



# 2013 UEFA European Under-21 Championship

Final tournament draw press kit

Tel Aviv, 28 November 2012

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## Draw preview

**The eight sides competing at next summer's UEFA European Under-21 Championship will gain a better idea of the challenges in store when the draw for the final tournament takes place in Tel Aviv on Wednesday.**

Defending champions Spain may be the team to beat but the lineup of contenders suggests they will face strong competition. Hosts Israel share top-seed status along with Spain – meaning the pair will avoid each other – while past winners England and the Netherlands will be second seeds in the draw at the Hilton Hotel.

The four unseeded sides include Italy and Germany – both also victorious in the past – together with Russia and Norway. Two groups of four will be drawn with matches taking place from 5-18 June at four venues: Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Netanya and Petah Tikva.

The qualifying efforts of several teams stand out. Triumphant in Denmark in 2011, a Spain side now coached by Julen Lopetegui came through the group phase with the fewest goals conceded – just two in eight fixtures – and boasted the leading scorer in Rodrigo. He hit four of his 11 goals in a single match, the 5-0 first-leg rout of Denmark that set up an 8-1 aggregate success in the play-offs.

Germany, winners in 2009 in Sweden, were the only other unbeaten team in qualifying and finished as the overall highest scorers with 39 goals from ten group fixtures, as they booked their return to the finals after missing out last time.

The Netherlands, similarly, are back for the first time since posting back-to-back tournament triumphs in 2006 and 2007, while their fellow second seeds England were champions in 1982 and 1984 and have a wealth of recent experience as the only team to have participated in the last four final rounds.

Italy were absent in Denmark in 2011 but have the most impressive pedigree of all the contenders, with five U21 finals victories, the most recent in 2004. By contrast, Norway and Russia each have limited tournament experience, though both provided reason to believe in qualifying.

Norway have only competed once before at this level – in 1998 when they came third – and are the only second-placed team from the group stage to make it through. Yet the way in which they overcame France in the play-offs, winning 5-3 at home to overturn a 1-0 first-leg loss, should give them hope.

As for Russia, they too were last involved in the latter stages in 1998, when reaching the quarter-finals, but won their group ahead of Portugal and then ousted the Czech Republic in the play-offs.

Israel complete the lineup. Their only previous appearance in the finals was in the Netherlands in 2007, where they finished without a point or a goal, but Guy Luzon's hosts will hope to make the most of home advantage and leave a positive impression.

## Draw procedure

- The two top-seeds are:
  - Host association Israel (position A1)
  - the highest-ranked team (B1) according to the principles set out in Annex I of the competition regulations;
- The teams ranked second and third (pot 1) are also seeded and will be drawn into positions A2 and B2;
- The remaining four teams (pot 2) are not seeded and will be drawn into positions A3, B3, A4 and B4.

Final Draw Coefficient Ranking			
Pos.	Country	Coefficient (Calculated according to Annex I of the competition regulations)	
	Israel	Host country (30,302)	A1
1	Spain	41,086	B1
2	England	36,315	Pot 1
3	Netherlands	35,370	
4	Italy	34,433	Pot 2
5	Germany	33,863	
6	Russia	32,132	
7	Norway	24,634	

### Draw phase 1:

- The draw starts with the seeded teams in pot 1 from where the first ball is taken.
- The first team drawn takes position A2 and the second team drawn position B2.

### Draw phase 2:

- The first team drawn from pot 2 takes position A3, the next drawn team position B3, the penultimate drawn team position A4 and the last team drawn B4.



## Graphic Illustrations

Six teams are allocated to two pots:

<b>Pot 1</b> <i>(white balls)</i>	<b>Pot 2</b> <i>(blue balls)</i>
England	Italy
Netherlands	Germany
	Russia
	Norway

The draw will create two groups of four teams:

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>
A1 - <b>Israel</b>	B1 - <b>Spain</b>
A2 -	B2 -
A3 -	B3 -
A4 -	B4 -

## Match schedule

The match schedule will be communicated after the final tournament draw is complete.

Matches will be played on the following dates:

- Matchday 1            5-6 June
- Matchday 2            8-9 June
- Matchday 3            11-12 June
- Semi-finals            15 June
- Final                    18 June

## Official adidas match ball

The official adidas match ball for the 2013 UEFA European Under-21 Championship will be unveiled during the final tournament draw ceremony. The ball, which combines the latest technology with adidas design, honours hosts Israel with its blue and white colours. Rigorous testing by players and under laboratory conditions makes this ball the most tested that adidas has ever produced.

## The president – Avraham Luzon

President of the Israel Football Association for the past five years and a UEFA Executive Committee member since 2009, Avraham Luzon is ready to welcome Europe's brightest stars to Israel.

His main aim remains to steer Israel to a major final tournament for the first time since the 1970 FIFA World Cup in Mexico, saying of his work as IFA president: "I see this role as like being the Prime Minister of the Israeli footballing government."



## The ambassadors

### Avi Nimni

**Israel caps/goals:** 80/17

**Clubs:** Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC (three times), Club Atlético de Madrid, Derby County FC, Beitar Jerusalem FC

A former Israel captain with 80 caps, Avi Nimni is Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC's all-time leading scorer having struck 174 goals over the course of three spells with his boyhood team. Nimni also experienced brief stints abroad but will forever be remembered for his achievements with Maccabi Tel-Aviv, the club where he won four Israeli titles – before spending three years as a coach – and who have since retired the No8 shirt in his honour.



### Eli Ohana

**Israel caps/goals:** 51/17

**Clubs:** Beitar Jerusalem FC (twice), KV Mechelen, SC Braga  
**Israel caps/goals:** 51/17

Capped more than 50 times by his country, Eli Ohana won the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Super Cup with KV Mechelen in 1988 before a less fruitful stint at SC Braga. He made his most lasting impression, however, at Beitar Jerusalem FC, his career book-ended by stints with his home-town club, who he later went on to coach, with his goals key to four Israeli titles.



## Stadium guides

### Bloomfield Stadium (Tel Aviv)

**Tournament capacity: 14,400**

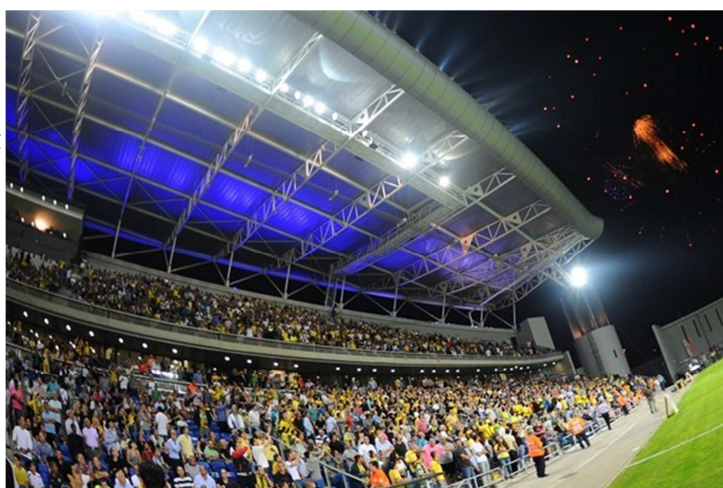
- Constructed in 1962 on the site of the old Basa Stadium, it is considered one of Israel's top grounds.
- Over the years, it has hosted UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and Israel national team matches.
- Home to Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC, Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC and Bnei Yehuda Tel-Aviv FC, the stadium is renowned for the great atmosphere that can be generated there.
- The city has a population of 405,000 and is famed for its great nightlife, culture, fashion, food, museums, architecture and sports.



