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With 20 teams having now qualified for UEFA EURO 2020, the composition of the final tournament is beginning to take shape. Congratulations to those who have advanced to this stage of the competition and to the finals draw in Bucharest, and best wishes to the remaining 16 teams who will contest the play-offs in March 2020 to determine the final four slots.

As a competition, the UEFA European Football Championship has constantly evolved, and the most recent expansion to 24 teams in France in 2016 demonstrated the strength in depth of national team football on this continent. For UEFA EURO 2020, the innovation continues, not only in the unique hosting structure of the event, but in how UEFA is approaching the tournament as an overall spectacle.

As European football’s governing body, we know that we cannot stage a tournament of this scale alone. We count on many stakeholders. Together with the host national associations and stadium owners, our tournament will be the biggest ever – with 11 of the 12 venues boasting a seating capacity in excess of 50,000.

Equally crucial to our success is the active involvement of the 12 host cities, each of whom have embraced the concept of bringing the tournament closer to the fans than ever before. To everyone involved in preparing this particular EURO, I express my appreciation.

During the finals next summer, everyone attending or enjoying EURO will witness an altogether different approach to creating a festival atmosphere not only at the stadium, but in the heart of each city. This EURO, featuring eight capital cities, will touch more people than ever before, and our objective is to ensure that they feel engaged and enthused by the event both on and off the field.

We expect that the biggest EURO ever will also be the best EURO ever. In the last six months, we have witnessed unprecedented demand from the general public across the world. Such interest has not been restricted to ticket sales, but to other projects such as volunteering, for which UEFA will have the largest recruitment ever for a single tournament.

On the eve of UEFA EURO 2020, excitement is rising for this unique event, and I look forward to welcoming you to a truly great footballing spectacle kicking off in Rome on 12 June and concluding one month later with the final in London.
The 250 matches in the European Qualifiers produced plenty of goals, thrills and headlines as the continent’s national teams competed for the first 20 spots at UEFA EURO 2020.
DRAMA TO THE END

While some countries eased through qualifying, others had to endure the twists and turns of a tumultuous campaign. Holders Portugal picked up only two points from their first two fixtures and had to wait until their last game to book their place, while Denmark needed a final-day draw away to the Republic of Ireland to join Switzerland – who also qualified in the last round of matches – in progressing from Group D. “It means the world,” Denmark keeper Kasper Schmeichel said. “We are a small nation and the chance of playing home games in a major tournament is so small. To give our fans that is amazing and unique.” Wales were the last team to secure an automatic berth, their 2-0 home win against Hungary on the final night of the group stage taking them through ahead of both their opponents and Slovakia.

“I LOVE SCORING”

Belgium took the honours as Europe’s most prolific team during qualifying, but it was England’s Harry Kane who topped the individual scoring charts. The Three Lions captain struck 12 times in eight games, a tally bolstered by hat-tricks against Bulgaria and Montenegro, to become the first Englishman to win the race since Kevin Keegan ahead of the 1980 finals. “I love scoring, any striker does, so hopefully I can keep that going into next summer,” said the Tottenham forward, Golden Boot winner at the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Kane finished one clear of Israel’s Eran Zahavi and Cristiano Ronaldo, whose last effort in qualifying took him to 99 for Portugal.

HOME COMFORTS

Bigger than ever, UEFA EURO 2020 will be a unique festival of football spread over 12 different countries – a first for the tournament which meant that no team qualified automatically as hosts. However, at least seven host nations will vie for the trophy after Denmark, England, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia and Spain all successfully navigated their qualifying groups. In addition, Hungary, the Republic of Ireland, Romania and Scotland will compete to join them via the play-offs, with only one host nation – Azerbaijan – certain to miss out.
BREAKING THROUGH

One of the joys of watching the European Qualifiers was the chance to witness a new crop of talents emerge. Just ask Germany coach Joachim Löw, who singled out Serge Gnabry as “a really important player for us” even before the Bayern winger finished on eight goals from seven games with a hat-trick against Northern Ireland. Gnabry will now be relishing his first senior finals, along with England’s extravagantly gifted dynamo Jadon Sancho, who scored his maiden international goals in the 5-3 defeat of Kosovo. They – like Portugal prodigy João Félix, Netherlands midfielder Donny van de Beek and Belgium’s Youri Tielemans – underlined their growing influence and maturity, leaving fans with plenty to look forward to when these exciting young talents come under the spotlight next summer.

NINETY-NINE AND COUNTING

Cristiano Ronaldo’s last goal at the 2018 FIFA World Cup was his 85th for Portugal and made him Europe’s leading all-time scorer, one ahead of Ferenc Puskás – and for a while, that seemed to be that. The striker initially took a break from international football and, when he returned for the first two UEFA EURO 2020 qualifiers, he failed to find the net. A hat-trick against Switzerland in the UEFA Nations League semi-finals proved the catalyst, Ronaldo scoring in each of Portugal’s last six qualifiers, 11 goals in total including a four-goal haul in Lithuania. That left him on 99 international strikes – only ten behind the world record holder, Iran’s Ali Daei. “The 100th goal will come naturally,” Ronaldo said. “Records are there to be beaten and I am going to beat them.”

PERFECT TEN

Before UEFA EURO 2020, only six teams had ever won all their qualifying games en route to a UEFA European Championship: France (1992), Czech Republic (2000), France again (2004), Germany and Spain (both 2012) and England (2016). Belgium and Italy have now joined that club after notching ten victories from ten. Italy’s haul of 37 goals equalled their combined total in qualifying for UEFA EURO 2016 and the 2018 World Cup, and their closing 9-1 defeat of Armenia was their biggest since 1948, while Belgium finished as top scorers overall with 40 goals.
There will be a new name at the finals next summer after Finland became the 34th team to qualify for a UEFA European Championship. The Scandinavian side had never previously reached a major tournament, but they put that right by finishing runners-up behind Italy in Group J. “There were lots of tears, a lot of happiness,” said Teemu Pukki, who scored ten of Finland’s 16 goals, including a double in the 3-0 defeat of Liechtenstein that sealed their berth. “It’s something that we and everyone in Finnish football had been waiting a long time for. We’ll go there to get points and perhaps also reach the knockout stage. We’re not just going to look around.”

With 20 places already filled, the final qualifying picture for UEFA EURO 2020 will be decided in the play-offs next March. Four spots remain up for grabs from a field of 16 teams split into four separate paths: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Ireland, Romania, Scotland, Serbia and Slovakia. Unlike previous play-offs, the ties for this edition will be single-leg knockout matches, with each path holding semi-finals on 26 March and a final five days later to determine the last four tournament participants. See page 37.

**PLAY-OFF CHANCE**

Memphis Depay recorded six goals and eight assists for the Netherlands. Eren Zahavi struck 11 times for Israel.
The brief: to create music that will capture the mood of the biggest ever EURO and become synonymous with the tournament, to come up with tunes that will provide the soundtrack to the 2020 summer and produce memories of great football over the years to come. No pressure, then.

Step forward superstar DJ and producer Martin Garrix: “Music is my passion, but I’m also a huge football fan, so it’s extra special for me to be able to create the official song for what will be the biggest EURO in history.”

Garrix revealed he would be the official UEFA EURO 2020 music artist while performing in his hometown Amsterdam in October. The 23-year-old will produce the official song and walkout music for the tournament, as well as the music for official broadcasts.

“It’s an incredible honour to be asked to create the official song for UEFA EURO 2020 and I am so excited to let everyone hear it,” said Garrix. “Next summer’s tournament will take the fans closer to the action than ever before, and I really hope that my song will make everyone in Europe feel like they are part of it.”

The song itself will be released in spring 2020 when the identity of its singer will also be revealed. It will be performed in full for the first time at the opening ceremony of the tournament at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome on 12 June.

After being inspired by his fellow Dutch DJ Tiësto, who performed at the 2004 Olympic Games opening ceremony in Athens, Garrix has achieved worldwide success with hits such as Don’t Look Down (featuring Usher), Scared to be Lonely (featuring Dua Lipa) and In the Name of Love (featuring Bebe Rexha). He follows in the footsteps of David Guetta who wrote the official song for UEFA EURO 2016, This One’s For You.
Thanks to the unique hosting structure of UEFA EURO 2020, the finals will bring the competition closer to more fans than ever before. These new experiences will also come in new places, with seven UEFA member associations set to host the UEFA European Football Championship for the first time in the competition’s history, with 12 host cities in 12 countries. These new EURO experiences extend to a range of innovations that UEFA is implementing for the first time, as UEFA Events SA CEO Martin Kallen explains.

