



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

UEFA EURO 2023 U-21



#U21Euro



**UKRAINIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF FOOTBALL**

**УКРАЇНСЬКА
АСОЦІАЦІЯ
ФУТБОЛУ**

DEAR FRIENDS!



The national team of Ukraine U-21 has made it to the final tournament of the European Championship for the third time in history.

The circumstances surrounding their qualification to Euro 2023 (U-21), under Ruslan Rotan's leadership, make this achievement even more significant for the country's football community.

Despite facing the full-scale aggression of Russia, Ukrainian youngsters overcame numerous obstacles to bring new successes to millions of fans in Ukraine. They have also managed to maintain faith in the ultimate victory of their country.

As they head into the group stage, where they will be facing Croatia, Spain, and the host country Romania, I am confident that our team will display an interesting, and competitive game. I hope that the fans who will be supporting Rotan's team will have an unforgettable experience filled with positive football emotions.

*Best regards,
Andrii Pavelko*



UKRAINE



UEFA
UNDER21
CHAMPIONSHIP
GEORGIA - ROMANIA
2023

Contents

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 3 | Andrii Pavelko's greeting | 6 | 12 steps on the way to the EURO! |
| 8 | 18 days of spectacular football from current and future stars | 10 | EURO-2023 U-21: all venues |
| 14 | EURO-2023 U-21: European championship and qualification for the Olympics | 16 | Ukraine U-21 national team at EURO: historic silver in 2006 and failure in Denmark |
| 18 | Ukraine U-21 team | 24 | Spain U-21 team |
| 28 | Croatia U-21 team | 32 | Romania U-21 team |
| 36 | EURO-2023 U-21: dates and fixtures | | |

UEFA
UNDER21TM
CHAMPIONSHIP

The issue produced by:
Maryna Nezhygai,
Yurii Maznychenko,
Serhiy Dryga,
Danylo Horlach,
Iryna Shumado.

Photo:
Pavlo Kubanov,
UAF and UEFA archives

Design and layout:
Iryna Nikiforova

12 STEPS ON THE WAY TO THE EURO!



Step one: win over Serbia. To begin their qualifying tournament, the Ukrainian team faced off against Serbia, their direct competitor. Ruslan Rotan's squad took the lead early on in the 14th minute, thanks to a goal from Dmytro Kryskiv. This secured a crucial first victory for the blue and yellow team.

03.09.2021
Serbia (U-21) - Ukraine (U-21)
0:1 (0:1)
Goal: Kryskiv (14).



Step two: Following their opening victory, the Ukrainian national team aimed to continue their winning streak in their home match against Armenia. From the start, the Ukrainians displayed their dominance and built on their success from the first half, with Kryskiv scoring once again. Despite conceding a goal in the second half, Rotan's team did not falter and continued to press their opponents.

07.09.2021
Ukraine (U-21) — Armenia (U-21)
2:1 (1:1)
Goals: Kryskiv (20), Mudnyk (62) — Galstyan (45+4).



Step three: In the third round of the competition, the Ukrainian team faced off against the favorites in France, but unfortunately, the match did not go well from the beginning. The team suffered a crushing defeat while playing with one less player, but sometimes it's better to lose 0:5 once than to lose 0:1 five times.

08.10.2021
France (U-21) — Ukraine (U-21)
5:0 (2:0)
Goals: Kalimuendo (40), Diop (43), Adli (54), Cherki (68, 80).
Sent off: Taloverov (27).



Step four: Ukraine achieved a significant victory for their morale when they played against the Faroe Islands at home, just a few days after their defeat by the French. With a big advantage, the Ukrainians managed to secure three points against their opponents.

12.10.2021
Ukraine (U-21) — Faroe Islands (U-21)
1:0 (1:0)
Goal: Edmondsson (24, own goal).
In the 41st minute, Sudakov missed a penalty kick.



Step five: The Ukrainian national team had a crucial match against the Macedonians, with the potential to gain ground in the standings if they won. However, despite winning during their meeting in Skopje, Ruslan Rotan's team could not maintain their lead and hold on to the victory.

11.11.2021
Northern Macedonia (U-21) — Ukraine (U-21)
1:1 (0:1)
Goals: Grozdanovski (58) — Syrota (43).



Step six: In the final game before the extended break, our youth team emerged victorious in a home match against the Serbs at Arena Lviv. This game marked the end of the youth team's presence in Ukraine before the onset of the war...

16.11.2021
Ukraine (U-21) — Serbia (U-21)
2:1 (1:0)
Goals: Kryskiv (9), Sudakov (81) - Mitrovic (78).
In the 45th + 1st minute Bondarenko missed a penalty kick (goalkeeper).



Step seven: Due to Russia's bold invasion of Ukraine, the last four U-21 team matches were rescheduled from spring to summer. The initial test was the game against the Faroe Islands, which took place over 7 months after the previous official match

01.06.2022
Faroe Islands (U-21) — Ukraine (U-21)
0:4 (0:2)
Goals: Bondarenko (28), Supryaga (33), Vivcharenko (54), Sudakov (62).