### Netanya Stadium (Netanya)

**Tournament capacity: 13,800**

- Built in 2012, the venue was inaugurated with a 2-1 win for the city's main club, Maccabi Netanya FC, against Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC.
- Maccabi Netanya previously resided for almost 70 years at 'HaKufsa' (Hebrew for 'The Box') during which time they won five Israeli championships.
- With a population of 184,000, and as a popular coastal destination, Netanya has established a reputation as Israel's 'city of sport' with a basketball team, a baseball club and beach soccer events. There is also a centre for judo, gymnastics and fencing.





## Venue guides

### HaMoshava Stadium (Petah Tikva)

**Tournament capacity: 11,500**

- Built in 2011, the venue has played host to national team and Under-21 games.
- Home to Maccabi Petach-Tikva FC and Hapoel Petach-Tikva FC, both of whom play in Israel's second division after relegation in the 2011/12 season.
- Petah Tikva has a population of 210,000 and is the home town of notable Israeli football luminaries such as former Chelsea FC manager Avram Grant, RC Strasbourg and Olympique Lyonnais player Giora Spiegel and Nahum Stelmach (former Israeli international and six-time national champion with Hapoel Petach-Tikva).



### Teddy Stadium (Jerusalem)

**Tournament capacity: 30,000**

- Originally opened in 1991, it is being expanded especially for the 2013 UEFA European Under-21 Championship.
- It acts as the home to Beitar Jerusalem FC, Hapoel Jerusalem FC and Hapoel Katamon Jerusalem FC.
- Jerusalem has a population of 801,000. The biblical city is the capital of Israel and is a sacred place for many religions with numerous important sites.



## Team profile

### Israel

The hosts are taking part in a second final tournament after their 2007 appearance in the Netherlands, when they bowed out after the group stage. Guy Luzon's side have played 11 friendlies since November 2010 when they overcame Belarus 2-1. Israel had to take a few backward steps before progressing forward, though, as they lost all six games they played the following year, including a 4-1 defeat by England in Barnsley. It has been an unequivocally different story in 2012, with Luzon's side beating Ukraine (4-0), Belgium (4-1) and Belarus (2-0) and drawing against Russia (2-2).

Top scorer Orr Barouch made a big impact after being called up midway through the run of friendlies. The forward scored four goals in six games while centre-back Sari Falah did not miss a game. Gai Assulin is a promising talent, having just started his senior career at Real Racing Club after emerging from FC Barcelona's famed youth system. The midfielder will hope to live up to his demanding nickname – 'The Israeli Messi'.

Israel did not earn a point or even score a goal on their 2007 finals debut, and Luzon is looking for a better showing on home soil. "We want to continue the progress we have made as a football nation. Hosting the tournament is important but now we must understand expectations are high. I believe we can do great things, otherwise I would not be here."

### Coach: Guy Luzon



**Date of birth:** 7 August 1975

**Nationality:** Israeli

**Playing career:** Maccabi Petah Tikva FC

**Coaching career:** Maccabi Petach-Tikva FC, Hapoel Tel-Aviv FC, Bnei Yehuda Tel-Aviv FC, Israel Under-21s (since August 2010)

## **Israel's final tournament record**

**2007:** group stage

## **All-time competitive record**

P91 W37 D19 L35

## **2011-12 friendlies**

P9 W3 D1 L5 F13 A13

## **Current Israel U21s capped at senior level**

Eyal Golasa (7 caps), Nir Biton (6), Gai Assulin (1)

## **Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

None

## **Most appearances**

All-time: 39 Arik Benado

Current: 21 Gai Assulin

## **Leading scorer**

All-time: 15 Alon Mizrahi

Current: 4 Orr Barouch

## **Biggest wins**

### **Final tournament**

N/A

### **Qualifying**

Israel 6-0 Austria, 26/10/1993, group stage, Herzliya Stadium, Herzliya

## **Heaviest defeats**

### **Final tournament**

Portugal 4-0 Israel, 16/06/2007, group stage, Euroborg Stadium, Groningen

### **Qualifying**

Austria 5-1 Israel, 27/10/1992, 1994 group stage, Bundesstadion Südstadt, Sudstadt

Israel 0-4 Spain, 13/10/1998, 2000 group stage, Herzliya Stadium, Herzliya



## Friendly results

Date	Result	Israel scorer(s)
17/11/2010	<b>Israel</b> 2-1 Belarus	Mohamad Kalibat (2)
09/02/2011	<b>Israel</b> 0-1 Serbia	
27/05/2011	<b>Israel</b> 0-2 Netherlands	
30/05/2011	<b>Israel</b> 0-2 Uzbekistan	
05/09/2011	England 4-1 <b>Israel</b>	Mohamad Kalibat
10/11/2011	<b>Israel</b> 1-2 France	Nir Biton
13/11/2011	<b>Israel</b> 0-1 France	
29/02/2012	<b>Israel</b> 4-0 Ukraine	Orr Barouch, Sintayehu Sallalich, Munas Dabbur, Omer Vered
15/08/2012	Russia 2-2 <b>Israel</b>	Orr Barouch, Mohamad Kalibat
14/10/2012	<b>Israel</b> 4-1 Belgium	Orr Barouch (2), Munas Dabbur (2)
14/11/2012	<b>Israel</b> 2-0 Belarus	Munas Dabbur, Omri Altman

## Team profile

### England

Stuart Pearce's England side have reached their fourth straight finals and are looking for a first title since 1984. After starting their qualification campaign in relentless fashion – four straight victories, scoring 16 goals and conceding just one – they suffered a setback against Belgium in November 2011, going down 2-1 in Mons. However, they got back on track with a 4-0 win against the same opponents in their next game and did not drop another point on the way to the play-offs, where two 1-0 triumphs against Serbia yielded a place in Israel.

Jordan Henderson proved to be a mainstay of the side in qualifying. The midfielder did not miss a game while centre-back Craig Dawson was a surprising attacking weapon and finished as top scorer with five goals. The campaign also allowed the emergence of several promising talents, including Paul Ince's son, Tom, and Crystal Palace FC's Wilfried Zaha. Jack Butland has been an assured presence in between the posts for England.