“For UEFA EURO 2020, we are creating a new experience driven by the fans,” he says. “Combining fan insight and the latest in digital technology, our focus is to deliver a personalised experience for every fan. This starts with the implementation of digital ticketing for specific target groups at every game in the final tournament. The digital match ticket will be complemented by a range of digital services all designed to help fans make the best use of their time – whether attending the match, organising their travel and accommodation, or sampling what each host city has to offer.”

UEFA expects a carnival atmosphere across all of Europe during the month-long final tournament, from the opening match in Rome on Friday 12 June until the final in London on Sunday 12 July.

“The tournament app will act as the gateway for everyone to embrace all that EURO 2020 has to offer,” Kallen says. “The app will unlock a personal digital travelcard, because spectators with match tickets will enjoy free public transport in almost all host cities on match days. This has been a significant undertaking and we appreciate the support provided by the host cities in making this a reality – unprecedented across so many countries during a final tournament, and a crucial element in encouraging fans to use public transport services.”

But UEFA is also cooperating with host cities in developing a spectator experience that goes far beyond the 90 minutes, and far beyond the fans attending the EURO’s 51 matches. Iconic locations in each of the host cities will play host to the UEFA Festival, a celebration that will offer more than just football.

“The UEFA Festival provides all visitors, families and residents alike, with a mix of entertainment, music, culture and festivity – with each location having a distinct local feel, in line with the unique hosting structure of the finals,” Kallen adds. “For the 60th anniversary of the finals, we wanted to ensure that EURO offers something for everyone, to be more inclusive than ever before.

“For people who do not have a ticket to the game or who want to soak up the festive atmosphere, fan zones in each of the host cities provide a fun place to watch all the action. For those fans heading to the stadium, the last kilometre of their journey will include fan marches and a wave of live entertainment performances, all playing a key part in building the atmosphere during the countdown to kick-off.”

Ensuring that fans are provided with all the necessary information prior to and during their stay in each of the host cities, the app will provide extensive tourist, travel and entertainment information to ensure that the EURO experience is second to none. In addition, during the tournament, Volkswagen Mobility Makers will be on hand to answer any spectator-related queries.

“We believe that we have every angle covered,” Kallen says. “All that is being prepared at the stadiums and in the cities has had a focus on the fans. The app, the UEFA Festival and free public transport are part of the overall package, which is supported by city spectaculars at iconic places in each host city – another opportunity for fans to capture a personal EURO moment. Our intention was to bring EURO to the fans, and by taking to the streets in big cities across Europe, we are helping to create many cherished memories for everyone, not only through football, but through the entire spectator experience.”
I SAID NOT TO WORRY... I WAS GOING TO SCORE

Portugal’s winning goal in the UEFA EURO 2016 final may have come from an unexpected source, but substitute Éder was far from the first to spring a surprise in this competition when it mattered most.
Sixteen years later, the killer touch comes late again. And from an equally unexpected source.

This time, Antonio Paredes masterminds another underdog triumph by inventing his own genre of penalty. Casually chipping the ball down the middle of the Sepi Maier’s goal, he gives Czechoslovakia an unforgettable shoot-out win against West Germany, who bounce back in the next edition via a final double from Horst Hrubesch. Only called up after Klaus Fischer broke a leg, the match winner on 88 minutes had never previously scored for his country.

Summoning the spirit of Hrubesch, Oliver Bierhoff then grabs the headlines at Wembley in 1996. The Germany striker was lucky to even be there. According to legend, it was coach Bernd “Voigt” who lobbied for his squad place, vowing: “He will repay you.” And how. Sent into action on 69 minutes, the substitute nods a golden-goal winner. Are you sensing a pattern here?

Sure, the UEFA European Championship has delivered less tight finales. Think of Spain swatting aside Italy 4-0 in 2012, or West Germany silencing three past the Soviets in 1972. Denmark pulled off one of the greatest surprises when they won 2-0 against Germany in the 1992 final, following a last-minute invitation to the tournament. And there have been final goals from football’s grandest talents: Michel Platini in 1984 and Marco van Basten volleying his physics-defying masterpiece for the Netherlands in 1988. But so often it is a late intervention that decides the final. France forward David Trezeguet was a serial markman, but he was also a substitute in the 2000 decider and only took the pitch in the 76th minute. We all know what happened next, Sylvain Wiltord dening Italy with a last-gap finish and taking the game into extra time. Nail-biting tension. Trezeguet blasting high into the net for the golden goal. Game over.

So you can understand why Éder promised coach Fernando Santos that he would settle the 2016 final. The scoreline was 0-0 when the Portugal coach lined up his last change on 79 minutes, summoning Éder to replace Renato Sanches. His first had come desperately early – and could not have been a heavier blow. Cristiano Ronaldo holding off with injury, the team’s one-man driving force unable to continue.

Unsurprisingly, it was France who had since looked likeliest to prevail. The stage, in other words, was set, and Éder had his own message for Santos as he received his brief. “He called me over and said ‘I’ll be shifted on,’” recalls the forward. “He was giving me instructions, and I was telling him not to worry, that I was going to score.” Despite his confidence, Éder was far from an obvious hero. His entire life to that point had been a catalogue of adversities. It was a minor miracle that he was in the stadium at all, this tall, powerful and sometimes awkward striker who had been born in Guinea-Bissau and moved to Portugal at a young age with his parents, only to grow up in a state-run care home in Coimbra. “Of course, those were difficulties that I had to deal with, but they made me a better person,” he says. “It was good to have that school of life and I think I learned a lot from my childhood. There was a lot of struggle. I had to work very hard, I had to be focused and believe in myself. Only I know what I went through back then. But I’m happy for all the battles I fought.”

Football offered deliverance, and soon a new set of challenges. Éder made his top-flight start with Académica de Coimbra before shining at Braga from 2012 to 2015, which earned him promotion to the national side. Then a move to Swansea City, a year before EURO 2016, brought an opportunity to boost his profile, but he was unable to find the net in 13 Premier League games. His chance of making the Portugal squad was disappearing. It had never been great to begin with, Éder taking 18 games to break his international duck. Things started to change after he joined LOSC Lille on loan for the second half of the 2015/16 season and his six goals in 13 Ligue 1 outings were enough to turn Santos’s head.

“I showed all his trust in me and the most important thing was to be there working hard,” says Éder, who travelled to France with just three Portugal goals under his belt – none in competitive games. By the time the final rolled around, he had spent 13 minutes on the pitch, a forgotten man until João Moutinho picks him out in the second half of extra time. Éder has drifted wide to receive possession, but he holds off Laurent Koscielny and strides inside. He is still around 25m out when he stumbles slightly. He seems to be looking for a passing option, but swings his foot through the ball without even glancing at goal. The shot is low, viciously quick and the ball audibly hits the string before the crowd. “I was elated, very emotional,” says Éder, that blustering effort securing Portugal their first major title and ruining France’s party. “Just before we scored, France hit the bar, so after that goal there was so much joy. It was a great relief. We celebrated together – you can see it in the footage, all the players running on to the pitch and hugging each other. It was amazing.”

It was payback too. “The ugly duckling scored and he is now a beautiful swan,” commented Santos, but the player himself had no thought for his many detractors. “I was happy in that moment, nothing else mattered,” he says. “I didn’t have to give any answers to the critics. All I had to do was to give everything I had.”

And besides, he had already warned them with a Facebook post at the start of the tournament. “So ahead, underestimate me,” it read, a stark message against a black background. It wasn’t meant to be taken literally.

“I didn’t have to give any answers to the critics. All I had to do was to give everything I had”
AUSTRIA

Austria’s hopes of appearing in a third EURO in four tournaments took an early knock when they lost their first two qualifiers, with a 4–2 loss in Israel particularly worrying. Instead, Franco Foda’s side went on a seven-match unbeaten run that included six victories, and only three goals conceded. The latter statistic epitomises the defensive solidity that Foda espouses, with the coach’s strategy relying on Austria’s ability to counterattack at pace.

The vast majority of the squad have gained plenty of experience in the German Bundesliga over the last few years, with David Alaba and Martin Hinteregger the key players and Marko Arnautović the danger man up front, while Konrad Laimer, Marcel Sabitzer and Valentino Lazaro have added pace and versatility.

Perhaps Austria’s major concern is a lack of power in attack; Foda is confident this is a puzzle that can be solved as his side look to win a first EURO group game after early eliminations in 2008 and 2016.

AUSTRIA RECOVERED FROM A SLOW START TO COMFORTABLY CLINCH A FINALS PLACE

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CROATIA

After the high of reaching the 2018 FIFA World Cup final, a series of influential retirements – including Mario Mandžukić, Danijel Subašić and Vedran Ćorluka – forced coach Zlatko Dalić to remodel the Croatia squad to reach a fifth successive EURO final tournament. Dalić also had to deal with a number of injuries and loss of form, but stuck to his attacking style. Nine players made their debuts during qualifying, although crucially captain Luka Modrić remained and continued to be Croatia’s key player.