Step eight: The Ukrainian football team played their «home» game against Macedonia in Istanbul and was ensured at least a second-place rank. However, Rotan's team did not let that guarantee hold them back and dominated the opponent in the second half.

05.06.2022
Ukraine (U-21) — North Macedonia (U-21)
4:0 (0:0)
Goals: Vyunnyk (69), Sudakov (71), Vanat (85, 90+4).

Step nine: Although the victory over France may have given them a chance to claim first place, it was purely based on mathematical calculations. Therefore,

the youngsters had to focus on the possibility of joining the best second-place teams to reach the playoffs. The Ukrainians put up an incredible fight.

09.06.2022
Ukraine (U-21) — France (U-21)
3:3 (2:3)
Goals: Vanat (7), Badiashile (44, own goal), Bondarenko (50) - Abline (3), Thuram (10), Gouiri (25)..



Step ten: in a match that turned into a formality, Ukraine's impressive performance led to a well-earned victory.

12.06.2022
Armenia (U-21) — Ukraine (U-21)
0:2 (0:0)
Goals: Kuliyeu (49), Vivcharenko (68).

Standings						
Team	G	W	D	L	GD	P
1 France	10	8	2	0	31-5	26
2 UKRAINE	10	7	2	1	20-11	23
3 Serbia	10	3	3	4	10-11	12
4 Faroe Islands	10	2	4	4	6-12	10
5 North Macedonia	10	2	3	5	8-15	9
6 Armenia	10	1	0	9	7-28	3

Step eleven: Ukraine was drawn to meet the Slovak national team in the Euro playoffs. The first match was an away game, and Rotan's team lost. But they left a chance to fight for a ticket to the Euro.

23.09.2022
Slovakia (U-21) — Ukraine (U-21)
3:2 (1:1)
Goals: Suslov (10), Strelets (46, 53) - Viunnyk (17), Kryskiv (49).
In the 10th minute Suslov (C) missed a penalty kick (goalkeeper).

Step twelve: The Ukrainian team played a match in Belsko-Biala, Poland, and with the help of their supporters, they secured a spot in Euro 2023. Sikan's impressive play and performance were instrumental in leading the team to the group stage of the continental championship!

27.09.2022
Ukraine (U-21) — Slovakia (U-21)
3:0 (0:0)
Goals: Sikan (48, 54, 66).



18 days of spectacular football from current and future stars

You can easily find many reasons why the 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championship should not be missed

Дві This year, the Under-21 Euro will be held in two countries for the third time, featuring 16 of the best U-21 national teams from across the continent, including Ukraine. With five cities, eight stadiums, and 31 matches, the tournament promises to be a highlight of the season, offering an exciting opportunity to determine the strongest team in Europe. These are the event's dry statistics, which will captivate sports fans worldwide: incredibly beautiful Batumi and Cluj, unique Tbilisi, majestic Bucharest, and ancient Kutaisi. Modern arenas – half of the stadiums have been

commissioned in the last few years. Georgian hospitality and Romanian friendliness – teams, and fans will have an incredible experience.

Participants of the upcoming tournament include five national teams that have collectively won the European Under-21 Championship 17 times. Many talented young players are already making a name for themselves, such as Noni Madueke from England, Youssef Moukoko from Germany, and Hugo Ekitike from France. The list goes on and on, with an abundance of future stars on each team. Spectators and experts alike are sure to be captivated by the excitement of this tournament. In the past, players such as Makai, Gilardino,

Walcott, Czech, Pirlo, Podolski, Lampard, and Morata have all shone in the European Under-21 Championship.

The Ukrainian U-21 team has participated in three European Championships so far. In 2006, they secured the second position but unfortunately lost to the Netherlands in the final. In 2011, they tied for the fourth spot in the group, competing alongside Spain, Czechia, and England.

The Ukrainian team may not have many big names on its squad before the start of the tournament, but they have enough players who attract the interest of well-known foreign clubs. Despite this, the team's quality of play, character, and

willpower deserve respect. They have only suffered one defeat, arguably undeserved, during the group qualifying round. They secured the second spot among the best double teams of all qualifying groups, and even then, only by goal difference. They secured their place in the playoffs with a strong-willed victory over Slovakia after a two-legged tie – 2:3 and 3:0. It is worth noting that they had to play their final home matches and the playoffs outside Ukraine due to Russia's large-scale military invasion.

As we look forward to Euro 2023, an intriguing aspect may go unnoticed. This upcoming European Championship doubles as a qualifying tournament for the Summer Olympics, set to take place in Paris next year. Four European teams will participate in the Olympic football tournament, including France as the host and



the top three teams from the Euros, excluding England, who did not qualify. It's worth noting that the Olympics is the only major football tournament in which no Ukrainian team has ever

participated. However, there is potential for Ruslan Rotan and his team to break this tradition and earn a spot in the tournament.