Pearce's team reached the final in Sweden in 2009 only to be overpowered by a very impressive Germany side and they failed to get out of the group stage in Denmark the summer before last. The England manager was happy with the way his side came through the qualifying process. "I am still very proud from a footballing point of view as to how the team did," he said. "For us to qualify, we have put in a lot of hard work."

### Coach: Stuart Pearce



**Date of birth:** 24 April 1962

**Nationality:** English

**Playing career:** Wealdstone FC, Coventry City FC, Nottingham Forest FC, Newcastle United FC, West Ham United FC, Manchester City FC, England

**Coaching career:** Nottingham Forest FC, Manchester City FC, England Under-21s (since May 2007)

## **England's final tournament record**

**2011:** group stage

**2009:** runners-up

**2007:** semi-finals

**2002:** group stage

**2000:** group stage

**1988:** semi-finals

**1986:** semi-finals

**1984:** winners

**1982:** winners

**1980:** semi-finals

**1978:** semi-finals

## **All-time competitive record**

P189 W111 D45 L33

## **2013 qualifying (including play-off)**

P10 W9 D0 L1 F26 A3

**Top scorer:** Craig Dawson (5)

**Ever present:** Jordan Henderson

## **Current England U21s capped at senior level**

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (9 caps), Jordan Henderson (5), Kyle Walker (4), Jack Rodwell (2), Jack Butland (1), Martin Kelly (1), Jonjo Shelvey (1), Steven Caulker (1), Raheem Sterling (1), Wilfried Zaha (1)

## **Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

Denmark 2011: Jack Rodwell, Jordan Henderson, Kyle Walker, Danny Rose, Jason Steele, Henri Lansbury, Nathan Delfouneso, Connor Wickham

Sweden 2009: Jack Rodwell, Danny Rose

## **Most appearances**

All-time: James Milner (46)

Current: Danny Rose (25)

## **Leading scorer**

All-time: Alan Shearer, Francis Jeffers (13)

Current: Craig Dawson (5)

## **Biggest wins**

### **Final tournament**

England 6-0 Turkey, 29/05/2000, group stage, Tehelne Pole, Bratislava

**Qualifying**

England 8-1 Finland, 12/10/1977, 1978 qualifying group stage, Boothferry Park, Hull

**Heaviest defeats****Final tournament**

Germany 4-0 England 29/06/2009, final, Malmö New Stadium, Malmö

**Qualifying**

Romania 4-0 England, 14/10/1980, 1982 qualifying group stage, Ilie Oana, Ploiesti

## Qualification

### Group 8

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
1	<b>England</b>	8	7	0	1	24	3	21
2	Norway	8	5	1	2	13	7	16
3	Belgium	8	3	2	3	17	15	11
4	Azerbaijan	8	2	1	5	6	18	7
5	Iceland	8	1	0	7	4	21	3

### Results

Date	Result	England scorer(s)	Venue
01/09/2011	<b>England</b> 6-0 Azerbaijan	Lansbury (2), Waghorn, Henderson, Dawson (2)	Watford
06/10/2011	Iceland 0-3 <b>England</b>	Oxlade-Chamberlain (3)	Reykjavik
10/10/2011	Norway 1-2 <b>England</b>	Henderson, Dawson	Drammen
10/11/2011	<b>England</b> 5-0 Iceland	Kelly, Gardner (2), Dawson, Sordell	Colchester
14/11/2011	Belgium 2-1 <b>England</b>	Kelly	Mons
29/02/2011	<b>England</b> 4-0 Belgium	Lansbury (2), Caulker, Oxlade-Chamberlain	Middlesbrough
06/09/2011	Azerbaijan 0-2 <b>England</b>	Shelvey, Caulker	Baku
10/09/2012	<b>England</b> 1-0 Norway	Wickham	Chesterfield
12/10/2012	<b>England</b> 1-0 Serbia*	Dawson	Norwich
16/10/2012	Serbia 0-1 <b>England</b> *	Wickham	Krusevac

\* Final tournament play-off

## Team profile

### Germany

While it is the ninth time that Germany have qualified for the Under-21 finals, it is a first for coach Rainer Adrion, who missed out on leading the then reigning champions to Denmark during his first campaign in charge. He more than made amends this time round, though, as his team dropped just two points – on the last matchday – in the qualifying group stage, scoring a competition-leading 39 goals in the process.

It looked as if Germany had fluffed their lines in the play-off, however, when they drew the first leg 1-1 at home against a strong Switzerland side, but they stormed to a 3-1 win in Luzern to confirm their place in Israel. This Germany team boasts many talents, with probably the brightest right now being attacking midfielder Lewis Holtby. A regular starter for FC Schalke 04, Holtby has won a couple of senior caps already and is adept at both scoring and creating goals.

Up front, Adrion has a wealth of options, including Peniel Mlapa who scored eight goals in qualifying, while the midfield is anchored by Sebastian Rudy. Former VfB Stuttgart coach Adrion is aiming high. "The current team will be the frame for the European Championship. If we are not up against Brazil, Argentina or Spain, Germany are always perceived as favourites. That's how it will also be at the finals."

### Coach: Rainer Adrion



**Date of birth:** 10 December 1953

**Nationality:** German

**Playing career:** FV Zuffenhausen, SpVgg 07 Ludwigsburg, VfB Stuttgart, SpVgg Unterhaching, TSV 1860 München, FV Zuffenhausen

**Coaching career:** FV Zuffenhausen (player-coach), SpVgg 07 Ludwigsburg, SpVgg Unterhaching, SSV Reutlingen, VfR Pforzheim, VfB Stuttgart (assistant coach), VfB Stuttgart, VfB Stuttgart (reserve team), SpVgg Unterhaching, Stuttgarter Kickers, VfB Stuttgart (reserve team), Germany Under-21s (since July 2009)

## **Germany's final tournament record**

**2009:** winners

**2006:** group stage

**2004:** group stage

**1998:** quarter-finals

**1996:** quarter-finals

**1992:** quarter-finals

**1990:** quarter-finals

**1982:** runners-up

## **All-time competitive record**

P154 W94 D29 L31

## **2013 qualifying (including play-off)**

P12 W10 D2 L0 F43 A11

**Top scorer:** Peniel Mlapa (8)

**Ever presents:** none

## **Current Germany U21s capped at senior level**

İlkay Gündoğan (3 caps), Marc-André ter Stegen (2), Lewis Holtby (2), Julian Draxler (2)

## **Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

None

## **Most appearances**

All-time: Fabian Ernst (31)

Current: Sebastian Rudy (21)

## **Leading scorer**

All-time: Pierre Littbarski (18)

Current: Lewis Holtby (12)

## **Biggest wins**

### **Final tournament**

Germany 5-0, USSR, 30/04/1982, semi-finals, (Old) Tivoli, Aachen

### **Qualifying**

San Marino 0-11 Germany, 17/11/2009, 2011 qualifying group stage, Stadio Olimpico, Serravalle