Results were still somewhat mixed, however, an impressive 4-0 win in Slovakia followed three days later by a draw in Azerbaijan that represented the latter’s only point of the campaign. Goalkeeper Dominik Livaković and midfielders Nikola Vlašić and Josip Brekalo all made big impressions, although perhaps the most significant contribution came from powerful forward Bruno Petković, top scorer with four goals. Modrić is certainly optimistic about this new-look squad, saying: “If we stay fit, we can do big things again.”

A NEW-LOOK SQUAD OVERCAME SEVERAL HURDLES TO QUALIFY AGAIN

BELGIUM

RED DEVILS CONTINUE TO ENJOY LIFE AT FOOTBALL’S TOP TABLE

Maybe the most remarkable aspect of Belgium’s serene qualification campaign is that no one considers it that... remarkable. Nevertheless, the Red Devils broke their national record by winning all ten qualifying games, building on their success at the 2018 FIFA World Cup, where they finished in third place. The Belgian FA has reformed and modernised the country’s football and general secretary Peter Bossaert says Belgium are “capable of winning EURO”, particularly with key personnel including the likes of Kevin De Bruyne, Eden Hazard, Yannick Carrasco and Thibaut Courtois. The architect of the current success is head coach Roberto Martínez. He changed the mindset so that the national team were given licence to play dominating and attractive football. Top scorers across the continent with 40 goals and just three goals conceded in Group I, it appears that approach is now fully ingrained. Hopes of EURO success may lie with Romelu Lukaku, already Belgium’s all-time top goalscorer at the age of just 26.
DENMARK

DENMARK's qualification was both a triumph of desire and a test of nerve as Åge Hareide's side held firm on the final day of Group D, earning a 1-1 draw away to the Republic of Ireland to book their place at UEFA EURO 2020. That made it 34 matches unbeaten under Hareide, a record that looked over when Switzerland led 3-0 in Basel with just six minutes remaining on Matchday 2, only for Denmark to somehow snatch a draw. Hareide has created a solid side that has delivered at both ends of the field, with 23 goals scored in their eight qualifiers and only six conceded. Denmark's two most important players, goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel and creative midfielder Christian Eriksen, again demonstrated their value in the 1-0 defeat of Switzerland in Copenhagen, Schmeichel producing a string of fine saves and Eriksen – who either scored or assisted nine goals in qualifying – setting up Yussuf Poulsen for the late winner in what proved a crucial victory.

DENMARK

CZECH REPUBLIC

PERFECT HOME FORM DELIVERS A SEVENTH STRAIGHT EURO PLACE

The Czechs qualified for a seventh successive EURO by showing plenty of determination and fighting spirit – not least having opened their campaign with a 5-0 defeat away to England. Coach Jaroslav Šilhavý drew on all his experience from six years as assistant to Pavel Vrba to turn things around. His side’s eventual success was founded on their impeccable home form that brought four wins from four games. Three of these involved the Czechs coming from behind, including the important victory against eventual group winners England. Šilhavý stamped his mark on the team, built around captain Vladimír Darida and goalkeeper Tomáš Vaclík, also tapping into the momentum around Slavia Prague’s UEFA Champions League campaign with Tomáš Souček, Vladimír Coufal, Jan Bořil, Lukáš Masopust and former Slavia midfielder Alen Král all playing key roles. Newcomers Ondřej Celáček and Jakub Brabec formed a fine partnership in central defence, while Dáša forward Zdeněk Ondrášek marked his debut with the winner against England – testament to the Czechs’ attacking approach.

CZECH REPUBLIC

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS

MOST RECENT 2016 (group stage)

EURO BEST Winners 1996 (as Czechoslovakia)

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DENMARK

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS

MOST RECENT 2016 (group stage)

EURO BEST Winners 1992

ROUTE TO THE FINALS

GROUP A

England 8 7 0 1 37 8 22
Denmark 8 5 0 3 13 11 15
Republic of Ireland 8 3 2 3 19 15 11
Bulgaria 8 1 3 4 6 17 6
Montenegro 8 0 2 6 3 22 3

England 2–0 Czech Republic, Czech Republic 2–1 Bulgaria, Czech Republic 3–0 Montenegro, Kosovo 2–1 Czech Republic, Montenegro 0–0 Czech Republic, Czech Republic 2–1 England, Czech Republic 2–1 Kosovo, Bulgaria 1–0 Czech Republic

GROUP A LEADERS

GOALS
Christian Eriksen 5

ASSISTS
Christian Eriksen 4

APPEARANCES
Martin Braithwaite, Thomas Delaney, Christian Eriksen, Pierre-Emile Højbjerg, Simon Kjær, Jens Stryger Larsen, Kasper Schmeichel

COACH
Åge Hareide

ROUTE TO THE FINALS

GROUP A

England 8 7 0 1 37 8 22
Denmark 8 5 0 3 13 11 15
Republic of Ireland 8 3 2 3 19 15 11
Bulgaria 8 1 3 4 6 17 6
Montenegro 8 0 2 6 3 22 3

England 2–0 Czech Republic, Czech Republic 2–1 Bulgaria, Czech Republic 3–0 Montenegro, Kosovo 2–1 Czech Republic, Montenegro 0–0 Czech Republic, Czech Republic 2–1 England, Czech Republic 2–1 Kosovo, Bulgaria 1–0 Czech Republic

GROUP A LEADERS

GOALS
Patrik Schick 4

ASSISTS
Jakub Jankto 3

APPEARANCES
Ondřej Celáček, Jakub Jankto, Lukáš Masopust, Tomáš Souček

COACH
Jaroslav Šilhavý

DENMARK

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DENMARK

PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS

MOST RECENT 2016 (group stage)

EURO BEST Winners 1992

ROUTE TO THE FINALS

GROUP D

Switzerland 8 5 2 1 19 6 17
Denmark 8 4 4 0 23 16 12
Republic of Ireland 8 3 4 1 17 9 13
Bulgaria 8 2 4 2 7 11 8
Montenegro 8 0 3 5 3 22 3

Switzerland 3–0 Denmark, Denmark 5–1 Republic of Ireland, Denmark 1–0 Georgia, Denmark 3–0 Bulgaria, Denmark 1–0 Switzerland, Denmark 0–0 Gibraltar, Republic of Ireland 1–0 Denmark

GROUP D LEADERS

GOALS
Christian Eriksen 5

ASSISTS
Christian Eriksen 4

APPEARANCES
Martin Braithwaite, Thomas Delaney, Christian Eriksen, Pierre-Emile Højbjerg, Simon Kjær, Jens Stryger Larsen, Kasper Schmeichel

COACH
Åge Hareide
After England’s wonderful run to the semi-finals of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Gareth Southgate’s men secured their spot at UEFA EURO 2020 in style. With three group matches guaranteed at Wembley, the Three Lions were suitably fired up to finish qualification impressively, beating Montenegro in their 1,000th senior international match.

Captain Harry Kane now sits sixth in their all-time goalscoring chart; aged 26, he is already one of the squad’s senior players, along with Raheem Sterling (24). Even younger talent like Callum Hudson-Odoi, Tammy Abraham and Jadon Sancho offer options up front, with Mason Mount and Harry Winks impressing in midfield; England’s real strength is going forward, with 37 goals scored in eight matches. Goalkeeper Jordan Pickford was a key part of the team’s eye-catching performances in Russia and remains the No1 behind a back line that is marshalled by Harry Maguire.

Expectations are always high for England, who will hope home advantage helps next summer.

**SOUTHGATE’S ATTACKING SIDE QUALIFY WITH A GLUT OF GOALS**

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**Goalkeepers**
- Jordan Pickford

**Back Line**
- Harry Maguire

**Midfielders**
- Mason Mount
- Harry Winks

**Forward Line**
- Harry Kane
- Raheem Sterling
- Jadon Sancho
- Tammy Abraham

**STATS LEADERS**

- **Goals**
  - Harry Kane: 12
  - Raheem Sterling: 7

- **Assists**
  - Harry Kane: 8

**COACH**
- Gareth Southgate
FRANCE

BEATEN FINALISTS IN 2016, LES BLEUS ARE READY TO CHALLENGE AGAIN

The world champions endured a couple of sticky moments in qualifying, but have a fantastic chance to claim their third EURO title next summer. They came so close on home soil in 2016, when they lost to an extra-time Portugal goal at the Stade de France. The final qualifier, a 2-0 win away to Albania, represented Didier Deschamps’ 100th match as Les Bleus coach. He has blended new names like Clément Lenglet and Tanguy Ndombélé with hardened campaigners such as captain Hugo Lloris, centre-back Raphael Varane, and the striking talents of Antoine Griezmann and Kylian Mbappé.

