Croatia
Stadion HNK Rijeka - Rijeka
Saturday 16 November 2019
20.45CET (20.45 local time)
Group E - Matchday 9

Slovakia

Last updated 12/11/2019 12:20CET

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS

---

Head coach
Legend

---

1
2
3
Head coach

Zlatko Dalić

Date of birth: 26 October 1966  
Nationality: Croatian  
Playing career: Hajduk Split (twice), Budućnost Titograd, Velež, Varteks (twice)  
Coaching career: Varteks, Rijeka, Dinamo Tirana, Slaven Belupo (twice), al-Faisaly, al-Hilal, al-Ain, Croatia

- A midfielder, he spent the best years of his playing career at Varteks, scoring 13 goals in 108 matches from 1992–96.
- Played for Varteks in two spells, and after hanging up his boots in 2000, worked simultaneously as the club's assistant coach and sporting director. Took sole command on the field for the first time in 2005.
- Dalić more recently found success in the Middle East with al-Hilal (Saudi Arabia) and al-Ain (United Arab Emirates); in 2016, he led al-Ain to the AFC Champions League final, where they lost to South Korea's Jeonbuk FC over two legs.
- Assistant coach of Croatia under-21s from 2006-11, he returned to the national-team set-up as boss of the senior side on 7 October 2017, stepping in following the departure of Ante Čačić.
- A win away to Ukraine two days after Dalić's appointment earned a 2018 FIFA World Cup play-off place, where Greece were defeated as Croatia reached the finals, prompting Dalić to sign a contract running until 2020. They went on to excel in Russia, reaching the knockout stages for the first time since 1998 courtesy of wins against Nigeria, Argentina and Iceland; Denmark and hosts Russia were beaten on penalties en route to the semi-finals, where England were overcome in extra time, but France proved a step too far in the final.

Pavel Hapal

Date of birth: 27 July 1969  
Nationality: Czech  
Playing career: Sigma Olomouc (four times), Dukla Praha, Bayer Leverkusen, Tenerife, Sparta Praha, České Budějovice, Jakubčovice  
Coaching career: Opava, Zlín, Baník Ostrava, Nitra, Mladá Boleslav, Žilina, Zagłębie Lubin, Senica, Slovakia Under-21, Sparta Praha, Slovakia

- A versatile attacking midfielder often deployed on the right flank, Hapal represented both Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in the early 1990s, winning a total of 31 senior international caps and scoring one goal.
- Born 50km from Olomouc, Hapal started his playing career with Sigma – the first of four spells at the club – and helped them reach the 1991/92 UEFA Cup quarter-finals. His three goals in a memorable 6-2 aggregate win against Hamburg caught the eye of Bundesliga scouts and prompted a move to Leverkusen, where he remained for three years, winning the DFB-Pokal in 1992/93.
- Pursued his career in the Spanish Liga with Tenerife, where he also spent three seasons, before returning to his Czech homeland in 1998 and hanging up his boots four years later.
- Went straight into coaching, serving a succession of Czech clubs before making his name across the border in Slovakia – firstly by leading Nitra to a third-placed finish in 2007/08, then by steering Žilina to a record-equalling fifth Slovakian title in 2009/10, his debut season.
- After a two-year spell at Polish side Zagłębie Lubin and a brief stint back in Slovakia with Senica, he was appointed as coach of Slovakia’s Under-21 side. It proved a successful alliance as he led the team to the European finals in Poland, where they were unfortunate to be eliminated in the group stage despite winning two of their three matches. Sparta Praha appointed him in March 2018 but he left in the summer and took charge of the senior Slovakia side in October following Ján Kozák’s departure.
Legend

:: 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

Disclaimer: Although UEFA has taken all reasonable care that the information contained within this document is accurate at the time of publication, no representation or guarantee (including liability towards third parties), expressed or implied, is made as to its accuracy, reliability or completeness. Therefore, UEFA assumes no liability for the use or interpretation of information contained herein. More information can be found in the competition regulations available on UEFA.com.