**Heaviest defeats****Final tournament**

France 3-0 Germany, 25/05/2006, group stage, Estádio D. Afonso Henriques, Guimaraes

**Qualifying**

Iceland 4-1 Germany, 11/08/2010, 2011 qualifying group stage, Kaplakrikavöllur, Hafnarfjörður

## Qualification

### Group 1

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
1	<b>Germany</b>	10	9	1	0	39	9	28
2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	6	2	2	25	12	20
3	Greece	10	4	1	5	14	15	13
4	Belarus	10	4	1	5	11	17	13
5	Cyprus	10	4	0	6	16	20	12
6	San Marino	10	0	1	9	2	34	1

### Results

Date	Result	Germany scorer(s)	Venue
09/08/2011	<b>Germany</b> 4-1 Cyprus	Holtby (2), Didavi, Draxler	Karlsruhe
01/09/2011	<b>Germany</b> 7-0 San Marino	Esswein, Holtby, Beister, Ginczek, Mlapa, Lasogga (2)	Paderborn
06/09/2011	Belarus 0-1 <b>Germany</b>	Esswein	Borisov
06/10/2011	<b>Germany</b> 3-0 Bosnia and Herzegovina	Holtby, Neumann, Mlapa	Ingolstadt
10/10/2011	San Marino 0-8 <b>Germany</b>	Esswein (2), Beister, Ginczek, Mlapa (3), Leitner	Serravalle
11/11/2011	Greece 4-5 <b>Germany</b>	Esswein, Mlapa (3), Bell	Tripoli Arkadia
15/11/2011	Cyprus 0-3 <b>Germany</b>	Gündoğan, Beister, Lasogga	Paralimni
29/02/2012	<b>Germany</b> 1-0 Greece	Funk	Halle
07/09/2012	<b>Germany</b> 3-0 Belarus	Beister, Leitner, Polter	Rostock
10/09/2012	Bosnia and Herzegovina 4-4 <b>Germany</b>	Kirchhoff, Leitner, Polter (2)	Sarajevo
12/10/2012	<b>Germany</b> 1-1 Switzerland*	Rudy	Leverkusen
16/10/2012	<b>Germany</b> 3-1 Switzerland*	Holtby, Sobiech, Polter	Luzern

\* Final tournament play-off

## Team profile

### Italy

Having failed to qualify for the 2011 finals after losing in the play-offs against Belarus, five-times champions Italy were careful to avoid mistakes this time around.

The Azzurrini started Group 7 with five consecutive wins and lost only once – 4-2 at home against Republic of Ireland – when they had already booked a place in the play-offs. They then beat Sweden 4-2 on aggregate under new coach Devis Mangia, who had replaced the UC Sampdoria-bound Ciro Ferrara after six games in the group.

Juventus midfielder Luca Marrone was a key player in the qualifying campaign and did not miss a game including the play-offs. The defensive line did not change much, while the attack was often reshuffled, mostly because players like Stephen El Shaarawy and Mattia Destro were promoted to the senior team. Lorenzo Insigne and Ciro Immobile, who played together for Pescara Calcio before moving to SSC Napoli and CFC Genoa respectively in the summer, led the attack with success in the play-offs.

Other Under-21 players like Davide Santon, Marco Verratti and Alessandro Florenzi were also called into the senior team by Cesare Prandelli, but this was not a problem for Mangia. "When Prandelli calls up our players, we are happy because it means that we are moving in the right direction," he said. "We are lucky to have a coach like Prandelli who is giving youngsters a chance. We want to play positive football at all levels and I think we are working well in this regard."

### **Coach: Devis Mangia**



**Date of birth:** 6 June 1974

**Nationality:** Italian

**Playing career:** -

**Coaching career:** AS Varese, S.S. Tritium, ASDC Ivrea, Valenzana Calcio, US Città di Palermo, Italy Under-21s (since July 2012)

### **Italy's final tournament record**

**2009:** semi-finals  
**2007:** group stage  
**2006:** group stage  
**2004:** winners  
**2002:** semi-finals  
**2000:** winners  
**1996:** winners  
**1994:** winners  
**1992:** winners  
**1990:** semi-finals  
**1988:** quarter-finals  
**1986:** runners-up  
**1984:** semi-finals  
**1982:** quarter-finals  
**1980:** quarter-finals  
**1978:** quarter-finals

### **All-time competitive record**

P204 W126 D46 L32

### **2013 qualifying (including play-off)**

P10 W8 D1 L1 F31 A10

Top scorer: Manolo Gabbiadini (6)

Ever present: Luca Marrone

### **Current Italy U21s capped at senior level**

Davide Santon (7 caps), Mattia Destro (4), Stephan El Shaarawy (2), Marco Verratti (1), Lorenzo Insigne (1), Manolo Gabbiadini (1), Fabio Borini (1)

### **Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

Sweden 2009: Alberto Paloschi

### **Most appearances**

All-time: Andrea Pirlo (46)

Current: Luca Marrone (27)

### **Leading scorer**

All-time: Alberto Gilardino (19)

Current: Manolo Gabbiadini (10)

### **Biggest wins**

#### **Final tournament**

Italy 3-0 Czechoslovakia, 09/03/1994, quarter-finals, Stadio Arechi, Salerno

Italy 3-0 Serbia and Montenegro 08/06/2004, final, Bochum

#### **Qualifying**

Italy 8-1 Wales 05/09/2003, 2004 qualifying group stage, Stadio Fortunato, Pavia

Italy 7-0 Liechtenstein, 06/09/2012, 2013 qualifying group stage, Stadio Ceravolo, Catanzaro

Italy 7-0 Estonia 23/03/1995, 1996 qualifying group stage, Stadio Ceravolo, Catanzaro

### **Heaviest defeats**

#### **Final tournament**

USSR 3-1 Italy, 02/04/1980, quarter-finals, Razdam Stadium, Jereven

England 3-1 Italy, 18/04/1984, quarter-finals, Maine Road, Manchester

#### **Qualifying**

Norway 6-0 Italy, 05/06/1991, 1992 qualifying group stage, Stavanger Stadion, Stavanger

## Qualification

### Group 7

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
1	<b>Italy</b>	8	6	1	1	27	8	19
2	Turkey	8	5	0	3	13	7	15
3	Republic of Ireland	8	4	1	3	15	10	13
4	Hungary	8	4	0	4	11	10	12
5	Liechtenstein	8	0	0	8	4	35	0