EURO VENUES

Under-21 EURO 2023: all venues



Batumi / Georgia // Batumi Arena

June 22	Group C	Czech Republic - England	18:00 CET
June 25	Group C	Czech Republic - Germany	18:00 CET
June 28	Group C	England - Germany	18:00 CET
July 5		Semifinal: QW 1 - QW 2	18:00 CET
July 8		Final SF 1 – SF 2	18:00 CET

Capacity: 20,035. The stadium was opened in October 2020 and hosted matches of the Georgia national football and rugby teams.



Tbilisi / Georgia // Meskhi Stadium

June 21	Group A	Belgium — Netherlands	18:00 CET
June 24	Group A	Portugal — Netherlands	18:00 CET
June 27	Group A	Portugal — Belgium	18:00 CET
July 1		Quarterfinal 1: 1A - 2C	18:00 CET

Capacity: 24,600. The stadium was opened in 1952 and reconstructed in the run-up to the U-19 Euro 2017. Owned by the Georgian Football Federation, it also hosts major rugby matches.



Kutaisi / Georgia // Shengelia Arena

June 22	Group C	Germany — Israel	18:00 CET
June 25	Group C	England — Israel	18:00 CET
June 28	Group C	Israel — Czech Republic	18:00 CET
July 2		Quarterfinal 2 1C - 2A	18:00 CET

Capacity: 12,000. The stadium was opened in 1962 and reconstructed in 1998 and 2010. It is named after the famous Georgian football player Ramaz Shengelia.



Tbilisi / Georgia // Paichadze Stadium

June 21	Group A	Georgia — Portugal	18:00 CET
June 24	Group A	Georgia — Belgium	18:00 CET
June 27	Group A	Netherlands — Georgia	18:00 CET

Capacity: 54,000. The largest football stadium in Georgia opened in 1935 and was reconstructed in 1976, 2007 (when it became a grandstand), and 2015 (on the eve of the UEFA Super Cup match between Barcelona and Sevilla, which ended with a score of 5:4).



EURO VENUES

Under-21 EURO 2023: all venues



Bucharest / Romania // Giulești Stadium

June 21	Group B	Ukraine — Croatia	18:00 CET
June 24	Group B	Spain — Croatia	20:45 CET
June 27	Group B	Spain — Ukraine	20:45 CET
July 1	Quarterfinal 3 1B - 2D		21:00 CET

Capacity: 14,054. The stadium was opened in March 2022 as the new stadium of FC Rapid. It hosted two matches of the national team of Romania in the UEFA Nations League against Finland and Montenegro in June 2022.



Cluj-Napoca / Romania // CFR Cluj Stadium

June 22	Group D	Norway — Switzerland	18:00 CET
June 25	Group D	Norway — France	20:45 CET
June 28	Group D	Switzerland — France	20:45 CET

Capacity: 22,198. The stadium was opened in 1973 and modernized between 2004 and 2008. It has hosted several international matches of the Romanian national team.



Bucharest / Romania // Steaua Stadium

June 21	Group B	Romania — Spain	20:45 CET
June 24	Group B	Romania — Ukraine	18:00 CET
June 27	Group B	Croatia — Romania	20:45 CET
July 5	Semifinal 2: QW 3 – QW 4		21:00 CET

Capacity: 31,254. The stadium was built in 2021 on the site of the former stadium of the same name. It was opened with a friendly match between Steaua and OFK Belgrade, the same match as the previous stadium, which was opened in 1974.



Cluj-Napoca / Romania // Cluj Arena

June 22	Group D	France — Italy	20:45 CET
June 25	Group D	Switzerland — Italy	18:00 CET
June 28	Group D	Italy — Norway	20:45 CET
July 2	Quarterfinal 4 1D – 2B		21:00 CET

Capacity: 30,020. The stadium was opened in 2011 on the site of the old Ion Moina stadium. It hosts concerts and sometimes international matches of the Romanian national team.



GROUP A

Euro 2023 U-21: European Championship and Qualification for the Olympics

The 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championship will be the 24th edition of the competition, which takes place every two years under the auspices of UEFA

The final tournament of the European Championship, which will take place from June 21 to July 8 in Romania and Georgia, will feature 16 teams composed of players born no later than January 1, 2000.

Like the previous European Under-21 Championship, this

tournament will also be a European qualifier for the 2024 Summer Olympics. Europe has three slots in the 2024 Olympic men's football tournament, not counting hosts France, who automatically qualify. The top three finishers in the U21 finals (other than France, and England, who cannot qualify for the Olympics) will participate in the tournament.

The 16 qualified teams of Romania, Georgia, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Portugal, England, the Netherlands,

France, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Croatia, Israel, and Ukraine, were drawn into four groups of four for the final tournament.

Each Euro 2023 participant will play at least three matches at 8 football stadiums in Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest, Batumi, Kutaisi, and Tbilisi.

The winners and runners-up of each group reach the quarter-finals.

