia, Spain 1-1 Poland

PLAY-OFF
v Hungary L2-1 (a) / W6-4 (h)
Poland win 7-6 on aggregate



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Norbert Jendruczek	05/10/1986	0/0	0/0	Stonieczny Stok Białystok
Michał Kałuża	22/07/1998	5/0	0/0	Rekord Bielsko-Biała
DEFENDERS				
Robert Gładczak	10/04/1988	5/0	0/0	Clearex Chorzów
Tomasz Kriezel	05/11/1993	5/0	0/0	FC Toruń
Tomasz Lutecki	01/09/1991	5/1	0/0	GSF Gliwice
Maciej Mizgajski	16/01/1988	5/1	0/0	Clearex Chorzów
Artur Popławski	04/10/1988	0/0	0/0	Rekord Bielsko-Biała
Dominik Solecki	17/07/1990	5/1	0/0	Red Dragons Pniewy
FORWARDS				
Mateusz Cyman	10/10/1991	0/0	0/0	FC Toruń
Przemysław Dewucki	03/09/1988	2/1	0/0	Piast Gliwice
Michał Kubik	07/05/1990	5/3	0/0	Rekord Bielsko-Biała
Marcin Mikołajewicz (c)	22/10/1982	5/2	0/0	FC Toruń
Sebastian Wojciechowski	17/01/1988	0/0	0/0	Red Devils Chojnice
Mikołaj Zastawnik	02/09/1996	4/1	0/0	Clearex Chorzów

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES	
30 JAN	v RUSSIA
1 FEB	v KAZAKHSTAN



COACH

BŁAŻEJ KORCZYŃSKI

Korczyński's goalscoring prowess earned him legendary status as a player, and the 39-year-old is looking to cement that reputation as a coach in his first big challenge at the helm of the national side. Formerly Poland assistant coach, Korczyński replaced Andrzej Bianga after qualification had been achieved and will be appearing at his second EURO, having played during Poland's previous finals appearance in 2001.

MATCH SCHEDULE

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
SLOVENIA	RUSSIA	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
ITALY	KAZAKHSTAN	UKRAINE	AZERBAIJAN
SERBIA	POLAND	ROMANIA	FRANCE

GROUP STAGE

TUESDAY 30 JANUARY

Group A	18:00	Slovenia	V	Serbia
Group B	20:45	Russia	V	Poland

WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY

Group C	18:00	Portugal	V	Romania
Group D	20:45	Spain	V	France

THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Group B	18:00	Poland	V	Kazakhstan
Group A	20:45	Serbia	V	Italy

FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Group D	18:00	France	V	Azerbaijan
Group C	20:45	Romania	V	Ukraine

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY

Group B	18:00	Kazakhstan	V	Russia
Group A	20:45	Italy	V	Slovenia

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

Group C	18:00	Ukraine	V	Portugal
Group D	20:45	Azerbaijan	V	Spain

QUARTER-FINALS

MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY

QF1	18:00 or 21:00		V	
Winner Group A v Runner-up Group B				

QF2	18:00 or 21:00		V	
Runner-up Group A v Winner Group B				

TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY

QF3	18:00 or 21:00		V	
Winner Group C v Runner-up Group D				

QF4	18:00 or 21:00		V	
Runner-up Group C v Winner D				



ARENA STOŽICE

All matches will be played at the 10,763 capacity Arena Stožice in Ljubljana. Follow the action on UEFA.com, @UEFAFutsal (Facebook and Twitter) and @UEFAcom (Instagram) for all the latest news, videos and reaction throughout the tournament. #FutsalEURO



SEMI-FINALS

THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY

SF1	18:00 or 21:00		V	
Winner QF1 v Winner QF3				

SF2	18:00 or 21:00		V	
Winner QF2 v Winner QF4				

FINAL

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY

20:45		V	
Winner SF1 v Winner SF2			

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY

18:00		V	
Loser SF1 v Loser SF2			

MATCH OFFICIALS

Marc Birkett
England

Ondřej Černý
Czech Republic

Kamil Çetin
Turkey

Eduardo José Fernandes Coelho
Portugal

Balázs Farkas
Hungary

Juan José Cordero Gallardo
Spain

Angelo Galante
Italy

Vladimir Kadykov
Russia

Alejandro Martínez Flores
Spain

Gábor Kovács
Hungary

Alessandro Malfer
Italy

Timo Onatsu
Finland

Cédric Pelissier
France

Bogdan Sorescu
Romania

Saša Tomić
Croatia

Admir Zahović
Slovenia





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- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2008 Moscow, Russia
- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2009 Ekaterinburg, Russia
- UEFA Futsal EURO 2010 Budapest & Debrecen, Hungary
- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2010 Lisbon, Portugal
- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2011 Almaty, Kazakhstan
- UEFA Futsal EURO 2012 Zagreb & Split, Croatia
- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2012 Lleida, Spain

- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2013 Tbilisi, Georgia
- UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 Antwerp, Belgium
- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2014 Baku, Azerbaijan
- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2015 Lisbon, Portugal
- UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 Belgrade, Serbia
- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2016 Guadalajara, Spain
- UEFA Futsal Cup Finals 2017 Almaty, Kazakhstan



Portugal



BIG AMBITION

Hopes are high once again as Portugal set their sights on the trophy. After impressing en route to the FIFA Futsal World Cup semi-finals in 2016, could this be the year everything falls into place? They certainly encountered few obstacles in qualifying, progressing without dropping a point and posting a 4-0 victory against Romania, whom they meet again here in Ljubljana. Ricardinho is the star of the show, but Portugal's talented squad threatens from all over the court, with Bruno Coelho top-scoring in qualifying with five goals. Coach Jorge Braz has maintained an experienced core and Bebé, João Matos and Pedro Cary were all part of the side that reached the final in 2010, only to fall short against Spain. Their Iberian rivals also knocked Portugal out in the quarter-finals two years ago, and coach Jorge Braz is determined to go further this time. "First, we want to win our group and reach the next stage," he said. "But we won't want to stop there."



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Vitor Hugo	30/11/1982	0/0	3/0	Braga/AAUM
Bebé	19/05/1983	3/0	9/0	Porto Salvo
André Sousa	25/02/1986	3/0	7/0	Sporting Clube de Portugal
DEFENDERS				
Pedro Cary	10/05/1984	3/0	16/3	Sporting Clube de Portugal
André Coelho	07/01/1986	3/0	0/0	SL Benfica
Bruno Coelho	01/08/1987	3/5	8/2	SL Benfica
Nilson Miguel	10/05/1992	3/0	0/0	Braga/AAUM
João Matos	21/02/1987	3/1	15/2	Sporting Clube de Portugal
Pany Varela	25/02/1989	3/2	3/0	Sporting Clube de Portugal
FORWARDS				
Tiago Brito	22/07/1991	3/1	3/0	SL Benfica
Fabio Cecílio	30/04/1993	3/1	3/2	SL Benfica
Márcio Moreira	24/06/1990	3/1	0/0	AD Fundão
Ricardinho (c)	03/09/1985	3/0	16/15	Inter FS (ESP)
Tunha	24/10/1984	0/0	0/0	Os Belenenses

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **8** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 Quarter-finals

BEST PERFORMANCE **Runners-up 2010**

MOST EURO APPS
Gonçalo
24

MOST EURO GOALS
Ricardinho
15

QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND								*Hosts
GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Portugal	3	3	0	0	11	2	9	
Romania*	3	1	1	1	8	10	4	
Finland	3	1	1	1	10	13	4	
Latvia	3	0	0	3	5	9	0	

Portugal 2-1 Latvia, Romania 5-5 Finland, Finland 1-5 Portugal, Romania 3-1 Latvia, Latvia 3-4 Finland, Portugal 4-0 Romania

FIXTURES

31 JAN	v ROMANIA
4 FEB	v UKRAINE



COACH

JORGE BRAZ

Since Braz became coach in 2010, Portugal have not missed out on a UEFA Futsal EURO or a FIFA Futsal World Cup and have reached the semi-finals of both, in 2014 and 2016 respectively. The Canadian-born 45-year-old joined the Portuguese Football Federation full time in 2006, working as an assistant to Orlando Duarte before taking charge after the 2010 Futsal EURO final.