### Results

Date	Result	Italy scorer(s)	Venue
06/09/2011	Hungary 0-3 <b>Italy</b>	Gabbiadini (2), Borini	Szekesfehervar
06/10/2011	Liechtenstein 2-7 <b>Italy</b>	Florenzi, Insigne (2), Gabbiadini (3), Rossi	Vaduz
11/10/2011	<b>Italy</b> 2-0 Turkey	Destro, Saponara	Rieti
10/11/2011	Turkey 0-2 <b>Italy</b>	Destro (2)	Istanbul
15/11/2011	<b>Italy</b> 2-0 Hungary	Paloschi, Gabbiadini	Casarano
04/06/2012	Republic of Ireland 2-2 <b>Italy</b>	Immobile, Duffy (og)	Sligo
06/09/2012	<b>Italy</b> 7-0 Liechtenstein	Immobile, Viviani, De Luca (2), Sala, El Shaarawy (2)	Casarano
10/09/2012	<b>Italy</b> 2-4 Republic of Ireland	Caldirola, El Shaarawy	Casarano
12/10/2012	<b>Italy</b> 1-0 Sweden*	Immobile	Pescara
16/10/2012	Sweden 2-3 <b>Italy</b> *	Florenzi, Insigne, Immobile	Kalmar

\* Final tournament play-off

## Team profile

### Netherlands

Cor Pot's Netherlands side are back in the final tournament after missing out on the last two, finally gaining the chance to add a third title to their 2006 and 2007 European crowns.

The Jong Oranje started with three straight victories, but picked up just a point in the back-to-back meetings with Scotland – the first of those a home defeat. Dropping those five points proved to be a blip and they won their remaining three games, scoring 14 goals in the process. The play-off against Slovakia turned out to be plain sailing, especially after a 2-0 away win in the first leg, an identical result at home sending them through 4-0 on aggregate.

Genero Zeefuik may have been top scorer in qualifying with eight goals, but the crucial away strikes in the play-off came from Vitesse midfielder Marco van Ginkel. The side are skippered by centre-back Bram Nuytinck and although the only ever-present in qualifying was Kevin Leerdam, this is down to so many of this class having already made the step up to senior level. Nine have joined up with the full Oranje selection, including Luciano Narsingh, Jeffrey Bruma, Luuk de Jong and Van Ginkel, while even Kevin Strootman – who did not take part in qualifying – is eligible to play.

Pot is eyeing a third title as Netherlands coach: "The best players have to go to the European Championship finals. It seems logical to me that, with those players at the tournament, we will have a chance."

#### Coach: Cor Pot



**Date of birth:** 8 June 1951

**Nationality:** Dutch

**Playing career:** Sparta Rotterdam, MVV Maastricht, HFC Haarlem, SBV Excelsior, FC Vlaardingen

**Coaching career:** SVB Excelsior (assistant), Feyenoord (assistant and youth), VV Wilhemus(amateurs), RBC Roosendaal, NAC Breda, SBV Excelsior, Al-Masry Port Said, Telstar (assistant), Dynamo Dresden (technical director), KNVB (youth coach and national team head scout 2001-2006, from which Under 21s 2003/04), FC Zenit St Petersburg (assistant), Netherlands Under 21s (since July 2009)



## **Netherlands final tournament record**

**2007:** winners

**2006:** winners

**2000:** group stage

**1998:** semi-finals

**1992:** quarter-finals

**1988:** semi-finals

## **All-time competitive record**

P154 W86 D29 L39

## **2013 qualifying** (including play-off)

P10 W8 D1 L1 F25 A3

Top scorer: Género Zeefuik (7)

Ever present: Kelvin Leerdam

## **Current Netherlands U21s capped at senior level**

Luuk de Jong (7 caps), Luciano Narsingh (6), Ricardo van Rhijn (4), Jeffrey Bruma (4), Georginio Wijnaldum (2), Adam Maher (2), Jordy Clasie (2), Leroy Fer (2), Stefan de Vrij (1)

## **Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

None

## **Most appearances**

All-time: Arnold Bruggink (31)

Current: Daley Blind/Bram Nuytinck (19)

## **Leading scorer**

All-time: Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (18)

Current: Género Zeefuik (10)

## **Biggest wins**

### **Final tournament**

Netherlands 4-1 Serbia, 23/06/2007, final, Euroborg, Groningen

Netherlands 3-0 Ukraine 04/06/2006, final, Bessa XXI, Porto

### **Qualifying**

San Marino 0-7 Netherlands, 29/04/97, 1998 qualifying group stage, Stadio di Serravalle, Serravalle

## **Heaviest defeats**

### **Final tournament**

Netherlands 0-3 Greece, 26/05/1998, semi-final, Steaua Stadium, Bucharest

**Qualifying**

Spain 4-1 Netherlands 04/06/99, 2000 qualifying group stage, Los Pajaritos, Soria

England 3-0 Netherlands, 27/04/93, 1994 qualifying group stage, Fratton Park, Portsmouth

Portugal 3-0 Netherlands 27/03/2001, 2002 qualifying group stage, Dr Machado De Matos, Felgueiras

Netherlands 0-3 Czech Republic, 28/03/2003, 2004 qualifying group stage, Sportcentrum Maaspoort, Hertogenbosch

## Qualification

### Group 10

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
1	<b>Netherlands</b>	8	6	1	1	21	3	19
2	Scotland	8	3	4	1	16	9	13
3	Bulgaria	8	3	3	2	11	12	12
4	Austria	8	3	2	3	15	14	11
5	Luxembourg	8	0	0	8	6	31	0

### Results

Date	Result	Netherlands scorer(s)	Venue
01/09/2011	Bulgaria 0-1 <b>Netherlands</b>	Zeefuik	Lovech
06/09/2011	<b>Netherlands</b> 4-0 Luxembourg	Zeefuik (2), Van Haaren, Van Haaren, Fer	Deventer
06/10/2011	Austria 0-1 <b>Netherlands</b>	Barazite	Innsbruck
14/11/2011	<b>Netherlands</b> 1-2 Scotland	Ridgers (og)	Nijmegen
29/02/2012	Scotland 0-0 <b>Netherlands</b>		Paisley
01/06/2012	Luxembourg 0-5 <b>Netherlands</b>	Clasie, Zeefuik (3), Fer	Luxembourg
05/06/2012	<b>Netherlands</b> 5-0 Bulgaria	Wijnaldum, Van Ginkel, Zeefuik, Fer, Bacuna	Maastricht
07/09/2012	<b>Netherlands</b> 4-1 Austria	Wijnaldum, Nuytinck, Zeefuik, Ten Voorde	Tilburg
11/10/2012	Slovakia 0-2 <b>Netherlands</b> *	Van Ginkel (2)	Senec
15/10/2012	<b>Netherlands</b> 2-0 Slovakia*	Wijnaldum, L. de Jong	Rotterdam

\* Final tournament play-off

## Team profile

### Norway

Per Joar Hansen has led Norway to only their second Under-21 finals, following the third-placed finish they achieved in 1998. In their qualifying group, Norway totalled 16 points from eight games, only losing to section winners England in what were two tight games. Hansen's team took on another European heavyweight in the play-offs, but France were shocked as, despite winning the first leg 1-0 at home, they crumbled in Norway where the hosts ran out 5-3 victors in a classic encounter.