If two or more teams in the same group have the same number of



GROUP B



points after the end of the group stage, the following criteria shall be applied to determine their place in the standings in the order indicated:

- the highest number of points got in matches between the teams;
- the best goal difference in the matches between the teams;
- the highest number of goals scored in matches between teams.

If the winner is not determined after applying these criteria, they are reapplied to the matches of teams with the same number of points as all teams in the group.

If this procedure also fails to determine the strongest team, the following criteria shall apply:

- the best goal difference in all group matches;
- the highest number of goals scored in all group matches;
- the lowest amount of disciplinary points, which takes into account only yellow and red cards received by the team's players and officials in all group matches;
- the highest position in the UEFA U-21 national team coefficient ranking used for the draw for the final round of the competition.

The top 8 teams that advance from the group round will play in playoffs. There will be a standard knockout format from there with extra time (two halves of

15 minutes each) and penalties if needed.

The final match will take place on July 8 at the Batumi Arena in Georgia and will determine the Euro 2023 U-21 Champion.

Ukraine U-21 national team at Euro: historic silver in 2006 and failure in Denmark

The Ukrainian U-21 national team is set to compete in the 2023 Euro final stage, marking their third appearance in the tournament

It has been 12 years since the blue and yellow teams ranked among the strongest teams in Europe. However, Ruslan Rotan's team is determined to make a mark in the history of the Ukrainian team's performances at prestigious continental competitions for youth teams.

In 2006, the Ukrainian U-21 team made their debut appearance in the European Championships, marking a significant moment in their sports history. The 15th edition of the European youth forum took place in Portugal from May to June and was distinct from the

current format, with only 8 teams participating.

During the Euro, the Ukrainian U-21 national team was placed in Group B alongside Italy, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Their first win (2:1) was achieved thanks to goals by Artem Milevsky and Ruslan Fomin against the Dutch. Despite a 0:1 loss to Italy in additional time, Oleksiy Mykhailychenko's team managed to redeem themselves by beating Denmark (2:1) in a crucial match.

Ukraine secured their spot in the semifinals by taking first place in Group B. They were drawn to face the second-ranked team from Group A, which turned out to be the Serbian national team. While unexpected, Serbia managed to

surpass stronger opponents due to their equal points and superior goal difference compared to Germany and Portugal.

In the semifinal match, both the main and extra time ended without any goals. Just before the penalty shootout, the Ukrainian national team coach substituted Andriy Pyatov with Oleksandr Rybka as the goalkeeper. Even though Oleksandr Aliyev missed an 11-meter shot, the Ukrainians managed to win in a thrilling penalty shootout. Rybka made two crucial saves, and Oleksandr Maksymov secured our team's place in the final!

During the main trophy match, Ukraine played against the Netherlands. Unfortunately, in the first half, the Ukrainians

conceded two goals scored by Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, who was the tournament's leading scorer. To make matters worse, Oleksandr Romanchuk was sent off in the second half, which dashed the fans' hopes of a comeback. The final score was 0:3, and as a result, Ukraine won silver medals. However, they also gained the status of being the second-best team in Europe and achieved their best result.

Five years after their previous achievement, the Ukrainian U-21 team once again made it to the top eight teams in Europe. In the 2011 European Championships held in Denmark, Pavlo Yakovenko's team was drawn with Spain, Czech Republic, and England to Group B. However, the tournament had marked differences from the previous one.

Even with promising talents like Taras Stepanenko, Andriy Yarmolenko, and Yevhen Konoplyanka on the national team, the blue and yellow squad suffered a defeat in their opening match against the Czechs (1:2), struggled to break through England's defense (0:0), and ultimately lost to the Spaniards in the group tournament (0:3). Throughout their three games at Euro 2011, the Ukrainians only managed to score one goal, which was secured by midfielder Maksym Bilyi against Czech Republic.

Just so you know, the Spain U-21 national team, boasting the talents of Ander Herrera, Thiago Alcantara, and Juan Mata, emerged victorious in the championship, clinching a resounding win over Switzerland in the finals.



NATIONAL TEAM OF UKRAINE U-21

Ukrainian Association of Football

Founded: 1991
UEFA affiliation: 1992
FIFA affiliation: 1992
Адреса: Provulok Laboratornyi, 7-A
01133 KYIV
Telephone: +380 44 521 0521
E-mail: info@uaf.ua
Website: www.uaf.ua
President: Andrii PAVELKO

National team of Ukraine U-21

U21 EURO best result: Runners-up
(2006)

First international match: 0:0 (Ukraine
vs Belarus, Ternopil, 28.10.1992)

Biggest win: 8:0 (Ukraine – Armenia,
Kyiv, 13.10.1998)
Biggest defeat: 4:0 (France – Ukraine,
Paris, 26.03.1999)

Most appearances:
Oleksandr Yatsenko (38 matches)

Top scorer: Philip Budkivsky (18 goals)

First colors: yellow shirts and
yellow shorts

Second colors: blue shirts and
blue shorts

Head coach: Ruslan ROTAN



Ruslan ROTAN - head coach of the national team of Ukraine U-21

Place of birth: Poltava, Ukraine.
Nationality: - Ukraine.
Age: - 41 years old.