Olivier Giroud claimed the scoring headlines, his six goals taking him on to 39 for France, behind only Thierry Henry (51) and Michel Platini (41) in the all-time list. Deschamps’ side favour a counterattacking game and scored four goals in four of their qualifiers, finishing two points ahead of Turkey despite picking up only one point in their two meetings.

GERMANY

A rejuvenated Germany continued their proud record of appearing at every EURO final tournament since 1972, edging out the Netherlands to top Group C. Joachim Löw has overseen the squad since the group stage exit at the 2018 FIFA World Cup and UEFA Nations League disappointment. While Manuel Neuer and Toni Kroos are both closing in on a century of caps, younger players such as Serge Gnabry, Julian Brandt and Timo Werner have been given opportunities to impress. As a result, Germany have occasionally struggled for consistency – their sole defeat, 4-2 at home to the Netherlands, came in a game in which they had scored first – and Löw will look to address these issues in the build-up to the tournament. Having been without Antonio Rüdiger, Niklas Süle and Leroy Sané due to long-term injuries, Germany are light on experience, but no one will underestimate a side who have reached the semi-finals or better at the last three EUROS.
Qualification sealed with three games to spare, winning every game and keeping six clean sheets in the process: after the disappointment of not reaching the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Italy have been revitalised by Roberto Mancini’s arrival. As a player he had a bittersweet relationship with the Azzurri shirt, but as coach he has managed 11 consecutive wins, breaking Vittorio Pozzo’s 80-year-old record of nine victories. Mancini placed his faith in a 4-3-3 and a midfield that valued technique above physicality. It was a philosophy that brought the best out of Jorginho and Marco Verratti, and led to the emergence of Nicolò Barella and Stefano Sensi. The consolidation of talents that exploded on to the scene in recent years, such as Gianluigi Donnarumma and Federico Chiesa, combined with a rock-solid defence led by Leonardo Bonucci, also contributed to the upturn in form. With enthusiasm rising and the prospect of group stage home games next summer, there is real momentum building behind Italy.

**ITALY**

**PERFECT AZZURRI PUT WORLD CUP DISAPPOINTMENT BEHIND THEM**

Qualification sealed with three games to spare, winning every game and keeping six clean sheets in the process: after the disappointment of not reaching the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Italy have been revitalised by Roberto Mancini’s arrival. As a player he had a bittersweet relationship with the Azzurri shirt, but as coach he has managed 11 consecutive wins, breaking Vittorio Pozzo’s 80-year-old record of nine victories. Mancini placed his faith in a 4-3-3 and a midfield that valued technique above physicality. It was a philosophy that brought the best out of Jorginho and Marco Verratti, and led to the emergence of Nicolò Barella and Stefano Sensi. The consolidation of talents that exploded on to the scene in recent years, such as Gianluigi Donnarumma and Federico Chiesa, combined with a rock-solid defence led by Leonardo Bonucci, also contributed to the upturn in form. With enthusiasm rising and the prospect of group stage home games next summer, there is real momentum building behind Italy.

**ROUTE TO THE FINALS**

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**STATS LEADERS**

- **GOALS**: Andrea Belotti
- **ASSISTS**: Federico Chiesa
- **APPEARANCES**: Leonardo Bonucci

**COACH**: Roberto Mancini

**GROUP J P W D L F A Pts**

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**GET READY to unwrap UEFA EURO 2020™ with us!**

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**PREVIOUS FINAL TOURNAMENTS**

9

**MOST RECENT TOURNAMENTS**

1968

**EURO BEST WINNERS**

1968
UEFA will once again be the host broadcaster for 2020’s huge festival of football, to be held in 12 different cities all over Europe. Over 130 rights-holding broadcast partners, located in more than 200 countries, will be provided with live signals from all 51 matches, together with supplementary broadcast and digital content and services. This material will be delivered to all platforms from UEFA’s central broadcast hub – the international broadcast centre (IBC) – which for EURO 2020 will be located in Amsterdam. UEFA EURO 2020 provides “a unique but, above all, thrilling challenge,” says UEFA marketing director Guy-Laurent Epstein. “Preparing for any EURO is a huge undertaking and our team have planned meticulously to ensure the host broadcast project will satisfy all stakeholders, not least the most important of all, the fans watching the images of the fantastic football we offer next summer.”

LIVE PRODUCTION

The ultra-high definition (UHD) multilateral host broadcast for UEFA EURO 2020 builds upon the successes of 2016, with a comprehensive 44-camera plan ensuring all the action is captured before, during and after every match. While the live coverage remains the priority, 37 feeds per match will provide all UEFA broadcast partners with a variety of additional content to supplement their live programming. UEFA’s live production output for EURO 2020 will also include on-screen graphics (including those for VAR), the in-stadium ‘fan TV’ experience and centralised quality control delivered from the IBC. UEFA’s live production output for EURO 2020 will also include on-screen graphics (including those for VAR), the in-stadium ‘fan TV’ experience and centralised quality control delivered from the IBC. UEFA’s live production output for EURO 2020 will also include on-screen graphics (including those for VAR), the in-stadium ‘fan TV’ experience and centralised quality control delivered from the IBC.

KEY FOR 2020: An estimated 5 billion TV viewers will tune in live to watch UEFA EURO 2020

HOST BROADCAST VENUE OPERATIONS

At all stadiums – from Bilbao to Baku – UEFA has worked tirelessly to ensure both its own live-production crews and its broadcast partners have access to the best facilities. Identified in a series of site visits, starting in early 2017, these permanent and temporary facilities include camera, interview and commentary positions as well as dedicated TV compounds, each between 5,000 and 11,000 m². During the EURO, every venue has a designated permanent operations management team. Led by the broadcast venue engineering managers, who are in charge of all aspects of broadcast activities at the stadium, each team will remain on-site to oversee the set-up and television operations there.

KEY FOR 2020: A new ‘fan arrival’ unilateral camera position

BROADCAST ENGINEERING AND THE IBC

Located at Expo Haarlemmermer in Vijfhuizen, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the IBC is central to both UEFA’s multilateral, and broadcast partners’ unilateral, tournament coverage. The IBC provides the central distribution hub for all feeds and additional programming and is home to the Digital Hive. It is also the home of the rights-holding broadcast partners based there during the tournament and UEFA’s own host broadcasting and ICT teams. A fully redundant optical fibre network will link all 12 venues and the IBC. During matches, this dedicated network carries all UEFA’s multilateral feeds and the unilateral feeds of broadcast partners, in parallel to a back-up satellite transmission system also deployed at each venue.

KEY FOR 2020: Comprehensive parallel multi-format production in 1080p50 SDR, 1080p50 HDR and in UHD-HDR, including Dolby immersive audio on all UHD-HDR feeds

EDITORIAL CONTENT SERVICES

UEFA’s content services for UEFA EURO 2020 will provide a wealth of material (packaged and raw footage) for its broadcast partners’ multi-platform use. This will include host city content, magazine programmes, highlights shows and match promos, among many other offerings, allowing broadcasters to extend the tournament way beyond the boundaries of regular match coverage and the tournament period itself. UEFA2020.com, the official apps and UEFA’s social media (available in various languages) will capture the unprecedented scale and vibrancy of UEFA EURO 2020, with cross-platform content on all UEFA’s channels that aims to excite, unite and engage fans.

KEY FOR 2020: Over 110 hours of non-match content made available to broadcast partners

BROADCASTER SERVICES

A dedicated team will provide all broadcast partners with best-in-class support, so they can fully exploit their media rights and provide their audiences with a complete bespoke production. This includes offering a full range of bookable services and facilities at all venues and the IBC for their unilateral needs – from commentary positions to pitch-view studios.

KEY FOR 2020: Virtual stadium tour online tool (VISTA), enabling broadcast partners to ‘visit’ all the tournament stadiums using a Google Street View-type experience

DIGITAL

UEFA is further enhancing the range of cutting-edge digital broadcasting services it offers its broadcast partners to ensure that UEFA EURO 2020 viewers will be able to access tournament content on more platforms and devices than ever before. These services take account of the latest digital broadcasting market developments and are aimed at simplifying the implementation process for broadcast partners and providing a more integrated product experience for fans.