That Norway's success has been mostly based on a team effort is shown in the top scorer list. Four players finished with two goals: Jo Inge Berget, Marcus Pedersen, Thomas Rogne and Harmeet Singh. Others have contributed in different ways, with Marcus Henriksen and Vegard Hedenstad offering valuable performances. It is testament to the strength of this particular crop that many of the young stars have already made their bow at senior level.

Hansen could not hide his joy when his team overcame a talented France side to book their ticket to Israel. "This shows that the Norwegian model of developing players really works," he said. "These guys never fail to surprise me with their quality. This will help Norwegian football no end. You can't read a book about how to perform during a finals. Now, 20 of our players get that experience. It's invaluable."

### Coach: Per Joar Hansen



**Date of birth:** 17 August 1965

**Nationality:** Norwegian

**Playing career:** Mosjøen IL, Steinkjer FK, Rosenborg BK, Umeå FC, IL Stjørdals-Blink, IL Varden, Byåsen IL, IL Fram, Strindheim IL

**Coaching career:** Rosenborg BK, GIF Sundsvall, Aalesund FK, Ranheim Fotball, Norway Under-21s (since January 2011)

## **Norway final tournament record**

**1998:** third place

## **All-time competitive record**

P145 W65 D27 L53

## **2013 qualifying (including play-off)**

P10 W7 D1 L2 F13 A7

Top scorers: Jo Inge Berget, Marcus Pedersen, Thomas Rogne, Harmeet Singh (all 2) □

Ever presents: Harmeet Singh, Stefan Strandberg, Vegar Hedenstad

## **Current Norway U21s capped at senior level**

Marcus Henriksen (14 caps), Magnus Eikrem (8), Håvard Nordtveit (8), Valon Berisha (8), Joshua King (4), Harmeet Singh (3), Thomas Rogne (2)

## **Players with previous U21 tournament experience**

None

## **Most appearances**

All-time: Tommy Svindal Larsen (41)

Current: Harmeet Singh (32)

## **Leading scorer**

All time: Trond Fredrik Ludvigsen (16)

Current: Marcus Pedersen (6)

## **Biggest wins**

### **Final tournament**

Norway 2-0 Netherlands, 31/05/1998, third-place play-off, Cotroceni, Bucharest

### **Qualifying**

Norway 6-0 Italy, 05/06/1991, 1992 qualifying group stage, Viking stadion, Stavanger

## **Heaviest defeats**

### **Final tournament**

Spain 1-0 Norway, 27/05/1998, semi-final, Cotroceni, Bucharest

### **Qualifying**

England 6-0 Norway, 06/09/1977, 1978 qualifying group stage, Goldstone Ground, Brighton

## Qualification

### Group 8

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
1	England	8	7	0	1	24	3	21
2	<b>Norway</b>	8	5	1	2	13	7	16
3	Belgium	8	3	2	3	17	15	11
4	Azerbaijan	8	2	1	5	6	18	7
5	Iceland	8	1	0	7	4	21	3

### Results

Date	Result	Norway scorer(s)	Venue
06/09/2011	Iceland 0-2 <b>Norway</b>	Rogne, King	Kopavogur
06/10/2011	Azerbaijan 0-2 <b>Norway</b>	Borven, Henriksen	Baku
10/10/2011	<b>Norway</b> 1-2 England	Berisha	Drammen
10/11/2011	<b>Norway</b> 2-2 Belgium	de Lanlay, Pedersen	Stavanger
01/06/2012	<b>Norway</b> 1-0 Azerbaijan	Pedersen	Drammen
12/06/2012	<b>Norway</b> 2-1 Iceland	Eikrem, Våge Nielsen	Drammen
06/09/2012	Belgium 1-3 <b>Norway</b>	Berget, Bakenga, Singh	Beveren
10/09/2012	England 1-0 <b>Norway</b>		Chesterfield
12/10/2012	France 1-0 <b>Norway</b> *		Le Havre
16/10/2012	<b>Norway</b> 5-3 France*	Singh, Nielsen, Berget, Konradssen, Rogne	Drammen

\* Final tournament play-off

## Team profile

### Russia

After 14 years, Russia return to UEFA European Under-21 Championship finals. Despite four straight wins at the start of qualifying, it was a tough campaign for Nikolai Pisarev's men after a 1-0 defeat in Portugal, followed by draws against Albania and Moldova, nearly deprived them of top spot in the group. The play-off games against the Czech Republic tested Russian nerves too, but they held on to emerge 4-2 aggregate winners.

FC Anji Makhachkala striker Fedor Smolov and Real Madrid CF winger Denis Cheryshev proved to be Russia's go-to men throughout qualification, especially at its key moments. Smolov scored seven times in ten appearances while Cheryshev provided several assists and also struck two beautiful goals against Poland to help Russia to a 4-1 victory.

Reaching the Under-21 finals is the first big coaching achievement for Pisarev, who took charge of the team in September 2010. The 44-year-old is confident that his team can be competitive at this level. "I am optimistic about our chances in Israel," he said. "We are in Europe's top eight which is already a small breakthrough for Russian football. We have a backbone of a team and this is good, and our principles remain the same: only the strongest will play [for us]. Of course they need to play regularly for their clubs."

### Coach: Nikolai Pisarev



**Date of birth:** 23 November 1968

Nationality: Russian

**Playing career:** FC Torpedo Moskva, FC Winterthur, FC Spartak Moskva (three times), CP Mérida, FC St Pauli, FC Dinamo Moskva, FC Dinamo Moskva, FC Torpedo Zil, Russia, Russia (beach soccer)

**Coaching career:** FC Krasnoznamensk, FC Krylya Sovetov Samara, FC Uralan Elista, Russia (beach soccer), Russia Under-21 (since September 2010)



## **Russia final tournament record**

**1998:** quarter-finals

**1994:** quarter-finals

Note: The Soviet Union won the competition in 1980 and 1990

## **All-time competitive record**

P101 W59 D14 L28

## **2013 qualifying (including play-off)**

P10 W6 D3 L1 F21 A7

**Top scorer:** Fedor Smolov (7)

**Ever present:** Nikolai Zabolotni

## **Current Russia U21s capped at senior level**

Aleksandr Kokorin (12 caps), Taras Burlak (1), Georgi Schennikov (1), Arseni Logashov (1), Fedor Smolov (1), Denys Cheryshev (1), Maksim Grigoryev (1)

## **Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

None

## **Most appearances**

All-time: Oleg Kuzmin, Aleksandr Pavlenko (16)

Current: Fedor Smolov, Pavel Yakovlev (14)

## **Leading scorer**

All-time: Spartak Gogniev (11)

Current: Fedor Smolov (8)