Player's career

position - midfielder
a graduate of the children's and youth sports
school of Vorskla Poltava and FC Dnipro sports school;
1999-2005 – FC Dnipro;
2005-2008 – FC Dynamo Kyiv;
2008-2017 – FC Dnipro;
2017-2018 – FC Slavia, Czechia;
2018 – FC Dynamo Kyiv.
International caps – 100, goals - 8.

Coaching career

2018 - assistant head coach of FC Olimpik Donetsk;
2018 - head coach of the the national
team of Ukraine U-21;

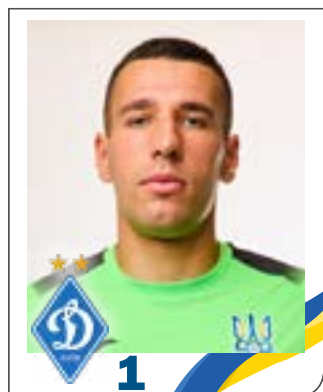
2022 - head coach of FC Oleksandriya;
2023 - acting head coach of
the national team of Ukraine.

Coaching achievements

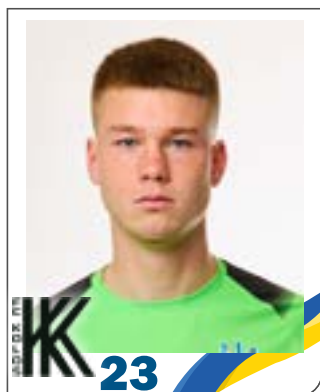
Euro U-21 2023 final
tournament participant.



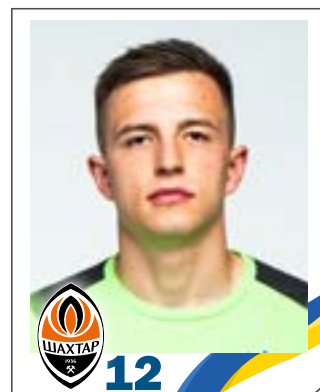
GOALKEEPERS



RUSLAN NESHCHERET
Age 21 Matches/goals 9
[Neshcheret35](#)

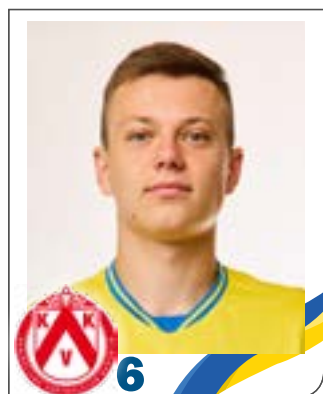


KIRIL FESYUN
Age 20 Matches/goals 6
[Kiril_fesyun72](#)

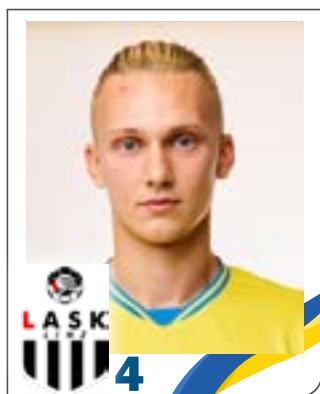


ANATOLIY TRUBIN
Age 21 Matches/goals 11
[Anatoliytrubin81](#)

DEFENDERS



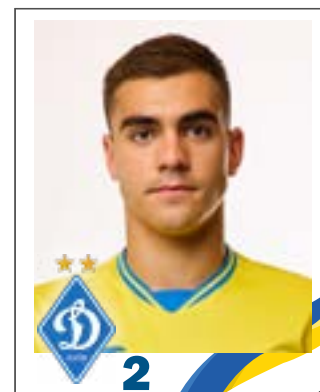
OLEKSII SYCH
Age 22 Matches/goals 17
[sycholeksii](#)



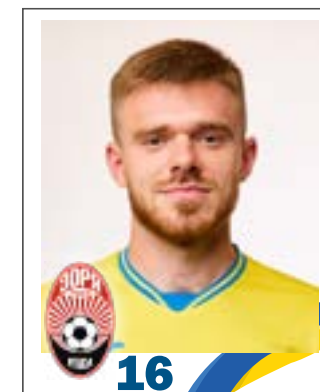
MAKSYM TALOVIEROV
Age 22 Matches/goals 17
[Tal.04](#)



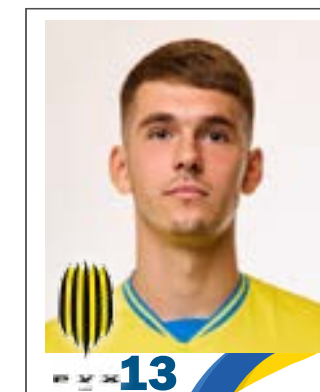
OLEKSANDR SYROTA
Age 23 Matches/goals 9/1
[Syrota_alex](#)