KEY FOR 2020: The state-of-the-art Digital Hive acting as a central repository for all content
DRAw DELIVERS A DRAMATIC START FOR EURO 2020

HOLDERS PORTUGAL WILL FACE GERMANY AND FRANCE IN THE GROUP STAGE WHICH KICKS OFF WHEN ITALY AND TURKEY MEET IN ROME ON 12 JUNE

UEFA EURO 2020 came a step closer on 30 November with the final tournament draw at ROMEXPO in Bucharest. A blockbuster line-up emerged in Group F with European champions Portugal, world champions France and record EURO title-winners Germany all paired together, along with a play-off winner. There will also be rematches of certain qualifying rivalries, including Spain v Sweden, England v Czech Republic and Russia v Belgium.

The draw determined the groups at the summer finals, with the 20 qualified teams and four still-to-be-decided play-off path winners placed into six pools. It threw up some enticing contests for the event taking place in 12 cities across the continent in a unique and truly pan-European competition.

The ceremony opening featured the Bucharest Symphony Orchestra and 7 Fingers, a contemporary acrobatic collective from Montreal, who produced different dances to represent each of the host cities.

Draw guests included the artist in charge of EURO 2020's official music, DJ Martin Garrix, and there was a preview of what to expect from the 12 host cities featuring the tournament mascot Skillzy alongside his freestylers team.

A review of EURO 2016 pre-empted Portuguese winning duo Ricardo Carvalho and João Mário bringing the Henri Delaunay Cup back on stage.

Then it was time for the draw itself. A selection of EURO legends including Marcel Desailly, Ruud Gullit and Theo Zagorakis drew the balls pot by pot, prompted by UEFA deputy general secretary Giorgio Marchetti. The teams that had qualified who are hosts were automatically assigned to their groups and it was soon determined that Italy and Turkey would contest the opening match in Rome on 12 June. Before then, the final four places at the EURO will be determined in the play-offs in March.

PLAY-OFF SCHEDULE
The 16 teams involved in the play-offs were placed into four different paths based on the outcomes of the UEFA Nations League games played between September and November 2018. The play-offs, in March 2020, consist of single-leg semi-finals and finals, and will decide the last four berths at UEFA EURO 2020.

The stage is set in Bucharest (top); coaches Fernando Santos, Didier Deschamps and Joachim Löw look on the bright side after Portugal, France and Germany were drawn in Group F

UEFA EURO 2020 GROUPS

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<th>Group</th>
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Play-off winner A is allocated to Group F and play-off winner D to Group C. If Romania qualify as Path A winners, they will play in Group C and play-off winner D will be switched to Group F.

The top team in each fixture will play at home All times are CET
At SOCAR we want to go far, uniting countries and cultures across the world, through our eternal love of football.
The Netherlands have staged a revival in their fortunes in recent years, having missed out on qualifying for UEFA EURO 2016 and the 2018 FIFA World Cup. They have built on the positive impact they made in the UEFA Nations League – losing to Portugal in the final, having beaten Germany, France and England along the way.

Ronald Koeman blended experienced players such as Jasper Cillessen, Daley Blind and Ryan Babel with a core of those in their prime, including Virgil van Dijk, Georginio Wijnaldum, Quincy Promes and Memphis Depay, and one of the most promising crops of young players around (Matthijs de Ligt, Frenkie de Jong, Steven Bergwijn, Donyell Malen).

Depay led the way with six goals and eight assists – the latter the highest in qualifying overall – while Wijnaldum contributed three assists to go with his eight goals. Boasting one of the best centre-back pairings around in De Ligt and captain Van Dijk, Oranje fans are beginning to believe again.

**The Dutch Return as Koeman Blends Experience and Promise**

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Poland had not qualified for a EURO until they reached the 2008 edition; now they will take part in their fourth consecutive finals after securing their passage with two games remaining. Unsurprisingly, captain Robert Lewandowski, Poland’s all-time top scorer, shone during the qualification campaign with six goals. He was accompanied by Krzysztof Piątek, who was the matchwinner in the big away victories against Austria, North Macedonia and Israel. The 24-year-old also struck in the 4-0 home success against Israel that gave Poland four wins from four.

Another key player has been Grzegorz Krychowiak, who has regained top form since joining Lokomotiv Moskva, while Jerzy Brzęczek has two high-class goalkeepers at his disposal in Łukasz Fabiański and Wojciech Szczęsny. Brzęczek replaced Adam Nawałka after the 2018 FIFA World Cup finals in Russia. With a blend of youth and experience, expectations of at least matching Poland’s best ever EURO performance – the quarter-final from UEFA EURO 2016 against eventual champions Portugal – are high.

Polish hopes are high after a dominant qualifying campaign

**ROUTE TO THE FINALS**

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Poland 0-1 Poland, Poland 2-0 Latvia, North Macedonia 0-1 Poland, Poland 4-0 Israel, Slovenia 2-0 Poland, Poland 0-2 Austria, Latvia 0-3 Poland, Poland 2-0 North Macedonia, Israel 1-2 Poland, Poland 3-2 Slovenia

**STATS LEADERS**

**GOALS**

Robert Lewandowski 6

**ASSISTS**

Kamil Grosicki 3

**APPEARANCES**

Grzegorz Krychowiak, Robert Lewandowski, Piotr Zieliński 10

**COACH**

Jerzy Brzęczek

Portugal made a modest start to qualifying, drawing their first two matches. However, the injection of confidence from victory in the inaugural UEFA Nations League prompted an upturn in results, Portugal winning five of their last six qualifiers to reach a seventh successive EURO.

Coach Fernando Santos favoured evolution over revolution, keeping the core of the team together. Ruben Dias has become an undisputed starter, Bernardo Silva assumed much of the creative responsibility, providing six assists, and Bruno Fernandes began to replicate his club performances for the national side. Up front, Cristiano Ronaldo continued to deliver, scoring in each of Portugal’s last six qualifiers to take his qualifying total to 11 overall – and his international total to 99. Having not missed a tournament since 1996, Portugal will once again be among the teams to beat.

**ROUTE TO THE FINALS**

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| Portugal 0-0 Ukraine, Portugal 1-1 Serbia, Serbia 2-0 Portugal, Portugal 3-0 Luxembourg, Ukraine 2-1 Portugal, Portugal 6-0 Lithuania, Luxembourg 0-2 Portugal

**STATS LEADERS**

**GOALS**

Cristiano Ronaldo 11

**ASSISTS**

Bernardo Silva 6

**APPEARANCES**

Ruben Dias, Rui Patrício, Cristiano Ronaldo, Bernardo Silva 8

**COACH**

Fernando Santos
Spain secured qualification with two games in hand, despite changing managers after one match and bedding in a new generation of players. Robert Moreno took over from Luis Enrique, leading the team through an unbeaten campaign, although Enrique returned in November and plans to lead the team at the finals.

Moreno was able to call upon the experience of Sergio Ramos – Spain’s joint top scorer in qualifying – Sergio Busquets, Dani Carvajal and Jordi Alba. Players such as Rodri, Fabián Ruiz and Mikel Oyarzabal have provided an injection of youthful energy, and Gerard Moreno scored three goals and provided four assists in just three matches. Spain alternated between Kepa Arrizabalaga and David de Gea in goal, with a clear first choice still to be established; up front, Rodrigo scored four goals but is still seeking more support. Spain are not short of options having fielded 35 players in qualifying; the challenge now is to find the right blend for UEFA EURO 2020.

Following a home FIFA World Cup where Russia knocked out Spain en route to the quarter-finals, there were high hopes that the team would kick on from that success. Being among the first teams to qualify for UEFA EURO 2020 confirmed the optimism was well placed. With the prolific duo of Artem Dzyuba and Denis Cheryshev again to the fore, a casual observer may think not much has changed since summer 2018, but Stanislav Cherchesov has revamped the squad, turning it into an arguably stronger outfit.

Brazilian-born goalkeeper Guilherme is now the established No1 after taking over from World Cup hero Igor Akinfeev, who had retired from national team duty. Georgi Dzhikiya leads the defence and midfielder Maximndi Oduboe scored in the decisive games against Scotland and Cyprus. And with the canny Cherchesov at the helm, Russia will be looking to at least match their unexpected World Cup run and make the last eight at EURO.
Switzerland will appear in their sixth successive EURO finals in 2020, although they had never qualified before 2000 – reaching the 1992 semi-finals as hosts in their sole previous campaign. Vladimir Petković has guided his charges to three successive international tournaments – UEFA EURO 2020 will be their fifth major finals in a row. Petković took the Swiss to the last 16 of both UEFA EURO 2016 and the FIFA World Cup two years later, and his attacking philosophy and possession-based style once again reaped rewards as they came out on top in a tight Group D, finishing ahead of Denmark and the Republic of Ireland.

That triumph was a reward for Switzerland’s collective endeavour, with no fewer than 15 players contributing to their total of 19 goals, newcomer Cédric Itten finishing as top scorer with three – all in the last two qualifiers, his first international appearances. A number of players performed impressively, particularly central midfielder Granit Xhaka and goalkeeper Yann Sommer, whose consistent displays proved invaluable. Switzerland’s target in 2020 is clear; to reach the quarter-finals of a EURO for the first time.