## **Biggest wins**

### **Final tournament**

Russia 2-1 Romania 30/05/1998, seventh-placed match, Lia Manoliu Stadium, Bucharest

### **Qualifying**

Luxembourg 0-10 Russia, 06/06/2001, 2002 qualifying group stage, Stade Municipal, Petange

## **Heaviest defeats**

### **Final tournament**

France 2-0 Russia, 08/03/1994, quarter-finals, Stade de la Mosson, Montpellier

Spain 2-0 Russia, 24/05/1998, quarter-finals, Cotroceni Stadium, Bucharest

### **Qualifying**

Portugal 3-0 Russia, 10/10/2006, 2007 play-off, Estadio Sampaio, Vila Nova de Gaia

Romania 3-0 Russia, 03/09/2010, 2011 qualifying group stage, Municipal Stadium, Botosani

## Qualification

### Group 6

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
1	Russia	8	5	2	1	17	5	17
2	Portugal	8	4	3	1	15	6	15
3	Poland	8	3	2	3	13	13	11
4	Moldova	8	2	1	5	10	24	7
5	Albania	8	1	2	5	11	18	5

### Results

Date	Result	Russia scorer(s)	Venue
06/09/2011	Poland 0-2 <b>Russia</b>	Cheryshev, Kokorin	Kielce
07/10/2011	Moldova 0-6 <b>Russia</b>	Sosnin, Shatov (2), Kokorin (3)	Tiraspol
11/10/2011	<b>Russia</b> 2-1 Portugal	Kokorin, Smolov	Moscow
10/11/2011	Albania 0-1 <b>Russia</b>	Smolov	Durrës
01/06/2012	Portugal 1-0 <b>Russia</b>		Barcelos
12/06/2012	<b>Russia</b> 0-0 Albania		Moscow
06/09/2012	<b>Russia</b> 4-1 Poland	Cheryshev (2), Bibilov, Smolov	Yekaterinburg
10/09/2012	<b>Russia</b> 2-2 Moldova	Smolov, Grigoryev	Yekaterinburg
12/10/2012	Czech Republic 0-2 <b>Russia</b> *	Smolov (2)	Jablonec Nad Nisou
16/10/2012	<b>Russia</b> 2-2 Czech Republic*	Kirillov, Smolov	Yekaterinburg

\* Final tournament play-off

## Team profile

### Spain

Having failed to qualify for four consecutive Under-21 finals since the beginning of the decade, Spain's re-emergence as a force at this level coincided with the upturn in fortunes enjoyed by the senior side. Following their success in Denmark in 2011, the holders embarked on what would emerge as an unbeaten qualifying campaign with a 7-2 victory away to Georgia.

Beaten finalists in 2011, Switzerland were expected to provide Spain with their toughest test in the section and so it proved with the three-time champions' only dropped points coming in the away game against Pierluigi Tami's side. Despite a coaching change in which Luis Milla was replaced by Julen Lopetegui, La Rojita maintained their momentum and eventually enjoyed an 8-1 aggregate triumph over Denmark in the two-legged play-off for the finals.

With the outstanding Rodrigo registering 11 goals in qualifying and Isco pulling the strings in midfield, Spain made light of important long-term injury absentees such as FC Barcelona's Thiago Alcántara and Valencia CF's Sergio Canales. "This is going to be a beautiful tournament with some big-name sides," Lopetegui said. "For our part, we know that if we perform to the best of our abilities, we are capable of beating anybody."

### Coach: Julen Lopetegui



**Date of birth:** 28 August 1966

**Nationality:** Spanish

**Playing career:** San Sebastián CF, Castilla CF, UD Las Palmas, Real Madrid CF, CD Logroñés, FC Barcelona, Rayo Vallecano de Madrid, Spain

**Coaching career:** Rayo Vallecano de Madrid, Real Madrid Castilla, Spain Under-19s, Spain Under-20s, Spain Under-21s (since September 2012)

## **Final tournament record**

**2011:** winners

**2009:** group stage

**2000:** third place

**1998:** winners

**1996:** runners-up

**1994:** third place

**1990:** quarter-finals

**1988:** quarter-finals

**1986:** winners

**1984:** runners-up

**1982:** quarter-finals

## **All-time competitive record**

P178 W122 D28 L28

## **2013 qualifying (including play-off)**

P10 W9 D1 L0 F35 A3

**Top scorer:** Rodrigo (11)

**Ever presents:** Carles Planas, Isco

## **Current Spain U21s capped at senior level**

Thiago Alcántara (3 caps), Iker Muniain (1)

## **Players with previous U21 final tournament experience**

Denmark 2011: David de Gea, Martín Montoya, Iker Muniain, Diego Mariño

## **Most appearances**

All-time: Santi Denia (27)

Current: David de Gea (21)

## **Leading scorer**

All-time: Óscar García, Rodrigo (12)

Current: Rodrigo (12)

## **Biggest wins**

### **Final tournament**

Ukraine 0-3 Spain, 19/06/2011, group stage, Herning Stadion, Herning

### **Qualifying**

Spain 14-0 San Marino, 08/02/2005, 2006 qualifying group stage, Santo Domingo, El Ejido

**Heaviest defeats****Final tournament**

England 2-0 Spain, 18/06/2009, group stage, Gamla Ullevi, Gothenburg

Portugal 2-0 Spain, 15/04/1994, 1994 semi-finals, Costières, Nîmes

**Qualifying**

Netherlands 5-0 Spain, 16/02/1983, 1984 qualifying group stage, Galgenwaard, Utrecht

## Qualification

### Group 5

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points
1	Spain	8	7	1	0	27	2	22
2	Switzerland	8	5	2	1	15	4	17
3	Georgia	8	3	1	4	8	18	10
4	Croatia	8	2	1	5	7	16	7
5	Estonia	8	0	1	7	2	19	1

### Results

Date	Result	Spain scorer(s)	Venue
01/09/2011	Georgia 2-7 <b>Spain</b>	Rodrigo (3), Isco (2), Canales, Bartra	Kutaisi
05/09/2011	<b>Spain</b> 2-0 Georgia	Canales (2)	Lugo
06/10/2011	Croatia 0-2 <b>Spain</b>	Koke, Rodrigo	Osijek
10/11/2011	<b>Spain</b> 6-0 Estonia	Rodrigo (3), Sarabia, Isco, Álvaro Vázquez	Melilla
14/11/2011	<b>Spain</b> 3-0 Switzerland	Muniain, Bartra, Thiago Alcántara	Cordoba
31/05/2011	Estonia 0-1 <b>Spain</b>	Isco	Tallinn
06/09/2012	Switzerland 0-0 <b>Spain</b>		Sion
10/09/2012	<b>Spain</b> 6-0 Croatia	Montoya, Isco, Sarabia, Deulofeu, Álvaro Vázquez (2)	Alicante
11/10/2012	<b>Spain</b> 5-0 Denmark*	Isco, Rodrigo (4)	Burgos
16/10/2012	Denmark 1-3 <b>Spain</b> *	Álvaro Vázquez (2), Muniain	Aalborg