KOSTYANTYN VIVCHARENKO
Age 21 Matches/goals 19/2
[kostyantynvivcharenko](#)

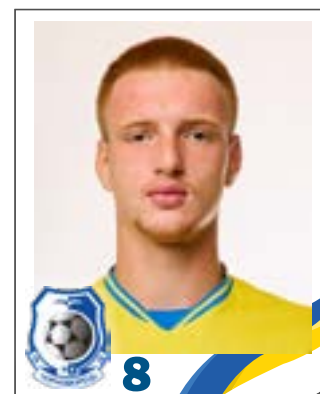


ARSENIY BATAHOV
Age 21 Matches/goals 19
[Arsenii_batagov](#)

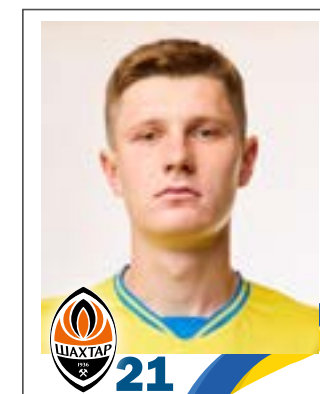


ROSTYSLAV LYAKH
Age 22 Matches/goals 6
[Liakh.73](#)

MIDFIELDERS



VOLODYMYR SALYUK
Age 20 Matches/goals 1
[vova.salyuk](#)

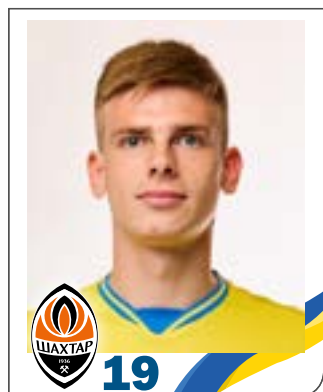


ARTEM BONDARENKO
Age 22 Matches/goals 19/2
[Tema_bondarik](#)

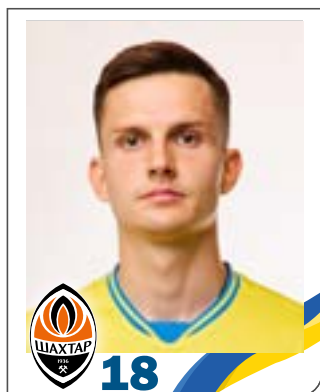


GEORGIY SUDAKOV
Age 20 Matches/goals 15/3
[Sudakov_11](#)

Ukraine U-21 roster



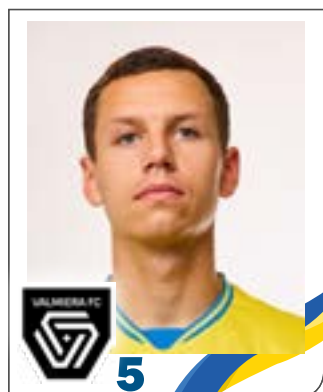
**OLEH
OCHERETKO**
Age 20 Matches/goals 11/1
[@Oleh_ocheretko](#)



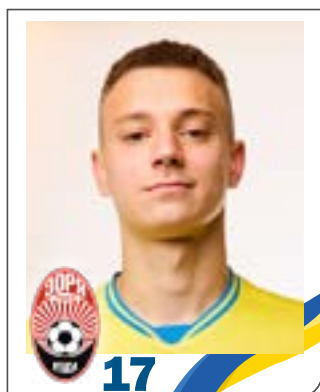
**DMYTRO
KRYSKIV**
Age 22 Matches/goals 17/4
[@Dima_kryskiv](#)



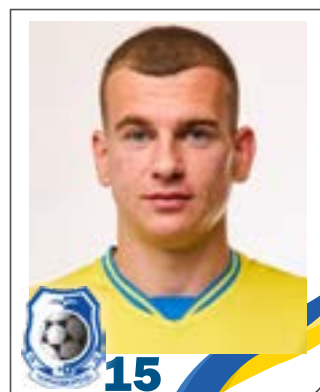
**MYKHAILO
MUDRYK**
Age 22 Matches/goals 16/3
[@Mmudryk10](#)