Ukraine



CONSISTENT PERFORMERS

Two-time runners-up Ukraine are contesting their ninth successive EURO, but it is 13 years since they last reached the semis and they have exited in the quarter-finals every time since the round was reintroduced in 2010. Ukraine may not be replete with star names, but coach Oleksandr Kosenko draws strength from a formidable team ethic. Well-drilled set pieces, polished open-play moves and tireless energy are the hallmarks of his organised and disciplined line-up. While Kosenko may feel his side lack a sprinkle of stardust – “We struggle when teams sit back and we need to produce bright individual performances” – that does not take away from the talent at his disposal. Serhiy Zhurba and goalkeeper Yevgen Ivanyak are the leaders, while 28-year-old Mykola Grytsyna and his brother Mykhailo, 26, were key figures in a faultless qualifying campaign. Watch out too for 23-year-old Sokil striker Oleksandr Pediash, who was the Ukrainian league's 18-goal top scorer last season and will be out to impress at his first EURO.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **9** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 **Quarter-finals**

BEST PERFORMANCE **Runners-up 2001, 2003**

MOST EURO APPS **Yevgen Rogachov**

16

MOST EURO GOALS **Serhiy Koridze**

15

QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND							
GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine*	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
Croatia	3	2	0	1	11	3	6
Belgium	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
Montenegro	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

Croatia 4-0 Montenegro, Ukraine 1-0 Belgium, Belgium 1-6 Croatia, Ukraine 4-2 Montenegro, Montenegro 1-2 Belgium, Croatia 1-2 Ukraine



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Yevgen Ivanyak (c)	28/09/1982	3/0	10/0	Uragan Ivano-Frankovsk
Dmytro Lytvynenko	16/04/1987	0/0	9/0	FK Era-Pack Chrudim (BLR)
Kyrylo Tsyapun	30/07/1987	3/0	4/0	MFC Prodexim
DEFENDERS				
Mykola Bilotserkivets	05/12/1986	3/1	3/0	Norilsky Nikel (RUS)
Mykola Grytsyna	03/06/1989	3/0	3/3	FC Stalitsa Minsk (BLR)
Andriy Khamdamov	05/12/1993	0/0	0/0	SK Sokil
Taras Korolyshyn	18/02/1993	0/0	0/0	FC Stalitsa Minsk (BLR)
Andriy Lysenko	06/03/1994	0/0	0/0	SK Sokil
Ruslan Sheremeta	15/01/1992	0/0	0/0	SK Sokil
FORWARDS				
Mykhailo Grytsyna	19/10/1991	3/0	3/0	FC Stalitsa Minsk (BLR)
Oleksandr Pediash	04/03/1994	3/1	0/0	SK Sokil
Volodymyr Razuvanov	01/08/1992	3/1	3/0	ISK Dina Moskva (RUS)
Petro Shoturma	27/06/1992	3/1	3/0	Uragan Ivano-Frankovsk
Serhiy Zhurba	14/03/1987	3/1	6/1	FC Hit

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES	
2 FEB	v ROMANIA
4 FEB	v PORTUGAL



COACH

OLEKSANDR KOSENKO

A serial winner at club level, Kosenko captained Ukraine and played in both their UEFA Futsal EURO finals. As a coach, he twice lifted the Ukrainian Cup with Energy Lviv before taking the Ukraine helm in 2014. Two years later, he led his side to the UEFA Futsal EURO quarter-finals and the last 16 of the FIFA Futsal World Cup.



Romania



NEVER SAY DIE

Romania's UEFA Futsal EURO campaign looked over before it had properly begun when they trailed Finland 5-3 with just moments to play in their opening qualifying match. But goals from Alpar Csoma and Florin Matei in the final five seconds dramatically rescued a point, which ultimately proved decisive as they went on to clinch runners-up spot in Group D on goal difference. Debutant Savio Valadares then proved the hero in the play-offs, scoring a team-leading six times as Romania beat Georgia 9-6 on aggregate. The Brazilian recently acquired Romanian citizenship and he is the newest face in an experienced squad. Coach Robert Lupu, Florin Matei, Dumitru Stoica and Vlad Iancu all appeared in Romania's three previous EUROS, while captain Emil Răducu, Florin Ignat and Csoma featured in the squads that reached the last eight in 2012 and 2014. Romania's only defeat in qualifying came against Portugal – whose path they are set to cross again in Ljubljana.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **3** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 **Did not qualify**

BEST PERFORMANCE **Quarter-finals 2012, 2014**

MOST EURO APPS **Robert Lupo, Cosmin Gherman**

9

MOST EURO GOALS **Florin Matei**

6

QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND							
GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
Romania*	3	1	1	1	8	10	4
Finland	3	1	1	1	10	13	4
Latvia	3	0	0	3	5	9	0

Portugal 2-1 Latvia, Romania 5-5 Finland, Finland 1-5 Portugal, Romania 3-1 Latvia, Latvia 3-4 Finland, Portugal 4-0 Romania

PLAY-OFF
v Georgia D2-2 (h) / W7-4 (a)
Romania win 9-6 on aggregate



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Vlad Iancu	03/01/1978	5/0	6/1	Informatica Timisoara
Toni Tonița	28/01/1992	5/0	0/0	FC Deva
DEFENDERS				
Paulo Ferreira	08/03/1985	5/1	0/0	FC Deva
Florin Ignat	26/02/1982	2/0	6/1	FC Deva
Marius Matei	12/03/1987	5/1	3/0	FC Deva
Adrian Panzaru	06/11/1985	5/0	0/0	FC Deva
Emil Răducu (c)	19/05/1984	5/2	6/1	Luxol St Andrews FC (MLT)
FORWARDS				
Octavian Cires	27/01/1993	0/0	0/0	United Galati
Alpar Csoma	22/03/1984	5/1	4/1	FC Deva
Florin Matei	08/12/1983	5/4	9/6	FC Deva
Felipe	16/12/1992	2/0	0/0	Informatica Timisoara
Dumitru 'Mimi' Stoica	30/09/1981	5/1	7/0	FC Deva
Savio	30/01/1994	2/6	0/0	Informatica Timisoara
László Szócs	10/10/1984	5/1	4/0	SK Odorheiu Secuiesc

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES	
31 JAN	v PORTUGAL
2 FEB	v UKRAINE

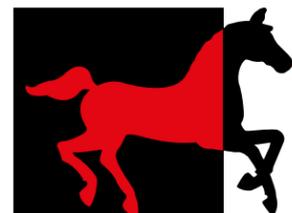


COACH

ROBERT LUPU

Lupu took the reins after Romania missed out on a place at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 and he has guided his side back to the finals at the first attempt. The 35-year-old Informatica Timișoara player captained Romania for over a decade before giving Emil Răducu the armband when he became coach.

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Spain



GOLD STANDARD

For Spain, the objective remains the same: return home with the trophy. José Venancio López's side were crowned champions for the seventh time two years ago and won in style, scoring a record 27 goals, including seven in the final against Russia. "We'll go there to defend our title," the man in charge has warned. "We always want to be the best even if we are up against tough opponents who have the same ideas as us." Spain are the only European team to have lifted the FIFA Futsal World Cup, in 2000 and 2004, and have dominated the European stage since winning the inaugural tournament in 1996. Indeed, since Venancio took charge in 2007, Spain have lost just one UEFA Futsal EURO final tournament match, the 2014 semi-final against Russia. Captain Carlos Ortiz is aiming for a joint-record fifth title, Rafa Usín provides a keen eye for goal and Pola's pace can unsettle any defence, while Miguelín and Álex hope to add to the six goals each scored last time out.