\* Final tournament play-off

## 2013 UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying statistics

### Most goals scored (average per game)

Germany	43 (3.58)
Spain	35 (3.5)
Italy	31 (3.1)
Czech Republic	26 (2.6)

### Goal attempts (average per game)

Germany	97 (8.08)
France	83 (8.3)
Ukraine	78 (7.8)
Sweden	78 (6.5)

### Biggest win

<b>Czech Republic</b> 8-0 Andorra	10/08/2011
<b>Germany</b> 8-0 San Marino	10/10/2011

### Leading scorers

Rodrigo (Spain)	11
Jan Chramosta (Czech Republic)	9
Genero Zeefuik (Netherlands)	8
Jordan Rhodes (Scotland)	8
Peniel Mlapa (Germany)	8

### Most assists

Miroslav Stevanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)	8
Pablo Sarabia (Spain)	7
Lorenzo Insigne (Italy)	5
Iker Muniain (Spain)	5
Lewis Holtby (Germany)	5
Isco (Spain)	5
Erdin Demir (Sweden)	5

### Most goals in a game

Denmark 6-5 FYROM	15/06/2012
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### Highest attendance

England 4-0 Belgium – 22, 647	(Riverside, Middlesbrough - 29/02/2012)
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### Youngest player

Aleksandar Boljevic - DOB 12/12/1995	( <b>Montenegro</b> v Czech Republic, 07/09/2012)
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## History

**What is now the UEFA European Under-21 Championship has its roots in the late 1960s but there have been many stages in its evolution to the high-profile biennial tournament of today.**

The continent's most exciting young players offer a tantalising glimpse into what the future of European football might hold. A curling free-kick from Andrea Pirlo in the 2000 final, a diving penalty save from Petr Čech to help the Czech Republic win the trophy two years after that; the stars of tomorrow did it here first. Italy have triumphed a record five occasions, while in 2011 Spain secured their third victory.

The format has changed down the years, but the competition's *raison d'être* has remained the same: to provide a stepping stone from youth football up to the full international stage. The roll call of great players who have graduated from European football's elite finishing school is testament to its enduring success. Roberto Mancini, Zinédine Zidane, Rudi Völler, Davor Šuker, Luís Figo, Raúl González and Frank Lampard to name but a few have all played their part in making the UEFA European U21 Championship one of the highlights on the football calendar.

Today's prestigious eight-team final tournament enjoys worldwide acclaim, but it has evolved considerably since UEFA first put the idea to its member associations in January 1967. The concept then was for a 'Challenge Cup for national representative teams aged under-23'. Seventeen associations signed up, from which Bulgaria and East Germany were drawn to play the first match. It was held in Stara Zagora on 7 June 1967, with Bulgaria winning 3-2 to become the first champions. Like in boxing, they were simply required to defend their title against a series of challengers and Bulgaria then Yugoslavia dominated the early years. The foundations for today's competition had been laid.

It was not until 1976 that the age limit was changed to U21, when UEFA decided the gap between U18 and U23 levels was too great. By now the Challenge Cup format had given way to qualifying groups followed by a knockout competition from the quarter-finals onwards. Yugoslavia prolonged the early eastern dominance by winning that first final in Mostar. Italy, though, would leave the greatest mark on the competition, winning the U21 championship on five occasions, most recently in 2004 when they defeated Serbia and Montenegro 3-0 in Bochum.

Italy were first crowned champions in 1992 and successfully defended their title two years later when for the first time the semi-finals and final were played as a single tournament in France. Pierluigi Orlandini scored their extra-time winner against Portugal in Montpellier in the first final to be decided by a single match. The final tournament was expanded to eight teams in Romania in 1998, when Spain interrupted Italy's run of success, but the Azzurrini were back on top in 2000, the year the group stage was introduced in the final tournament. The current format came into place in 2002 when the Czech Republic triumphed in Switzerland.

In 2007 the event was switched to odd years and saw the Netherlands put on a show on home soil beating Serbia 4-1 in the final to lift the crown. They failed to make it a hat-trick two years later as Switzerland knocked them out in qualifying and it was Germany's time to shine, Horst Hrubesch's team avenging the 1982 final defeat by England with a record 4-0 triumph in Malmö. Spain made it three victories in 2011, overcoming Switzerland 2-0 in Denmark.

## UEFA European Under-21 Championship historical statistics

### Previous winners

**1978:** Yugoslavia  
**1980:** Soviet Union  
**1982:** England  
**1984:** England  
**1986:** Spain  
**1988:** France  
**1990:** Soviet Union  
**1992:** Italy  
**1994:** Italy  
**1996:** Italy  
**1998:** Spain  
**2000:** Italy  
**2002:** Czech Republic  
**2004:** Italy  
**2006:** Netherlands  
**2007:** Netherlands  
**2009:** Germany  
**2011:** Spain

### Biggest win

All-time

14-0: Spain v San Marino, 08/02/2005

2006 qualifying group stage, Santo Domingo, El Ejido

Final tournament

6-0: England v Turkey, 29/05/2000

2000 final tournament group stage, Tehelné Pole Stadium, Bratislava

Final

4-0: Germany v England, 29/06/2009

2007, Euroborg, Groningen, Netherlands

### Most goals in a game

14: Spain 14-0 San Marino, 08/02/2005

2006 qualifying group stage, Santo Domingo, El Ejido

### Final tournament

7: Czech Republic 4-3 Croatia, 01/06/2000

2000 group stage, Mestský Stadium, Trencin, Slovakia

### Final

8: Yugoslavia 4-4 German Democratic Republic 31/05/1978

(second leg, Yugoslavia won 5-4 on agg), Mostar, Yugoslavia

**Record attendance**

42,000: Turkey 1-1 Germany, 18/11/2003

2004 qualifying play-off, Sükrü Saraçoğlu Stadium, Istanbul

**Final tournament**

35,500: Italy 1-1 Spain (Italy win 5-4 on pens), 31/05/1996

1996 final, Olímpico de Montjuïc, Barcelona

**Leading scorers**

15 Lampros Choutos (Greece)

14 Roy Makaay (Netherlands), Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands)

**In a final tournament since 2000**

7 Marcus Berg (Sweden, 2009)

4 Andrea Pirlo (Italy, 2000), Alberto Gilardino (Italy, 2004),

Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Netherlands, 2006), Maceo Rigters (Netherlands, 2007),

Johan Elmander (Sweden, 2004)



UEFA  
ROUTE DE GENÈVE 46  
CH-1260 NYON 2  
SWITZERLAND  
TELEPHONE: +41 848 00 27 27  
TELEFAX: +41 848 01 27 27  
[UEFA.com](http://UEFA.com)

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