EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS - 2019/20 SEASON
MATCH PRESS KITS

Moldova
Stadionul Zimbru - Chisinau
Friday 22 March 2019
20.45CET (21.45 local time)
Group H - Matchday 1

France

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EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS

Head coach
Legend

2
3
Head coach

Alexandru Spiridon

**Date of birth:** 20 July 1960  
**Nationality:** Moldovan  
**Playing career:** Nistru Chişinău (twice), SKA Kyiv, Zorya Voroshilovgrad, Zaria Bălţi, Zimbru Chişinău, Tiligul Tiraspol  
**Coaching career:** Zimbru Chişinău (twice), Tiligul Tiraspol (twice), Moldova Under-21, Moldova (twice), Unisport Chişinău, Nistru Otaci, Shakhtar Donetsk (assistant), Zenit (assistant)  

- Born in Edinet in northern Moldova, the midfielder started his professional career at Nistru Chişinău (now Zimbru). Shortly before he was due to travel to the 1979 FIFA World Youth Championship with the USSR, Spiridon broke his leg in two places – an injury that would hamper his career.  
- Played for Ukrainian clubs SKA Kyiv and Zorya Voroshilovgrad (now Zorya Luhansk) in the Soviet second tier before returning to Nistru and later joining Zaria Bălţi. After Moldova gained independence, Spiridon went on to play for Zimbru and Tiligul Tiraspol before hanging up his boots at the age of 37.  
- Spiridon won 16 caps and scored twice for Moldova between 1991 and 1995. He won five Moldovan leagues with Zimbru both as player and coach and was voted the country's player of the year in 1992.  
- He started coaching in 1992 while still playing for Zimbru – first as assistant coach then, from 1994, as player/head coach. Held the same role at Tiligul before focusing solely on coaching and guiding local clubs Unisport and Nistru. He was on the national team coaching staff between 1994 and 2000, working with the Under-21s, and briefly took charge of the senior side in 2001.  
- A new chapter in Spiridon's career kicked off in 2004 as he became Mircea Lucescu's assistant at Shakhtar – a post he held for the next 12 years, during which Shakhtar won eight league titles and the 2008/09 UEFA Cup. Spiridon followed Lucescu to Zenit for the 2016/17 season before being appointed as Moldova's head coach in January 2018.

Didier Deschamps

**Date of birth:** 15 October 1968  
**Nationality:** French  
**Playing career:** Nantes, Marseille (twice), Bordeaux, Juventus, Chelsea, Valencia  
**Coaching career:** Monaco, Juventus, Marseille, France  

- Left in 1999 for Chelsea, staying one season and lifting the FA Cup, before ending his career with a year in Valencia, watching from the bench as they lost the 2001 UEFA Champions League final to Bayern München. Skippered France to victory on home soil at the 1998 FIFA World Cup and also at UEFA EURO 2000, retiring that year with 103 caps.  
- Started coaching career in 2001 with Monaco, landing the French League Cup in 2003 and reaching the UEFA Champions League final a year later, going down to José Mourinho’s Porto. Resigned in September 2005 and joined his old club Juventus, then in Serie B, the following June. Stepped down after securing promotion back to Serie A in May 2007.  
- Appointed Marseille boss in May 2009, replacing Eric Gerets. Ended OM's 18-year wait for the Ligue 1 championship in his first term and added a maiden League Cup, retaining the latter trophy in the next two campaigns.  
- Succeeded Laurent Blanc after UEFA EURO 2012 and guided France to the 2014 World Cup, where they lost to eventual winners Germany in the quarter-finals, and then to the final of UEFA EURO 2016 on home soil only to lose to Portugal in extra time. Redemption followed at Russia 2018, where France went all the way to lift the trophy, making Deschamps only the third man to win the World Cup as both player and coach after Mário Zagallo and Franz Beckenbauer.
:: Previous meetings

Goals for/against: Goal totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (e.g. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined). Goals totals do not include goals scored during a penalty shoot-out after a tie ended in a draw.

:: Squad list

Qual.: Total European Qualifiers appearances/goals for UEFA EURO 2020 only.
FT: Total UEFA EURO 2020 appearances/goals in final tournament only.
Overall: Total international appearances/goals.
DoB: Date of birth
Age: Based on the date press kit was last updated
D: Disciplinary (*: misses next match if booked, S: suspended)

:: Team facts

EURO finals: The UEFA European Championship was a four-team event in 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976 (when the preliminary round and quarter-finals were considered part of qualifying).

From 1980 it was expanded to an eight-team finals and remained in that format in 1984, 1988 and 1992 until 1996, when the 16-team format was adopted. UEFA EURO 2016 was the first tournament to be played as a 24-team finals.

Records of inactive countries

A number of UEFA associations have been affected by dissolution or splits of member associations. For statistical purposes, the records of these inactive countries have been allocated elsewhere: therefore, all Soviet Union matches are awarded to Russia; all West Germany – but not East Germany – matches are awarded to Germany; all Yugoslavia and Serbia & Montenegro matches are awarded to Serbia; all Czechoslovakia matches are allocated to both the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Abandoned/forfeited matches

For statistical purposes, when a match has been started and then abandoned but later forfeited, the result on the pitch at the time of abandonment is counted. Matches that never started and were either cancelled or forfeited are not included in the overall statistics.

Competitions

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time
No.: Number
ag: Match decided on away goals
agg: Aggregate
AP: Appearances
Comp.: Competition
D: Drawn
DoB: Date of birth
ET: Extra Time
GA: Goals against
GF: Goals for
gg: Match decided by golden goal
L: Lost
Nat.: Nationality
pens: Penalties
og: Own goal
P: Penalty
Pl: Matches played
Pos.: Position
Pts: Points
R: Sent off (straight red card)
Res.: Result
sg: Match decided by silver goal
t: Match decided by toss of a coin
W: Won
Y: Booked
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)
N/A: Not applicable

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