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Jesús Herrero	04/11/1986	0/0	10/0	Inter FS
Paco Sedano	02/12/1979	0/0	5/0	FC Barcelona
DEFENDERS				
Bebe	28/05/1990	3/2	5/2	Inter FS
Carlos Ortiz (c)	03/10/1983	3/1	24/6	Inter FS
Marc Tolrà	27/01/1991	3/1	0/0	FC Barcelona
FORWARDS				
Adolfo	19/05/1993	3/1	0/0	FC Barcelona
Álex	12/03/1989	3/0	5/6	Murcia FS
Joselito	01/03/1991	0/0	7/4	FC Barcelona
Lin	16/05/1986	3/1	18/6	MFK KPRF (RUS)
Sergio Lozano	09/11/1988	0/0	10/5	FC Barcelona
Miguelín	09/05/1985	3/0	14/10	Murcia FS
Pola	26/06/1988	3/1	10/5	Inter FS
Rafa Usín	22/05/1987	3/0	15/6	Osasuna Magna
Solano	26/08/1991	3/1	0/0	Inter FS

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **10** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 **Winners**

BEST PERFORMANCE **Winners 1996, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2016**

MOST EURO APPS
Luis Amado



MOST EURO GOALS
Daniel



QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND								*Hosts
GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Spain	3	2	1	0	14	1	7	
Serbia	3	2	0	1	11	9	6	
Poland*	3	1	1	1	5	7	4	
Moldova	3	0	0	3	5	18	0	

Spain 7-0 Moldova, Poland 0-4 Serbia, Serbia 0-6 Spain, Poland 4-2 Moldova, Moldova 3-7 Serbia, Spain 1-1 Poland

FIXTURES

31 JAN	v FRANCE
4 FEB	v AZERBAIJAN



COACH

JOSÉ VENANCIO LÓPEZ

Venancio's record speaks for itself. He has led Spain to four European titles in five attempts since taking charge in 2007 and two FIFA Futsal World Cup finals, narrowly losing out to Brazil both times. A tactical mastermind, his team ethic and consistent playing philosophy ensure that while personnel may change over the years, results never do.



Azerbaijan



GOAL MACHINE

Azerbaijan were the main round top scorers with 16 goals, but qualification was by no means plain sailing. They were pushed to the limit against Bosnia and Herzegovina and trailed twice before Bolinha struck a hat-trick in a 5-4 victory. Bolinha is a key pillar of the team alongside 38-year-old Rizvan Farzaliyev, who captained Azerbaijan at their first UEFA Futsal EURO in 2010 and remains their heart and soul ahead of a fifth successive final tournament. The core of the team that reached the 2016 quarter-finals endures, with Vitaliy Borisov, Eduardo and goalkeeper Rovshan Huseynli still influential. Vassoura also enjoyed a fine FIFA Futsal World Cup that year. Azerbaijan reached the EURO semi-finals under coach Alecio in 2010 and he is back at the helm after replacing Biro Jade following the qualifying campaign. Solid in defence and quick on the counter, Azerbaijan graced the quarter-finals on their Futsal World Cup debut in 2016 and will hope to match that achievement here at least.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **4** LAST TOURNAMENTS **Quarter-finals**

BEST PERFORMANCE **FOURTH PLACE 2010**

MOST APPEARANCES **Vitaliy Borisov, Rizvan Farzaliyev**

12

ALL TIME GOALS **Biro Jade, Vitaliy Borisov**

5

QUALIFYING RESULTS

MAIN ROUND							
GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Azerbaijan*	3	3	0	0	16	5	9
Hungary	3	1	1	1	7	11	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	0	2	1	12	13	2
Albania	3	0	1	2	9	15	1

Hungary 4-3 Albania, Azerbaijan 5-4 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2-2 Hungary, Azerbaijan 5-0 Albania, Albania 6-6 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary 1-6 Azerbaijan



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Rovshan Huseynli	03/04/1991	3/0	3/0	Araz Naxçivan
Emin Kurdov	10/07/1984	0/0	0/0	Ekol Baku
DEFENDERS				
Biel	26/04/1990	0/0	0/0	Araz Naxçivan
Everton Cardoso	04/12/1987	3/2	0/0	Araz Naxçivan
Ramiz Chovdarov	28/07/1990	0/0	3/0	Araz Naxçivan
Eduardo	14/10/1986	3/3	5/2	Araz Naxçivan
Rizvan Farzaliyev (c)	01/09/1979	3/0	12/4	Araz Naxçivan
FORWARDS				
Fineo Araújo	10/04/1987	3/0	3/1	Araz Naxçivan
Isa Atayev	07/08/1989	3/1	2/0	Araz Naxçivan
Khatai Baghirov	15/08/1987	3/2	3/0	Araz Naxçivan
Bolinha	19/02/1987	3/4	7/4	Araz Naxçivan
Vitaliy Borisov	05/07/1982	3/0	12/5	KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac (SRB)
Samir Hamzayev	01/08/1989	0/0	3/0	Ekol Baku
Vassoura	26/04/1985	3/1	0/0	Al Dhafra FC (UAE)

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES	
2 FEB	v FRANCE
4 FEB	v SPAIN



COACH

ALECIO

Brazilian Alecio began his second spell with Azerbaijan in June, after six years in charge of the national side and Araz Naxçivan between 2008 and 2014. Alecio led Azerbaijan to three UEFA Futsal EUROs and won titles at club level with Araz. He also served as assistant to Cacau with Kairat Almaty and Kazakhstan, helping the former clinch the 2015 UEFA Futsal Cup and the latter take bronze at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016.



France



'KEEP DREAMING'

Coach Pierre Jacky described reaching the finals as "a landmark for French futsal" and insists his side "will keep dreaming" as they embark on their first campaign. France pulled off the biggest shock in qualifying when they ousted 2012 semi-finalists Croatia in the play-offs, and Les Bleus now face an even greater challenge after being drawn to face seven-time winners Spain in their opening game. Landry N'Gala made the difference against Croatia with a hat-trick in the second leg in Dubrovnik, but there were impressive performances throughout Jacky's squad on the road to Ljubljana. Abdessamad Mohammed led the way with six goals, while veterans Djamel Haroun and Kevin Ramirez provided key experience. France played a record seven games to get this far; for a team consisting of amateurs, there has already been plenty to celebrate.

EURO FACT FILE

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS **0** UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 **Did not qualify**

BEST PERFORMANCE **First qualification**

QUALIFYING RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUND ^{*Hosts}

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Lithuania*	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
Andorra	2	0	0	2	1	10	0

Lithuania 5-1 Andorra, Andorra 0-5 France, France 3-1 Lithuania

MAIN ROUND ^{*Hosts}

GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	3	3	0	0	10	0	9
France	3	2	0	1	9	7	6
Slovakia	3	1	0	2	9	6	3
Turkey*	3	0	0	3	2	17	0

Turkey 1-8 Slovakia, Russia 5-0 France, Turkey 1-5 France, Slovakia 0-1 Russia, France 4-1 Slovakia, Russia 4-0 Turkey

PLAY-OFF
v Croatia D1-1 (h) / W5-4 (a)
France win 6-5 on aggregate



	Date of birth	Qualifying Apps/Goals	Futsal EURO Apps/Goals	Club
GOALKEEPERS				
Joévin Durot	25/11/1985	7/0	0/0	Futsal Roselies (BEL)
Djamel Haroun (c)	06/07/1983	7/0	0/0	Roubaix AFS
Ba El Maarouf Kerroumi	01/06/1994	7/0	0/0	Hérouville Futsal
DEFENDERS				
Azdine Aigoun	11/05/1987	7/0	0/0	Kremlin Bicêtre Futsal
Sid Ahmed Belhaj	28/08/1992	7/3	0/0	Acces Futsal Club
Samba Kebe	04/12/1987	7/1	0/0	Garges Djibson Futsal
Kevin Ramirez	10/08/1987	5/1	0/0	Acces Futsal Club
FORWARDS				
Samir Alla	27/01/1985	6/1	0/0	Hérouville Futsal
Boulaye Ba	21/05/1993	0/0	0/0	Kremlin Bicêtre Futsal
Mickaël De Sa Andrade	14/08/1995	2/0	0/0	Garges Djibson Futsal
Adrien Gasmi	25/03/1986	7/4	0/0	Kremlin Bicêtre Futsal
Abdessamad Mohammed	10/12/1990	7/6	0/0	Acces Futsal Club
Souheil Mouhoudine	29/03/1995	7/0	0/0	Acces Futsal Club
Landry N'Gala	08/06/1993	7/5	0/0	Garges Djibson Futsal

See UEFA.com for official final tournament squad lists.