Switzerland

Determination and Durability

Key Factors in Sweden’s Success

Sweden’s hallmarks remain hard work, discipline and a positive attitude, all of which were to the fore at home against Spain. Having lost 3-0 in Madrid, Sweden were again on the back foot for the opening 20 minutes but regrouped and were only denied a famous win by an added-time equaliser. With Emil Forsberg supplying much of the invention from the left flank, new faces Kristoffer Olsson, Alexander Isak and Robin Quaison have helped add new dimensions to a side who will again be tough to beat.

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Coach

Janne Andersson

Group F

Spain 10 6 3 1 23 9 21
Sweden 10 6 3 1 23 9 21
Norway 10 4 5 1 19 11 17
Romania 10 4 2 4 17 15 14
Faroe Islands 10 3 0 4 30 9 3
Malta 10 1 0 9 3 27 9

Sweden 2-1 Romania, Norway 3-3 Sweden, Sweden 3-0 Malta, Spain 3-0 Sweden, Faroe Islands 0-4 Sweden, Sweden 1-1 Norway, Malta 0-4 Sweden, Sweden 1-1 Spain, Romania 0-2 Sweden, Sweden 3-0 Faroe Islands

Stats Leaders

Goals

Robin Quaison 5
Marcus Berg 3

Assists

Marcus Berg, Robin Quaison 3

Appearances

Alexander Isak, Kristoffer Olsson 10

Group D

Switzerland 8 5 2 1 19 6 17
Denmark 8 4 4 0 12 6 16
Republic of Ireland 8 3 4 1 7 5 13
Georgia 8 2 2 4 7 11 8
Gibraltar 8 0 0 8 3 31 0

Georgia 0-2 Switzerland, Switzerland 3-3 Denmark, Republic of Ireland 1-1 Switzerland, Switzerland 4-0 Gibraltar, Denmark 1-0 Switzerland, Switzerland 2-0 Republic of Ireland, Switzerland 1-0 Georgia, Gibraltar 1-0 Switzerland

Stats Leaders

Goals

Cédric Itten 3

Assists

Breel Embolo, Admir Mehmedi 2

Appearances

Ricardo Rodriguez, Yann Sommer, Granit Xhaka, Denis Zakaria 8

Coach

Vladimir Petkovic

Route to the Finals

Group F

Spain 10 6 3 1 23 9 21
Sweden 10 6 3 1 23 9 21
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A goalless opening draw away to Portugal preceded six successive wins, the last of which was a 2-1 defeat of the holders that secured qualification in front of a 65,000 crowd at Kyiv’s NSK Olimpiyskyi. Andriy Yarmolenko, back after a long-term injury, scored the winner and is one of the side’s key players alongside goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov, who is also often the instigator of attacking moves. Ruslan Malinovskyi and Oleksandr Zinchenko are the midfield heartbeat and, up front, the tireless Roman Yaremchuk also scores important goals.

Şenol Güneş has enjoyed a triumphant return as coach of the Crescent Stars, who he had led to third place at the 2002 FIFA World Cup, being reappointed in February 2019 after 15 years away. Once again the coach has delivered. His side’s success is based around a staunch defence that conceded only three times in qualifying, with Çağlar Söyüncü and Merih Demiral proving a strong combination in the heart of the back line; their partnership has become known as ‘The Turkish Wall’.

Turkey kept five clean sheets at home, the highlight being a 2-0 defeat of France; a 1-1 draw away to the world champions made Turkey the only side in Group H to avoid defeat against Les Bleus. Late goals were a key feature of the team’s play, last-gasp strikes from Özan Tufan and Čenk Tosun securing vital victories against Andorra and Albania respectively as Güneş masterminded a reconnection with the Turkish public following a couple of fallow years.

**Turkish Football Federation (TFF)**

**Previous Final Tournaments 2**

**Most Recent**

2016 (group stage)

**EURO Best**

Group stage 2012, 2016

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**Turkey’s top scorer** Čenk Tosun takes on the Albania defence

**Ukraine’s Ruslan Malinovskiy battles with Bruno Fernandes of Portugal**

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**Stats Leaders – Goals**

<table>
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**Stats Leaders – Assists**

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**Route to the Finals – Ukraine**

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**Route to the Finals – Turkey**

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**Turkey’s top scorer** Čenk Tosun takes on the Albania defence

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**Ukraine’s Ruslan Malinovskiy battles with Bruno Fernandes of Portugal**

---

**Turkey**

**Defensive Might Ensures Şenol Güneş Makes Successful Return**

Şenol Güneş has enjoyed a triumphant return as coach of the Crescent Stars, who he had led to third place at the 2002 FIFA World Cup, being reappointed in February 2019 after 15 years away. Once again the coach has delivered. His side’s success is based around a staunch defence that conceded only three times in qualifying, with Çağlar Söyüncü and Merih Demiral proving a strong combination in the heart of the back line; their partnership has become known as ‘The Turkish Wall’.

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**Ukraine**

**Shevchenko’s Side Push Holders Portugal into Second**

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Daniel James scored on his competitive debut as Wales kicked off with a 1-0 win against Slovakia, and they sealed their ticket when Aaron Ramsey struck twice in the decisive 2-0 defeat of Hungary. It was a fitting reflection of the blend of youth and experience that manager Ryan Giggs has assembled in this exciting squad. Playing attacking football with pace and creativity, Giggs has made brave decisions, and the youngsters have rewarded his faith.

Injuries and suspensions have added to the challenge, but Giggs defied his critics and remained true to his beliefs, even when all seemed lost with defeats in Croatia and Hungary. The inspired introduction of Kieffer Moore proved to be the missing piece of the jigsaw, the towering striker offering a different option as Wales won three and drew two of their final five games to qualify. The semi-final appearance in 2016 set a high standard, but this fearless group have all the qualities needed to make another positive impression.

### Route to the Finals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
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<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Wales 1-0 Slovakia, Croatia 2-1 Wales, Hungary 1-0 Wales, Wales 2-1 Azerbaijan, Slovakia 1-1 Wales, Wales 1-0 Estonia, Azerbaijan 0-2 Wales, Wales 2-0 Hungary

### Stats Leaders

**Goals**

Gareth Bale, Kieffer Moore, Aaron Ramsey: 2

**Assists**

Daniel James: 7

**Appearances**

Gareth Bale, Ben Davies, Wayne Hennessey, Daniel James, Harry Wilson: 8

**Coach**

Ryan Giggs

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**Alipay and Partners are Trusted by 1 Billion Users Globally**

Together with partners, Alipay serves Chinese tourists in 20 European countries.
When Skillzy was unveiled at a spectacular on-pitch show at the European Qualifier between the Netherlands and Germany in Amsterdam in March, it felt as though a new type of mascot had arrived. The first sight of freestyle specialist Skillzy was just the start of his story, triggering the search for a squad to support him – and the Your Move competition to find his team-mates took place throughout spring and summer.

The official UEFA EURO 2020 Freestylers squad was confirmed in November, with fans selecting two representatives in each of the 12 host nations. Fans voted for their favourite freestyle footballers in the online talent competition launched to unearth the most original and expressive freestylers across Europe.

Hundreds of entrants submitted videos of their skills in a bid to represent their nation at the 60th anniversary EURO, and they were whittled down to a shortlist for each venue by two of the biggest names in the freestyle world: former world champion Liv Cooke, from England, and Tobias Becs, the multiple European champion from Norway.

Those 24 freestylers will join Skillzy in appearances throughout the build-up to the tournament and the official trophy tour, as well as the competition itself, including at matches and in fan zones.

“Deciding who should be on the shortlist was extremely tough,” said Becs. “There’s just so much talent out there. Now the winners have been chosen, I can’t wait to meet everyone and share this incredible experience with them.” Cooke added: “Fans will be able to see the best freestylers and street footballers Europe has to offer, whether they go to a game in Baku or Bilbao, Glasgow or Rome. It will add a whole new layer to the tournament and hopefully can inspire people to try it out themselves.”

Freestyling is associated with street football, panna, and other skills-based versions of the game. It shares characteristics with dance and rhythmic gymnastics, and is closely tied to music. Freestyling is not a game – it is an expression of creativity and an artistic performance.