**IVAN
ZHELIZKO**
Age 22 Matches/goals 18
[@ivanzhelizko](#)

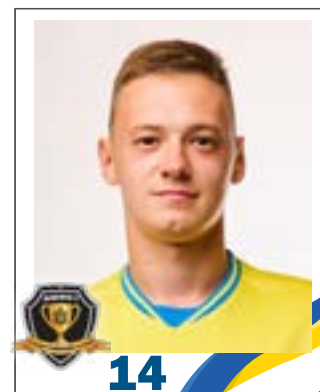


**VOLODYMYR
BRAZHKO**
Age 21 Matches/goals 10/1
[@Vova.brazhko](#)

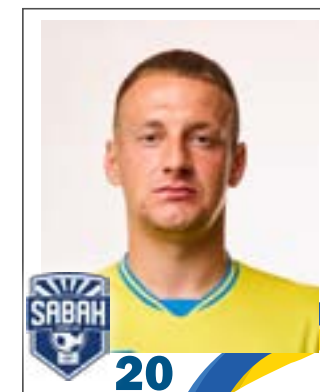


**MAKSYM
BRAHARU**
Age 20 Matches/goals 10/1
[@Bragarchik_45](#)

Ukraine U-21 roster



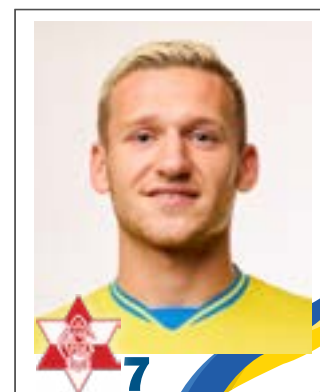
**OLEKSANDR
NAZARENKO**
Age 23 Matches/goals 19/1
[@Aleksandr__nazarenko__29](#)



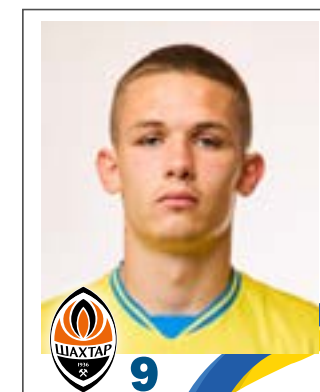
**OLEKSIY
KASHCHUK**
Age 22 Matches/goals 8/2
[@Aleksey_kashchuk](#)



НАПАДНИКИ



**BOHDAN
VIUNNYK**
Age 21 Matches/goals 19/4
[@Viunnyk_official](#)



**DANYLO
SIKAN**
Age 22 Matches/goals 14/7
[@danilsikan](#)



**VLADYSLAV
VANAT**
Age 21 Matches/goals 9/3
[@Vladyslav.vanat](#)

Furia Roja



The Spanish U-21 national team is among the most successful youth national teams in history, alongside Italy. It was established after the restructuring of UEFA youth competitions in 1976. Over the years, the Spanish team has won the youth European championship five times and secured three silver medals. They have also been third twice and reached the semifinals in the most recent tournament.

There are three periods in the history of the Spanish youth national team when Furia Roja dominated for a long period of time. From 1994-2000, the Spaniards were among the top three teams in Europe for four tournaments in a row: they won in 1998, secured silver in 1996, and got bronze in 1994 and 2000. Future legends of Spanish football Raul Gonzalez, Carles Puyol,

Chavi Hernandez, Gaizka Mendieta and others played a key role in those teams.

Between 2011 and 2013, the Spanish youth team reached their second peak, winning the European championship consecutively. They remained unbeaten throughout the two tournaments, securing nine victories and a draw. The team boasted an impressive lineup of players, including David De Gea, Thiago, Juan Mata, Isco, Alvaro Morata, and many others.

Since 2017, Spain has consistently achieved success in international tournaments. In Poland, they secured second place in 2017, followed by a championship win for Furia Roja in 2019. In the most recent competitions held in Hungary and Slovenia, the team made it to the semifinal.

Saul, Marco Asensio, Dani Ceballos, Dani Olmo, and Fabian Ruiz led their country to success.

The Spaniards had a remarkable performance in the Euro 2023 qualifiers, winning all eight matches with ease. They scored an impressive 37 goals while only conceding five. The squad boasts talented players like Sergio Gomez and Abel Ruiz, who show great potential for the future.

Since 1978, the national U-21 team has taken part in 15 out of the 23 European Championships. Furia Roja is expected to participate in the upcoming championships in Romania and Georgia, marking their 16th appearance. They are considered one of the top contenders for the continental championship.

Santi Denia – head coach of the National team of Spain U-21

Santi Denia - head coach of the National team of Spain U-21
Place of birth - Albacete, Spain
Nationality - Spain.



Player's career
(Position – defender)

Appearances - 361, goals - 10
Senior career teams:
Albacete (1992-95)
Atletico (1995-2005)
Albacete (2005-07)
International caps - 2

Player's achievements:

La Liga champion (1995-96)
Copa del Rey winner (1995-96)
Segunda División winner (2001-02)
Euro U-21 runner-up (1996).

Coaching career:

2009 - assistant head coach of Atlético Madrid
2009 - acting head coach of Atlético Madrid
2010-2016 - head coach of the Spain national u-16 team
2011-2018 - head coach of the Spain national u-17 team
2018-2022 - head coach of the Spain national u-19 team
2022 - head coach of the Spain national u-20 team
2022-... - head coach of the Spain national u-18 team
from 2022-... - head coach of the Spain national u-21 team.

Coaching achievements:

UEFA European Under-19 Championship winner.



NATIONAL TEAM OF SPAIN U-21

Royal Spanish Football Federation

Founded: 1909.

UEFA affiliation: 1954.

FIFA affiliation: 1914.

Адреса: Ramón y Cajal,
s/n, Apartado postal 385,
28232 LAS ROZAS.