FIXTURES	
31 JAN	v SPAIN
2 FEB	v AZERBAIJAN



COACH

PIERRE JACKY

In his 15th year as coach of France, Jacky is leading his side out at a Futsal EURO for the first time. The 57-year-old was in charge of amateur club Strasbourg Koenigshoffen when he was appointed assistant coach of the French futsal team in 1996, before taking the job outright in 2004.

ITALY ON A HIGH

Italy coach Roberto Menichelli is thrown aloft by his players after leading the Azzurri to the UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 title in Belgium. It was Italy's second continental crown and broke a run of four straight Spanish triumphs. The Azzurri were 3-1 winners against Russia in the final thanks to goals from Gabriel Lima, Murilo Ferreira and Daniel Giasson – a result that completed a remarkable turnaround for Menichelli's side who had been beaten 3-2 by Slovenia in their opening game. "The history of Italian football is like this," captain Gabriel Lima said. "Just think about the 1982 FIFA World Cup when Italy started with three draws and then became champions. When playing with the right fighting spirit and heart we can reach any objective."



TRAILBLAZERS

UEFA Futsal EURO ambassadors – and Slovenian sporting legends – Mile Simeunović and Milenko Ačimovič have been counting down the days to kick off

When the Ljubljana crowd stands to cheer Slovenia in their opening game at UEFA Futsal EURO 2018, two of the nation's sporting pioneers are sure to swell with pride. Both helped put their country on the map in their respective fields, making them natural choices as UEFA's tournament ambassadors. And they will be united in anticipation as Slovenia's futsal elite kick off a landmark tournament on home soil.

"I feel the buzz already," says Mile Simeunović, among the Balkan nation's most celebrated futsal talents. The retired star knows this competition inside out, but the futsal bug has also gripped local football legend Milenko Ačimovič, who has relished being involved in the build-up to the tournament. "I can hardly wait," says the former playmaker. "I really enjoy watching futsal matches and now that we've got a tournament like this coming here to Slovenia, to Ljubljana, I'm really looking forward to it."

For Ačimovič, who represented the likes of FK Crvena zvezda, Tottenham Hotspur FC and LOSC Lille after starting his career at hometown club NK Ljubljana, UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 is also certain to conjure up memories. While Simeunović focused on football in his youth, and admits he "didn't know which sport to play at first", Ačimovič also played the indoor game before finding fame on grass. "Of course, I started out playing futsal like everyone else here," he says. "My favourite thing was how quickly you can score goals; it's a very high-scoring game and you don't have to run as much as in football."

The two men eventually settled on the sports that best suited their gifts, and their achievements could well serve as inspiration to Andrej Dobovičnik's team over the coming weeks. Both took part in breakthrough tournaments for Slovenia around the turn of the century, and it was Ačimovič who blazed the trail by helping the national side clinch a surprise berth at UEFA EURO 2000 – not least with a goal from close to the halfway line during the play-off victory against Ukraine.

Slovenia went on to seal draws with Yugoslavia and Norway in their group, and pushed Spain hard before suffering a narrow 2-1 loss. "It was a dream come true," recalls Ačimovič. "It was a

chance to be part of the elite and I really soaked up everything that was happening, including the 24-hour media coverage. To be there, representing a small country like Slovenia, is something you have to work hard for and really prepare for. When you get there and play in full stadiums, with all your country and the rest of Europe watching you, it's simply indescribable."

Three years later, Simeunović was part of the Slovenia team that wrote similar history by booking their place at UEFA Futsal EURO 2003. The current side will be contesting their fifth



MILE SIMEUNOVIČ

Age: 41
Slovenia debut:
18 November 1997
v Belgium
Slovenia caps: 60
Slovenia goals: 23



Mile Simeunović (left) and Milenko Ačimovič pick the teams at the final tournament draw in October

Age 40
Slovenia debut
22 April 1998
v Czech Republic
Slovenia caps 74
Slovenia goals 13



MILENKO AČIMOVIČ

consecutive finals, but that maiden appearance undoubtedly paved the way. "The first time is always special," says Simeunović, now embarking on a second career as a futsal coach. "I'll remember it forever. It was also good for the later national teams, because our coefficient went up and that meant we faced slightly easier opponents in the subsequent qualifiers."

The 41-year-old will doubtless feel a tinge of envy as his old side return to the European stage without him, but above all he is awestruck by the progress Slovenia have made. "I remember where we were when I started out, and when I look where we are now it's like night and day," he says. "We have a special generation. Alen Fetič, Kristjan Čujec and Rok Mordej played together in the junior team and they brought their talent to the seniors, where they met Igor Osredkar – a pillar of this national side. The result was a very strong team and it's been like that for the last five years."

Ačimovič has also been struck by the calibre of the current crop. "I watched their game against Germany and I was very impressed and pleasantly surprised," he says. "I think they were well aware it was a warm-up game for the EURO and they really ran the Germans ragged. It was a real delight to see their desire, focus and technique. Given what I saw, I think we can get to at least the semi-finals, which would be great. I don't want to put any pressure on the lads, but they were really fantastic and look in great form."

Slovenia beat Germany twice in friendly matches in September, and their form coming into the tournament has also caught the eye of Simeunović, who believes they can go far. "Everybody thinks I'm nuts, but I have this feeling," he says. "If you look back at recent EUROs, the hosts – Croatia and Serbia [in 2012 and 2016] – surprised on both occasions. I hope and believe that Slovenia will be the team that mixes things up this time around. If everything goes right, if there are no injuries, if a lot of people come to support us, we have the quality to beat anyone, even Spain."

The holders and seven-time winners will likely have their own ideas, but Ačimovič is optimistic that the noise levels at the Arena Stožice will spur the home side on. "I'm sure there will be a great atmosphere," he says. "We don't have many occasions like this here. It's the European Championship and I think Slovenia is a great choice for the venue. It ought to be a positive for the players, and I expect the fans to turn out in big numbers. This team has so many things going for them and it's certainly an advantage to play in front of your own fans."

Whether the hosts rise to the challenge remains to be seen, but, whatever happens, the spectators in Ljubljana are in for treat. "This really will be a spectacle," says Simeunović. "I'm inviting all the fans to come to the games. There's a huge difference between watching futsal on TV or in person. Only in person can you truly see the dynamics of the sport – and the magic of futsal."



PENALTY AREA

Outfield players can go into the penalty area and keepers are allowed out, but they cannot touch the ball again once they have cleared it until it has gone into the opposition half or it has been touched by an opponent. Goal clearances must be thrown, not kicked out.



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 with his fingers those four seconds.



KICK-IN

Play resumes 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.



TEAMS

The game is five-a-side but each squad at UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 consists of 14 players. The entire squad is available for each match, with five starters and nine substitutes.



GOALKEEPER

An outfield player can come on and off as a substitute for the goalkeeper, but the referee must ensure this so-called flying goalkeeper wears 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' shirts).



ACCUMULATED FOULS

Once 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 goal, the shot can be taken from where the infringement occurred. At half-time both foul counts are wiped clean, but they are not erased prior to either extra-time period, where second-half fouls still count.