**EURO 2020 FREESTYLERS**

**AMSTERDAM**
Laura Dekker, Jesse Marlet

**BAKU**
Hadar Alimova, Nigar Kirtiya

**BILBAO**
Paloma Mayo, Alejandro Portilla

**BUCHAREST**
Ioana Andreia, Stefan Florescu

**BUDAPEST**
Kitti Szász, Zoltán Józsi

**COPENHAGEN**
Mayri Asgari, Christopher Bach

**DUBLIN**
Ella Steele, Sam Madden

**GLASGOW**
Joe Ashworth, David Menne

**LONDON**
Agnieszka Mnich, Scott Penders

**MUNICH**
Dana Embacher, Samuel Weller

**ROME**
Anastasia Bagaglini, Antonino Coella

**ST PETERSBURG**
Svetlana Kovaleva, Igor Oleynik

For more information on the UEFA EURO 2020 Freestylers, visit euro2020.com/your-move

A **NEW BALL FOR A NEW FORMAT**

The eye-catching Uniforia match ball celebrates the diversity of UEFA EURO 2020

Bold and colourful, the official match ball for UEFA EURO 2020 has been designed to reflect the unique nature of the upcoming tournament. Unveiled by adidas in November, the Uniforia is named after the unity and euphoria that is conjured up by top-level national team competitions.

With next summer’s finals being played in 12 different European countries to mark 60 years of the competition, it is the tournament’s fresh format that inspires the official match ball. Uniforia’s design encompasses the notion of crossing bridges, the blurring of boundaries, and the diversity that will accompany the tournament, through a unique mixture of art and football.

Featuring bold, black brush-stroke style lines running across the ball, the Uniforia symbolises the competition’s new transcontinental format. These broad strokes are embellished with flashes of bright colours, representing the tournament’s diversity and bringing different cultures together.

The ethos behind the ball is summed up by Anika Marie Kennaugh, product designer at adidas: “What we saw in our cities is the need to come together. As one of the major sporting events in the world, UEFA EURO 2020 is a great opportunity to proudly showcase the power of unity and to celebrate sport as a connector of people, ideas and creativity.”
Supporters of the teams in the UEFA EURO 2020 final tournament draw will soon be able to apply for tickets to see their team in action next summer.

UEFA has a Fans First policy when it comes to ticketing for UEFA EURO 2020, with 82% of tickets going to fans. This includes 1 million tickets for fans of the teams, sold directly to the participating countries’ official fan groups – a 20% increase on the 2016 allocation.

Fans of the teams confirmed to take part at UEFA EURO 2020 can apply for tickets between 4 and 18 December, using UEFA’s multilingual ticket portal platforms. A similar process will take place in April after the play-offs to determine the last four participants.

In addition, there is a separate allocation for national association internal use, which can be applied for from 2 to 16 December. Where possible, quotas will be rebalanced between associations to optimise attendances of matches.

The team-specific application window follows the hugely successful initial sales period in June 2019 that saw an unprecedented 19.3 million requests across 51 matches, almost doubling the amount from the corresponding period ahead of UEFA EURO 2016.

Applications came from 213 countries, and while there was inevitably more interest from nations with host cities, there was also strong take-up from other European countries - notably Poland, France and Austria, all of whom were enjoying strong qualifying campaigns.

Some games were more popular than others - there were 1.9 million ticket requests for the final alone. A follow-up Fans First phase offered a second chance for those who missed out first time round. In total, 1.2 million tickets have already been sold for UEFA EURO 2020 - at an average of five tickets per buyer.

Fans will have further chances to apply for tickets closer to the tournament with an official resale platform opening in March.

A HELPSING HAND

RECORD NUMBERS HAVE APPLIED TO BE AMONG THE 12,000 VOLUNTEERS AT UEFA EURO 2020

An unprecedented number of people have applied to be a volunteer at UEFA EURO 2020 since the opening of the application phase in June. And with the tournament to be held in 12 different countries for the first time, it will feature the most diverse volunteer programme ever.

The objective of the programme is to integrate and gather people across Europe, as well as creating a legacy for the host countries. UEFA also hopes that individuals enjoy an unforgettable experience that encourages others to volunteer for European football events in future.

Volunteers are a crucial part of the team delivering a smooth-running EURO – a record 36,000 people have applied, with 12,000 needed in 2020. They are the event’s unsung heroes and without their help, it would be impossible to organise such enormous global sporting events successfully. But more than that, volunteers are the face of the tournament and a first point of contact for many visitors and fans. They will support the implementation of the events wide-ranging projects, from accreditation to ceremonies, from transport to media, as well as from ticketing and match operations to spectator services.

The biggest ever volunteer programme at a EURO will be implemented by 12 local organising structures (LOS), locally responsible for the recruitment, training and management of volunteers during the events. For this specific EURO, there is a focus on ensuring the local population of each of the host cities is engaged and therefore creating a legacy for volunteering in Europe.

From the volunteers’ point of view, they gain invaluable experience being involved in and delivering a huge sporting event. Following the interview phase, volunteers are confirmed in January 2020 before a training programme takes place between March and May, from when they start their various roles.
I think back to 1984. I had just started playing semi-professional football. Denmark took part in that tournament and played fantastically. Me and my friends said that if Denmark got to the semi-finals, we had to go and see it live in France where it was being played. Denmark made it into the semi-finals and were up against Spain in Lyon. The only way for us to get tickets for the game was through a bus company. So we took a 20-hour trip by bus to Lyon. We spent three hours in Lyon before the game. We saw the game but, unfortunately, Denmark lost and we headed home just after – a 20-hour trip again. I arrived home at 9 or 10 in the morning and, that evening, I had a cup game myself. We lost 7-0 and I am sure that the bus journey had some sort of negative impact on my performance. When I think of my first EUROs, that game is my first memory and also how amazing Denmark played in that tournament. Winning EURO ’92 was an enormous highlight in my career. In 1984 in France and the World Cup in Mexico in 1986, we had a great team that could have gone all the way. This was the biggest moment so far in my life and the life of my team-mates, and I think for Danish sport ever. That’s what it was all about, being in the right moment, at the right time, being in the right place and grabbing that opportunity that comes your way.
Alessandro Del Piero  
Italy

The Dream Disappears

I remember I could barely breathe at Euro '96. The thrill of playing in such a big competition for my country was the most beautiful thing that could have ever happened to me. It only lasted 45 minutes but I had fun.

At Euro 2000 everything was good until the final. We had some wonderful performances and all played well. I scored my first goal and we won a crazy semi-final against the Netherlands, the host country. It was nearly a perfect dream. We then played against France in the final whom we'd played in a number of other competitions and had the opportunity to get even. When the opposition scores the equaliser in the last minute, and then scores the golden goal, it blows your mind. It is really awful – you don't want to believe it happened but we had to face reality: we came so close to realising a dream.

To beat West Germany in Germany in the 1988 semi-finals was already like a final for Holland. Before the final we went to a Whitney Houston concert. Can you imagine? It was more to take our minds a little bit off that game because we had a feeling that we'd already won the tournament, but we still had to play one more.

The funny thing was that in the final, they [the Soviet Union] played better than us. I think we scored the goals at the right times: my goal and then Van Basten's was like an uppercut – the way he scored it was unbelievable. I think it was one of the best goals ever scored in a final, and they couldn't handle that.

It was such a relief. It's like you are finally in a situation you wanted all your life. To win something with a club is something; to win something for your country is the best thing that can ever happen. That moment when you can lift the trophy, it's pure ecstasy through your veins, your body, the smiles, the energy you feel between your team-mates.

Coming home, we didn't know what to expect. I was angry at the pilot flying us back because he made some ducks and dives over Eindhoven. Flying by a couple of times, saluting, and everybody in the plane was like: “What the hell’s going on?” And on the bus, from the moment we were on the highway, at every point on the road, there were people standing there! Just waving at us from Eindhoven to Amsterdam. It's one-and-a-half hour's drive. That was an unbelievable party.

Xabi Alonso  
Spain

The Double Champion

EURO 2008 itself was the most intense for us because it was the first. We weren’t used to getting so far. The quarter-finals had always been the limit for the national team. We were all excited after we’d overcome the hurdle of beating Italy and reaching the semi-finals. I think we then really believed, we thought it would be our chance. It was the first big celebration; everyone was euphoric and going wild. After so many years, we were champions again.

The second in 2012 was more about appreciating that we’d managed to do something again that we knew was so difficult. It wasn’t self-validation, but it helped us to value our efforts. Even the celebrations were much calmer. We were a bit crazy in 2008! It was much calmer in 2012 and some of us even had our children there and brought them on to the pitch. That generation was growing up.

That Winning Feeling

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Games against Italy were always very tough, physical and tactical. On top of that, in the EURO 2000 final we fell behind to a Marco Delvecchio goal. The coach brought on Sylvain Wiltord, Robert Pirès and me, which changed everything. It was incredible and, on a personal level, scoring in the final was fantastic, of course. It was a brilliant goal to watch and it was the final so there were so many emotions involved.