REAL TIME

A match comprises two 20-minute halves, with a timekeeper stopping the clock whenever the whistle blows. If a game is drawn, two five-minute periods of extra time ensue followed by a penalty shoot-out should the scores remain level. Coaches can call a 60-second time-out during each half, but there are no time-outs in extra time.



SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions are unlimited and can be made at any time during play provided a player does not go on before his team-mate comes off. He must also enter the pitch from the zone marked in front of each bench. Players can be changed individually or en masse.



CARDS

Players are dismissed for two yellow cards or a direct red, and take no further part in the game. Following a sending-off, the penalised team play one man short for two minutes, unless they concede during that time in which case they return to full strength immediately. The player that was sent off, however, cannot be used again.

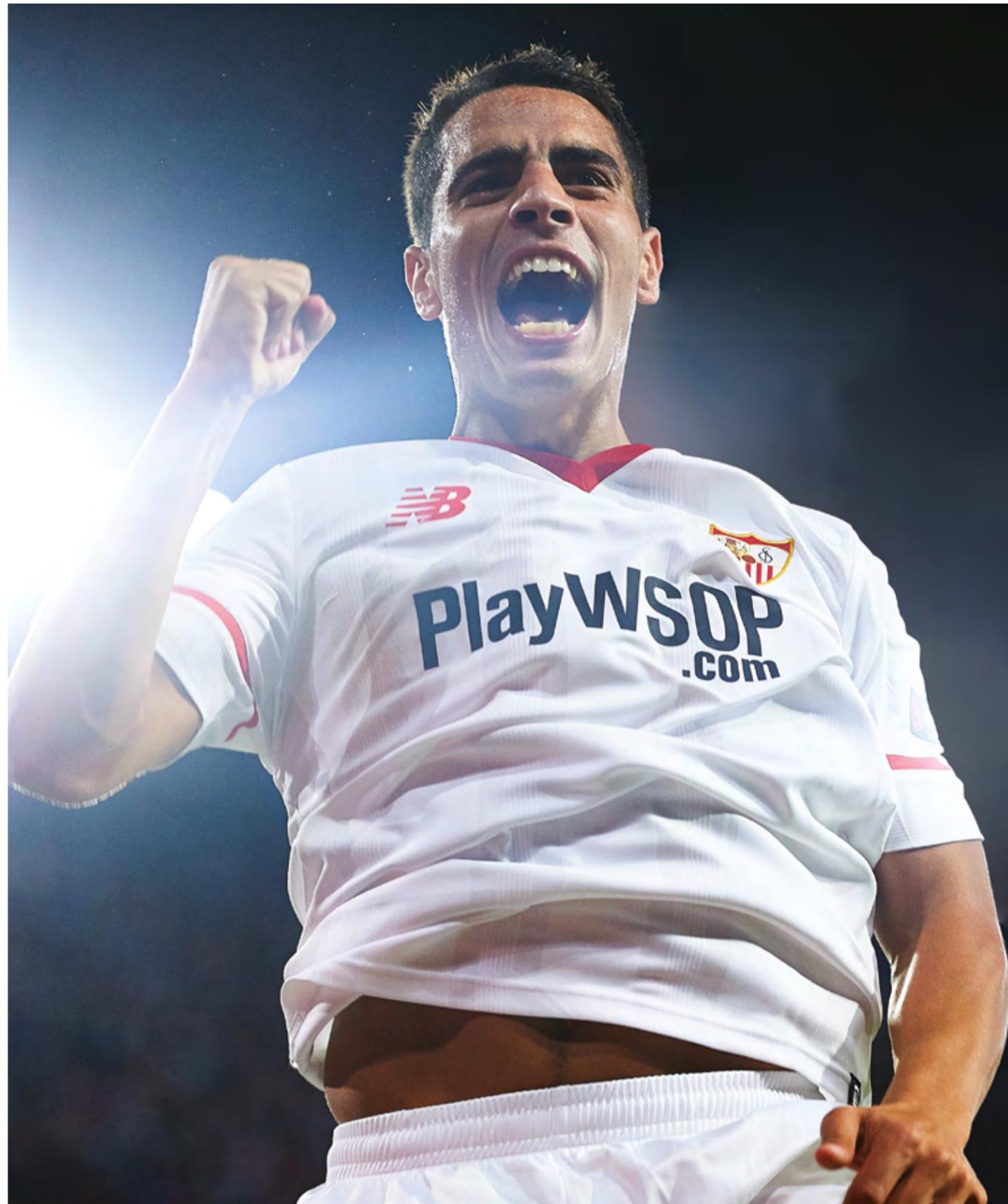


REFEREES

Three officials oversee the action: one on either touchline and one to liaise with the timekeeper to control fouls and time-outs. Officials communicate calls using various choreographed signals.

RULES OF THE GAME

A potted guide to the basics of futsal



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Having honed his technique on the futsal court, free-scoring Wissam Ben Yedder is now reaping the rewards with Sevilla in the UEFA Champions League

Wissam Ben Yedder celebrates a UEFA Champions League goal for Sevilla (left) and in action for the France futsal team (below)

When Wissam Ben Yedder was just starting out at Toulouse FC, his team-mate Jonathan Zebina paid him one of the highest compliments a forward can hear. "I compared him to Romário," explained the former France defender, taken by the youngster's close-ball control and finishing acumen. "But he didn't know who that was." Still shy of his fourth birthday when the Brazil legend lit up the 1994 FIFA World Cup, Ben Yedder may not have got the reference – but he surely appreciated the samba connection.

Now earning widespread praise at Sevilla FC, the 27-year-old grew up a long way from the sun and sand of Copacabana beach. Born in the Parisian suburb of Sarcelles and raised on an estate in nearby Garges-lès-Gonesse, Ben Yedder had a "pretty tough childhood" by his own admission, finding refuge in football like many of his peers. But unlike his fellow talents from the outer reaches of the French capital, Ben Yedder took an unusual route to the top, treading a path more common to the football hotbeds of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Following in the footsteps of countless Brazil stars such as Ronaldinho, Neymar and, yes, Romário, Ben Yedder honed his gifts in futsal. While pursuing his passion for the 11-a-side game, he also turned out for local futsal club Garges Djibson ASC, quickly becoming a key figure and developing a different set of skills. "Futsal is a very fast-paced game and it moves very quickly in small spaces," he says. "It takes great technique and you have to be comfortable in front of goal."

It was no mere hobby either. Ben Yedder's burgeoning abilities soon caught the eye of France futsal coach Pierre Jacky, and the player with Tunisian roots was fast-tracked into the national set-up. He went on to make two appearances for Les Bleus before kicking off his professional football career at Toulouse in 2010. That spelled the end of his promising futsal stint, but he has kept a keen eye on the scene – and will be cheering on Jacky's charges at UEFA Futsal EURO 2018.

"I'm very proud of them," he says, France having sealed their historic maiden berth after defying the odds against Croatia in the play-offs. "I played for France's futsal team and it'll be great to see them at the EURO." He has also maintained close links with Garges Djibson, visiting his old club in 2015 to donate a set of futsal boots. As for the qualities he picked up in the indoor game, they have certainly not deserted him.

"I improved my technique, so it helped me, even though I stopped playing a while ago," he notes. Indeed, Ben Yedder's mastery of the ball helped seal a move to Sevilla in 2016, after scoring 71 goals in 174 outings for TFC. Comfortable with both feet, he has since found a natural home for his profile in the more technically demanding Spanish Liga – where so many former futsal acolytes have also flourished.

Not all futsal players are able to make the switch, of course, and Ben Yedder admits that the two disciplines are "different worlds".





Brazil legend Ronaldinho is still thrilling fans with his skills on the futsal court

'FUTSAL GIVES YOU INTELLIGENCE'

WHY FUTSAL WAS THE PERFECT FINISHING SCHOOL FOR FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST STARS

"It's very easy to fall in love with futsal," says former Brazil star Ronaldinho, one of several Auriverde legends to have nurtured a special toolkit of skills while playing the indoor game. The two disciplines may seem to have much in common, but it is their differences that have helped so many players brought up on futsal stand out on football's grandest stages.

The dimensions of the futsal court itself are a major factor, with the playing surface measuring an eighth of the size of a regular pitch. Confined space forces futsal players to develop close control with both feet as well as speed of thought, while the smaller goal encourages spectacular improvisations, often from tight angles.

The action is intense as well, with futsal players needing to master quick bursts of energy and averaging 130 touches per game compared with 100 for their football cousins – with most of those touches keeping the play on the ground due to the slightly heavier, and smaller, ball.

"It teaches you how to play in tight spaces," says Neymar, another Brazilian international reared on futsal. "You learn how to control the ball. In futsal, it comes at you faster and you need to develop more agility to break out of a situation. That helps a lot on the football pitch."

The game developed in Uruguay and quickly caught on in Brazil, where a lack of space in urban areas meant fewer opportunities to play on full-size pitches. Being forced to learn their technique at close quarters had a positive effect for many of today's biggest stars, including Paris Saint-Germain wing-back Dani Alves.

"I had the pleasure of playing futsal at school, and what futsal gives you is intelligence, it's a thinking game," he says. "Why? Because you have a small space where man-marking is intense, so you have to be intelligent, and be very quick in your thinking and your movements." Lionel Messi concurs: "As a little boy in Argentina, I played futsal on the streets and for my club. It was tremendous fun, and it really helped me become who I am today."



However, having dreamed of a football career since childhood, he started out with a clear target. "My goal has always been to succeed as a professional," he says. "Life was always about football. We used to play football, we were constantly thinking about football and we always wanted to have fun."

That served as a distraction from his harsh upbringing in Garges, but Ben Yedder feels that his tough start merely fed his motivation. "How we lived wasn't easy, and it's true that moving out of that fairly difficult environment can be seen as a success. I always put myself in a position to achieve that and, even when things didn't go so well, I always believed in myself."

His confidence is soaring now after some standout displays with Sevilla. Ben Yedder hit 11 goals during his first season in La Liga, but he has made headlines across Europe this term thanks to his exploits in the UEFA Champions League. Kicking off with two goals in qualifying and an early opener at Anfield, he grabbed a hat-trick at

home to NK Maribor and topped even that with his role in a thrilling comeback against Liverpool FC on matchday five, scoring twice as the Rojiblancos turned a 3-0 deficit into a 3-3 draw.

Ben Yedder sparked the recovery with Sevilla's first after half-time, and it was about as far from a futsal goal as possible – the No9 leaping at the near post to head a free-kick beyond Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius. That predatory effort underlined his all-round abilities in attack, and as his former futsal colleagues prepare for a major tournament, Ben Yedder has fixed his focus on a landmark international double.

"My dream is to play for France – I dream of playing at the World Cup," he says, hungry to continue his progress after a trio of Under-21 caps in 2012. With the likes of Antoine Griezmann, Kylian Mbappé, Alexandre Lacazette and Olivier Giroud also vying for spots at Russia 2018, Didier Deschamps has a stunning array of options at his disposal – but only one can provide talents forged on the futsal court.

QUOTE .. UNQUOTE



"DURING MY CHILDHOOD IN PORTUGAL, WE ONLY PLAYED FUTSAL. THE SMALL PITCH HELPED ME TO IMPROVE MY FOOTWORK AND WHENEVER I PLAYED FUTSAL I FELT FREE. IF IT WEREN'T FOR FUTSAL, I WOULDN'T BE THE PLAYER I AM TODAY."

CRISTIANO RONALDO

"WHAT FUTSAL GIVES YOU IS INTELLIGENCE, IT'S A THINKING GAME. MAN-MARKING IS INTENSE, SO YOU HAVE TO BE INTELLIGENT, AND BE VERY QUICK IN YOUR THINKING AND YOUR MOVEMENTS."

DANI ALVES

"THERE IS SO LITTLE SPACE AND SO MANY ONE-ON-ONE SITUATIONS THAT YOU NEED TO HAVE GOOD DRIBBLING SKILLS, GOOD TECHNIQUE AND TO BE QUICK ON THE BALL. FUTSAL DEVELOPS THOSE QUALITIES."

ANDRIY ARSHAVIN

"AS A LITTLE BOY IN ARGENTINA, I PLAYED FUTSAL ON THE STREETS AND FOR MY CLUB. IT WAS TREMENDOUS FUN, AND IT REALLY HELPED ME BECOME WHO I AM TODAY."

LIONEL MESSI

"YOU'RE FORCED TO THINK FAST AND MOVE FASTER – IF YOU LOSE A SECOND, THE BALL WILL BE GONE. IT'S A MORE DYNAMIC GAME ... THERE'S NOT MUCH SPACE ON THE PITCH SO YOU NEED TO REACT QUICKLY ON THE FIELD. THERE'S NO DOUBT FUTSAL HAS HELPED ME A LOT IN MY CAREER, IT'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST PASSIONS IN MY LIFE."

NEYMAR

"WHEN I STARTED, OR WHEN I PLAYED FUTSAL, I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT BECOMING A FOOTBALLER. I PLAYED FUTSAL JUST LIKE MANY OF MY FRIENDS. WE SPENT HOURS ON THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. IT WAS AN EDUCATION THAT I'VE CARRIED WITH ME ALL THESE YEARS. MY GAME TODAY IS WHAT IT WAS WHEN I WAS EIGHT TO TEN YEARS OLD."

ANDRÉS INIESTA

"DOING EVERYTHING QUICKLY, THAT'S WHAT I TRY TO DO ON THE FIELD TODAY, THAT'S WHAT I LEARNED FROM FUTSAL."

DOUGLAS COSTA



'A SPECIAL CHARM'

Olympic and world champion skier Tina Maze gives the lowdown on Ljubljana and Slovenia's passion for sport



Slovenian skiing ace Tina Maze

"What a question!" Tina Maze laughs. The former Olympic and world champion alpine ski racer has just been asked how passionate Slovenians are about sport. "There are no words to explain how important sport is in Slovenia. It's great to see all the achievements of our country's sportsmen and women. I'm always happy to see athletes thrive in any sport. That's why I hope we can take a step forward in futsal."

Maze, a double Olympic gold medallist, was speaking at the UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 draw to promote the message that Europe's top players will be parading their skills in the Slovenian capital. Should Slovenia's futsal team draw inspiration from their illustrious compatriot, there could be plenty for locals to celebrate.

The 34-year-old, a five-time Slovene sportswoman of the year, won 13 World Championship and Olympic medals during an 18-year career culminating in two golds at the 2014 Sochi Winter Games. It was an unprecedented haul for a Slovenian racer, but wholly in keeping with the nation's record for sporting excellence.

In 2017 alone, Maribor's footballers returned to the UEFA Champions League, Slovenia were European basketball champions, third place was achieved at the World Handball Championship, and cyclist Primož Roglič claimed a brilliant victory in the 17th stage of the Tour de France. Not bad for a population of just 2 million.

"We're a country of natural athletes and we enjoy

sport," explains Maze. "We sportspeople obviously have innate abilities, but the country helps us develop them to become top athletes. Long may that system continue so we keep getting results."

The pressure has been off the four-time world champion since she officially retired last January. So, during this first full winter away from competing, she will leave the spotlight to the futsal team as she enjoys both the spectacle and time out in host city Ljubljana. She encourages visitors to do likewise.

"It's the heartbeat of Slovenia and the capital," Maze says. "People come to Ljubljana for different reasons. There are lots of events and things going on. It is a very young city, a lively city, and we're happy to be back here. I really like the old town and walking through the city. The castle is beautiful too. Ljubljana has a special charm."

"With friends we usually go to a restaurant for lunch or coffee. The local food is great. There's everything from local potato dishes to Ljubljana steak [ham and cheese wrapped in veal and fried in breadcrumbs]. I am very simple when it comes to food: I like steak and some fish, but good service and friendliness are what matter most."