Time has passed obviously, but we can still feel how close the fans are with the 1998 and 2000 crop of players. We’re very well respected, but football continues to move forward, even though we made history.

I’ll always remember reaching a EURO final hosted in Portugal in 2004, and the amazing atmosphere, but it’s mainly EURO 2000, my first one, that I have fantastic memories of: the goals I scored and also the run we had. The winner against England was a great moment. I think all of Portugal still remembers that match and that fantastic comeback. The way we managed to turn the game around in the way we did with three goals – and for me to score the winner, which was my first goal for the senior national team, is a moment I’ll remember forever.

To have been one of the players who has scored at three consecutive EUROs is an achievement I think anyone should feel proud of and I’m no exception. And it’s important for a striker to score goals, so for my name to go down in history with that record or feat is one of the most special moments in my career.

DAVID TREZEGUET
France

THE MATCH WINNER

Gary McAllister ran up (for Scotland at EURO ’96), struck the ball, hit it quite well, but I think I managed to save it with my elbow. I still wasn’t sure if it had gone over the bar, but I could then tell from the crowd reaction. The next thing that was so funny about it was that Tony Adams came up and gave me a really big kiss. It wasn’t very nice! They had a corner, which came in, we cleared it and Gazza went straight up the other end and scored a fantastic goal that we all remember. It was just like Gazza to steal all of my thunder.

As a goalkeeper you love shoot-outs. It’s a chance for the goalkeepers to get the glory, to get the feelings more or less of scoring a goal when you save a penalty. I can remember Spain hit one against the bar and straight over, then we scored. Then it was Nadal (above). It was a great height for me. I had made the save, then for about two seconds I didn’t realise the game was over! I was not sure if there was another penalty to come that we had to score, but then I saw all our players running towards me.

I have to hold my hands up and say the penalties Germany took in the semi-final were really good. I think there was one that I just touched, the others were in the top or bottom corners. It was hard when Gareth Southgate missed but that was the way it was. We had some luck with penalties before; luck was not with us that time.

THE PENALTY HERO

Gary McAllister
Scotland

THE EURO SPECIALIST

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DAVID SEAMAN
England

THE PENALTY HERO

Gary McAllister
Scotland

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DANSEY
Portugal

THE PENALTY HERO

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GIORGOS KARAGOUNIS
Greece

‘OUR GREATEST WIN’
The quarter-final against France in 2004 was the most important game and, in my opinion, the greatest win in the history of the Greek national team. We managed to beat the reigning European and recent world champions, and maybe the best ever French national team. It was a challenge for us, playing a match against those French stars. It was a great success in a historic match – Greece had never been so far.

My team-mates and I thought that this might be our only chance. Therefore, you have to do your best to grab the opportunity that you are given – and that’s what we did. Playing against France was maybe one of our best games. And in the end we managed to get a huge win despite being really pressed by the favourites for the trophy, especially in the last 20-30 minutes. This is why it’s the most important win in Greece’s history.

PATRICK BERGER
Czech Republic

‘THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY’
We played the EURO ’96 final against Germany, the team we started the tournament against. I knew a lot of them because I played for Borussia Dortmund. We were really looking forward to the game, a final at Wembley. We knew we were one step away from that beautiful European Championship trophy, but we knew it was not going to be easy. We went ahead when I converted a penalty after Karel Poborský was fouled, but Oliver Bierhoff equalised and they won with a golden goal.

We picked up runners-up medals, but it was still a great achievement for us and the homecoming was unbelievable. We didn’t expect that something like this could happen in the Czech Republic and Prague. There was a big celebration in the Old Town Square. It was totally packed out and you could barely move. It was one of the best experiences I ever had as a footballer.
AN ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS EURO

UEFA has reinforced its commitment to tackling climate change by looking to offset more than 400,000 tonnes of carbon that will be produced at next summer’s tournament.

Organising a UEFA EURO across 12 different countries, spanning four time zones and numerous different languages, is a challenge in itself, not least in regard to its impact on the environment. However, UEFA is committed to ensuring the sustainability of next summer’s tournament will be its most environmentally conscious yet, by compensating for the carbon flight emissions of all spectators travelling to and from matches, alongside other environmental issues.

“UEFA EURO 2020 is a celebration of European football that will happen right across the continent. The nature of the tournament means there are many benefits over a traditional one. In addition to being able to take the matches to more diverse communities across Europe, there is no need either to build a host of new stadia or the transport links that they require, which carry a huge environmental impact from, for instance, materials and other resources used for the development of such infrastructure,” said UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin.

“But it also has a cost, with increased travel for fans to watch their teams play. Here, UEFA takes its responsibilities seriously and it is right that we offset the resulting carbon emissions. Working with South Pole, we are supporting the activities of Gold Standard carbon reduction projects, which will support local communities and be of lasting value to the planet.”

There is overwhelming international scientific consensus that human activity is the principal cause of global warming, which is affecting millions of people and costing hundreds of billions of euros in economic losses every year. If action is not taken to significantly reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, the impacts of climate change will continue to put future generations at risk. The impacts of global warming are also affecting communities around the world who play football, with extreme heat, drought and severe storms threatening participation and attendance at both amateur and professional levels.

In order to offset the hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon that will be created at UEFA EURO 2020, UEFA in partnership with South Pole will invest in various Gold Standard projects including a project that provides efficient cookstoves to rural districts in Rwanda. This project benefits the environment by significantly reducing fuel consumption, which often comes from burning wood or charcoal – predominant sources of energy in Rwanda – thus decreasing the amount of methane and carbon dioxide, which are both potent greenhouse gases.

UEFA is participating in Gold Standard emission reduction projects to lessen the impact of EURO 2020 on the environment.

“Working with South Pole, we are supporting the activities of Gold Standard carbon reduction projects, which will support local communities and be of lasting value to the planet”

ALEKSANDER ČEFERIN

There are no borders in the atmosphere and rising levels of carbon dioxide are an international problem, which demands an international solution. To drive down global emissions at the speed and scale that is required, it is paramount that UEFA invests in solutions that result in real, quantifiable impacts – such as the certified projects that have been selected. UEFA is also supporting initiatives in less economically developed countries, where a greater impact is created, not just for the local community, but also for the environment.

“The role played by the sports industry and sports associations in combating climate change is more urgent than ever,” said Natalia Gorina, commercial director at South Pole. “Measuring greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing operations, switching to clean energy, and offsetting unavoidable emissions are steps that all organisations must take to help address climate change. We are delighted UEFA is showing a strong commitment to combating climate change, while also taking seriously its contribution to offsetting the carbon that will be created at UEFA EURO 2020.”

Since 2008, UEFA has been offsetting the travel of its own employees and officials. For the 2019/20 fiscal year, European football’s governing body is investing in South Pole’s Gold Standard carbon credits for the Prony and Kafeate wind farm projects, which have brought and continue to bring renewable electricity to remote villages in New Caledonia.

UEFA has also signed up to the Sports for Climate Action Framework. The aim of the agenda is to gather sports organisations, teams, athletes and fans in order to create a concerted effort to raise awareness of the need to meet the goals set out in the Paris Agreement for climate protection.

Beyond carbon offsetting, UEFA EURO 2020 has several initiatives related to climate action, including working with UEFA EURO 2020 host cities to provide free of charge public transport for ticket holders on matchdays. In celebration of UEFA’s 60 years of European Championships, UEFA will be planting 600,000 trees across the 12 host countries and cities. These UEFA EURO 2020 forests not only serve as a local legacy of the tournament, but will also sequester an estimated 280,000 tonnes of CO2 over their lifetime.

While UEFA EURO 2020 promises to be a complex event from an organisational point of view, it stands to be UEFA’s most environmentally conscious tournament yet, following this pledge to offset emissions and play a part in tackling climate change.
COUNTDOWN TO KICK-OFF

KEY DATES UNTIL THE FINAL IN LONDON

2019

2 DECEMBER
Second UEFA Broadcast Partner workshop, Munich, Germany

4-18 DECEMBER
Qualified teams’ fans can apply for tickets via EURO2020.com

2020

3 MARCH
UEFA Congress, Amsterdam, Netherlands

4 MARCH
100 days to go

26 MARCH
Play-off semi-finals

31 MARCH
Play-off finals

APRIL
Play-off winners’ fans can apply for tickets via EURO2020.com

7-8 APRIL
Finalists workshop for all 24 qualified teams, Geneva, Switzerland

23 APRIL
50 days to go

8 JUNE
International Broadcast Centre official opening, Amsterdam, Netherlands

12 JUNE
Opening ceremony and first match, Rome, Italy

12 JULY
UEFA EURO 2020 final, London, England

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