"The magic of Slovenia," she continues, "is that even if you are staying in Ljubljana, you can easily visit other places nearby, see the country and get away from the city."

For the next fortnight, however, the Arena Stožice is the place to be. "I always enjoy watching matches with a great atmosphere. I encourage all our fans to come and cheer on the team and create a special spirit that could then spread to other sports. That's something we've done really well in individual sports, where one result has inspired others, creating a domino effect. I'd love to see that happen in team sports. Hopefully the fans will get on board and support all our teams."

DON'T MISS



OLD TOWN

The Old Town is sandwiched between the river Ljubljanica and the hill leading up to Ljubljana Castle; a stroll through its Baroque streets is a must. Stari trg (Old Square) is Ljubljana's medieval heart, while nearby Cankarjevo nabrežje offers a good selection of bars and restaurants on the banks of the river.

TIVOLI CITY PARK

Ljubljana's green lung is home to the National Museum of Contemporary History, which is housed

in Cekinov Grad, a grand Baroque mansion where you can learn all about Slovenia's road to independence in 1991.

LJUBLJANA CASTLE

The best views of the city – and the mountains beyond – are achieved from the top of the castle tower which requires a 15-minute climb up from the old town or a short ride in the funicular.

HIT THE SLOPES

If a glimpse of the snow-covered mountains in the distance proves alluring,

hire a car and head for Krvavec ski resort which, just 25km from the city centre, boasts 30km of runs.

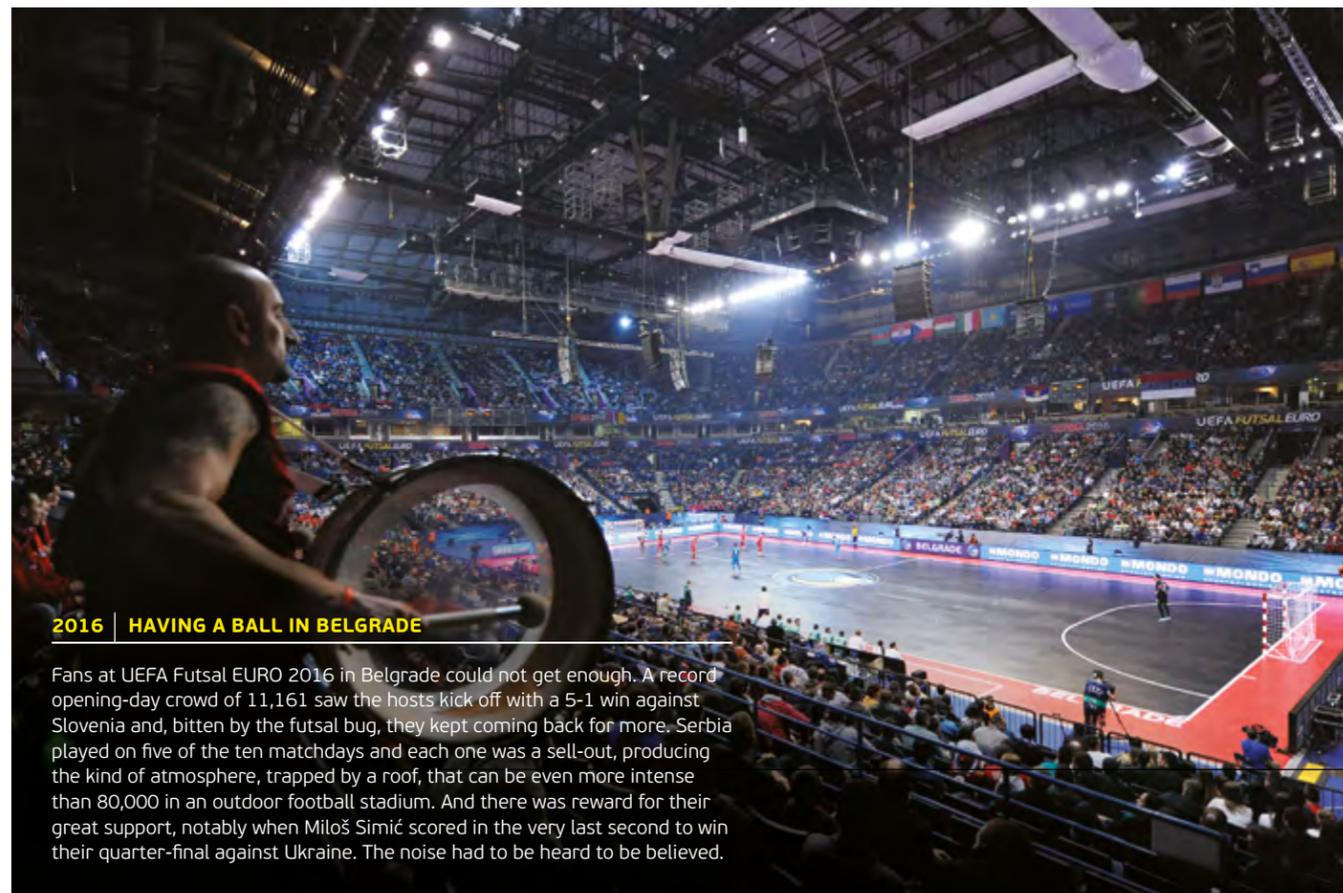
LOCAL DELICACIES

The farmers' market on Vodnikov trg is a great introduction to the flavours and smells of Slovene cuisine, as is the Market Colonnade on the left bank of the Ljubljanica between the Dragon and Triple Bridges. Stews and meat dishes such as schnitzels (zrezek) dominate menus, washed down with a local wine from Podravje, Posavje or Primorje. Nut-filled Potica cake is another favourite.

Ljubljana's castle, with the Alps beyond

THRILLS AND SKILLS

Paul Saffer has been reporting on this competition for over a decade for UEFA.com. Ahead of his sixth UEFA Futsal EURO here in Ljubljana, he took his pick of some of his most memorable moments so far



2016 | HAVING A BALL IN BELGRADE

Fans at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 in Belgrade could not get enough. A record opening-day crowd of 11,161 saw the hosts kick off with a 5-1 win against Slovenia and, bitten by the futsal bug, they kept coming back for more. Serbia played on five of the ten matchdays and each one was a sell-out, producing the kind of atmosphere, trapped by a roof, that can be even more intense than 80,000 in an outdoor football stadium. And there was reward for their great support, notably when Miloš Simić scored in the very last second to win their quarter-final against Ukraine. The noise had to be heard to be believed.

2016 | A KIND OF MAGIC

Spain won the trophy in 2016, but the star of the show was a player knocked out in the quarter-finals. Ricardinho lived up to his star billing at the Arena of Belgrade and one moment against Serbia in particular will live long in the memory. From a standing start on the wing, he lofted the ball over a defender then darted past him to smash in a stunning half-volley. The brilliance of

the goal was initially met by stunned silence from the home fans, but they had recovered by the final whistle and applauded him off the court.

Ricardinho scored another stunning goal in Portugal's quarter-final defeat against Spain and by the end the Serbian crowd were chanting his name. O Mágico, with tears in his eyes, took a solo bow to all four stands.

2014 | CAPAR'S MOMENT

There was plenty of drama at UEFA Futsal EURO 2014 in Antwerp, not least Russia ending Spain's nine-year reign as champions in semi-final extra time, then Italy clinching their first title since 2003. But it was Croatia's 3-3 draws with Spain and the Czech Republic in the group stage that stood out in my memory thanks to the heroics of Croatia's Matija Capar. Capar had been injured for much of the build-up to the tournament, and

his role in the squad was pretty much as an emergency flying goalkeeper. He still made his presence felt. Twice he was sent on as a flying goalkeeper and twice he equalised with one minute to go. It was an emotional player that I spoke to after the Czech game: "The feeling is incredible because on the bench, everybody went: 'Believe, believe, believe, you are going to score.'" You can't beat the power of positive thinking.



2014 | FUTSAL GOES VIRAL

Talking of great goals, they don't get much better than Eder Lima's for Russia against Portugal in the 2014 group stage in Antwerp. From 0-0 at half-time, both teams led twice after the break before the Russian pivot produced a breathtaking finish to earn his side a 4-4 draw – Eder Lima swivelling to fire in with a scissor kick from Robinho's cross. It was the first futsal moment I'd seen going viral on social media – but nothing was quite like watching it in the flesh.



2007 | A STAR IS BORN

After kicking off UEFA Futsal EURO 2007 with a goalless draw against Italy, hosts Portugal won their next two games against the Czech Republic and Romania. On target in both was a 22-year-old Ricardinho. I'd already seen him, as a teenager, light up the 2004 UEFA Futsal Cup final for Benfica against Inter FS but now he was a fully-minted star. He was brilliant in the semi-final against Spain, thrilling the capacity crowd as he put Portugal 2-0 up with a stunning bicycle kick. Spain came back, won on penalties, and retained the trophy, but it was certain that would not be the last we would hear of Ricardinho.

2007 | ROMANIA MAKE THEIR MARK

Back in 2007 in Porto, UEFA Futsal EURO was still an eight-team tournament made up of familiar faces such as Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Russia and Portugal. Romania were the exception, having made it to the final tournament for the first time just four years after playing their first international games. Following

the opening match, a rare 0-0 draw between Portugal and Italy, Romania turned on the style in a stunning 8-4 defeat of the Czech Republic with Florin Matei hitting a hat-trick. Futsal can be both cagily tactical and spectacularly explosive – and the contrasting opening games of 2007 showed how.

2010 | UNDERDOGS HAVE THEIR DAY

The finals expanded to 12 teams for 2010 in Hungary, and in an ice-cold Debrecen (outside the arena anyway), Belarus froze on their debut, demolished 9-1 by Spain. No one gave them much of a chance two days later either against Portugal. And, as expected, Belarus duly went 2-0 down, and were 4-2 behind with eight minutes left. Then came the twist

in the tale. Belarus struck twice to draw level, and even though Arnaldo scored what seemed the winner in the 39th minute, the underdogs hit back again. With seconds remaining Belarus were awarded a ten-metre penalty and, with nerves of steel, Aleksei Popov stepped up to convert, complete his hat-trick, and seal a sensational 5-5 draw.



2010 | FOND FAREWELL

Spain's world and European domination of the 2000s had a common factor – Javi Rodríguez. The winger was the hero of the 2000 FIFA Futsal World Cup final against Brazil and was crucial to them retaining that trophy in 2004 and taking EURO titles in 2001, 2005 and 2007. But 2010 was to be Rodríguez's last competition, and the skipper made it count. In the final against Portugal, with Spain 1-0 up, Rodríguez received the ball on the edge of the box facing away from goal, and though covered by Portugal defender Israel, he back-heeled in his 99th international goal. The sell-out Debrecen crowd rose and applauded in appreciation; soon Rodríguez was lifting his last international trophy.

2012 | SWEET 17

Azerbaijan made their debut in 2010, storming through to the semi-finals with a brand of futsal best described as 'charismatic'. And they were back in 2012, with defending possibly not a priority. After losing 4-1 to Portugal, Azerbaijan tore into Serbia, Felipe scoring after a competition-record eight seconds. Serbia tore straight back, equalling almost

immediately. There was no let-up after that as the goals rained in, the players barely pausing for breath (or to allow a poor hack to rest his fingers). It finished Azerbaijan 8-9 Serbia, with a new competition-record 17 goals scored. "People called us from Serbia after the match and told us that some of them were on the verge of a heart attack," captain Bojan Pavičević told me.

2012 | CROATIA BRING THE NOISE

Hosts Croatia caught the imagination of their public in 2012 like no other host before them, selling out both their group games and the quarter-final in Split, and duly winning each in dramatic style. That brought them to the larger Arena Zagreb for a semi-final with Russia. A competition-record 14,300 crowd made a deafening din, especially when two late goals from Dario

Marinović gave the home side hope after falling 4-0 down. That was as close as Croatia got, but thanks to their exploits, a new bar had been set for future EURO hosts to aspire to. "It was a fantastic atmosphere and it's a really special feeling when you hear 15,000 fans supporting you," Croatia defender Jakov Grcić said. "It's incredible for Croatian futsal."

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RECORD BREAKERS

The magic numbers from the ten final tournaments so far

FINALS

2016 Spain 7-3 Russia / Belgrade, Serbia
2014 Italy 3-1 Russia / Antwerp, Belgium
2012 Spain 3-1 Russia (aet) / Zagreb, Croatia
2010 Spain 4-2 Portugal / Debrecen, Hungary
2007 Spain 3-1 Italy / Porto, Portugal
2005 Spain 2-1 Russia / Ostrava, Czech Republic
2003 Italy 1-0 Ukraine / Caserta, Italy
2001 Spain 2-1 Ukraine (golden goal) / Moscow, Russia
1999 Russia 3-3 Spain (aet, 4-2 pens) / Granada, Spain
1996 Spain 5-3 Russia / Cordoba, Spain*

*UEFA European Futsal Tournament - Championship status from 1999

APPEARANCES BY NATION*

11	Italy, Russia, Spain
10	Ukraine
9	Portugal
8	Czech Republic
7	Slovenia, Yugoslavia/Serbia
5	Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Netherlands
4	Romania
3	Hungary
2	Kazakhstan, Poland
1	Belarus, France, Turkey

*Including 2018

ALL-TIME TOP SCORERS



20
Konstantin Eremenko
(Russia)

16
Daniel (Spain)

15
Serhiy Koridze (Ukraine)
Ricardinho (Portugal)

ALL-TIME APPEARANCES



33
Luis Amado (Spain)

29
Kike (Spain)

24
Gonçalo (Portugal)

MOST GOALS AT A EURO



11
Konstantin Eremenko
1999 (Russia)

8
Eder Lima 2014 (Russia)

8
Konstantin Eremenko
1996 (Russia)



FASTEST GOAL

Felipe 8 seconds,
Serbia 8-9
Azerbaijan, 2012



BIGGEST WIN

Spain 9-1
Belarus, 2010



HIGHEST SCORING MATCH

Azerbaijan 8-9
Serbia, 2012



MOST GOALS IN A GAME

Serhiy Koridze
(Ukraine) v
Portugal, 2003



A record number of goals were scored at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016. The average of 6.45 goals per game was also an all-time high

113,820

Record aggregate crowd at the UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 in Serbia



14,300

Highest final tournament attendance Croatia v Russia, Zagreb, 2012

Nastop, ki naelektri.

Preizkusi ga!
Prijavi se na Volkswagen točki v areni.



Nov igralec lahko prinese zagon celotni ekipi.

Če dobro stvar naredimo malo hitrejšo in malo sodobnejšo ter vanjo vložimo še malo več energije, je rezultat več kot vznemirljiv. Vi kot ljubitelji futsala to seveda že veste. Naj vaše navdušenje po koncu tekme ne popusti. Spoznajte novi e-Golf.

Uresničujemo prihodnost.



Volkswagen

**Official Mobility Partner of
UEFA Futsal EURO 2018**

Kombinirana poraba električne energije: 12,7 kWh/100 km. Emisije CO₂: 0 g/km. Emisije CO₂ med vožnjo, skupne emisije CO₂ so odvisne od vira električne energije. Volkswagen zato priporoča uporabo ekološko pridobljene elektrike. Ogljikov dioksid (CO₂) je najpomembnejši toplogredni plin, ki povzroča globalno segrevanje. Emisije onesnaževal zunanega zraka iz prometa pomembno prispevajo k poslabšanju kakovosti zunanega zraka. Prispevajo zlasti k čezmerno povišanim koncentracijam prizemnega ozona, delcev PM₁₀ in PM_{2,5} ter dušikovih oksidov. Porsche Slovenija d.o.o., Bravničarjeva 5,1000 Ljubljana. Slika je simbolna.

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