Phone: +34-91/495 9800.

Fax: +34-91/495 9801.

E-mail: rfef@rfef.es.

Website: www.rfef.es.

President: Luis RUBIALES.

National team of Spain U-21

FIFA rankings as of April 6, 2023:
10 (1 683 points).

First international match:

Yugoslavia - Spain - 1:4 (09.10.1976).

Biggest victory: 14:0 (Spain -
San Marino, 08.02. 2005).

Biggest defeat: 0:5 (Spain -
Netherlands, 16.02.1983).

Most appearances: Gerard Deulofeu
(36 games).

Top scorer: Gerard Deulofeu
(17 goals).

First colors: red shirts and
blue shorts

Second colors: white shirts
and shorts

Head coach: Santi DENIA.



Spain U-21 roster

Players	D.O.B.	Club	Matches/Goals
Goalkeepers			
Julen AGIRREZABALA	26.12.2000	Athletic Bilbao	6/6
Leo ROMAN	06.07.2000	Mallorca	1/0
Arnau TENAS	30.05.2001	Barcelona	7/-2
Defenders			
Arnau MARTINEZ	25.04.2003	Girona	5/0
Victor GOMEZ	01.04.2000	Braga, Portugal	6/1
Hugo GUILLAMON	31.01.2000	Valencia	15/3
Manu SANCHEZ	24.08.2000	Osasuna	8/3
Juan MIRANDA	19.01.2000	Betis	18/3
Mario GILA	29.08.2000	Lazio, Italy	5/0
Miguel GUTIERREZ	27.07.2001	Girona	1/0
Jon PACHECO	08.01.2001	Real Sociedad	9/0
Alejandro FRANCES	01.08.2002	Zaragoza	9/1
Aitor PAREDES	29.04.2000	Athletic Bilbao	1/0
Midfielders			
Antonio BLANCO	23.07.2000	Alaves	6/0
Alex BAENA	20.07.2001	Villareal	6/1
Oihan SANCET	25.04.2000	Athletic Bilbao	6/0
Gabri VEIGA	27.05.2002	Celta Vigo	1/0
Nico GONZALEZ	03.01.2002	Valencia	8/0
Aimar OROZ	27.11.2001	Osasuna	2/0
Adrian BERNABE	26.05.2001	Parma, Italy	1/0
Forwards			
Ander BARRENETXEA	27.12.2001	Real Sociedad	7/1
Sergio CAMELLO	10.02.2001	Rayo Vallecano	9/0
Rodrigo RIQUELME	02.04.2000	Girona	9/5
Abel RUIZ	28.01.2000	Braga, Portugal	20/10
Juanmi LATASA	23.03.2001	Getafe	0/0
Rodrigo SANCHEZ	16.05.2000	Betis	11/3
Sergio GOMEZ	04.09.2000	Manchester City, England	13/6

THE CROATIAN U-21 NATIONAL TEAM

The Youth on fire



The Croatian U-21 national team was established in 1990 and made their international debut in 1993 against Italy. The Croats have participated in four of the 14 possible European Championships, but they have become a stable contender and participant in the final tournaments only in recent years.

The first Euro appearance for the red, white, and blue team was in 2000. Leading the Croatians at that time were Stipe Pletikosa, Jerko Leko, and Igor Tudor, who had a strong connection to Ukrainian football. The team did not make it past the group stage, losing two out of three matches (against the Netherlands and Czechia) and drawing once more (with the Spaniards).

In 2004, Croatia's U-21 team qualified for the Euros once again but unfortunately experienced the same outcome as before. They suffered two defeats, one against Serbia and Montenegro and the other against Italy, and only managed a draw with Belarus. However, notable players such as Dario Srna, Eduardo, and Niko Krančar made a name for themselves during this tournament.

Between 2006 and 2017, the Croatian football team came close to qualifying for the final continental tournament several times, but never made it. However, they managed to break this streak during the Euro 2019 selection. During the qualifiers, they won 8 out of 10 matches, losing only once, which allowed them to secure their spot in the Euros from first place.

Although the Croatian team showed promise, they were unable to progress beyond the group stage of the final competition due to their losses against Romania and France, as well as a draw against England in their final game. Notably, Nikola Vlašić and Josip Brekalo emerged as the key players for the Croatian team during this period.

The U-21 national team of Croatia has qualified for its second consecutive tournament in 2021. During the qualifiers, the team, known as the Checkers, secured second place ahead of the Czechs and were set to compete in the playoffs. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the playoffs were canceled, and

the Croats automatically qualified for the Euro group tournament.

The Croatian national team had a historic and successful Euro 2021 campaign. The team overcame an interesting group stage where three teams scored three points each, but the Croatian U-21 secured second place based on additional indicators. While the team lost to Portugal and England, they managed to beat Switzerland and advance to the final round. Unfortunately, they were eliminated by Spain in extra time, making the quarterfinals their highest achievement in the tournament.

The Checkers are participating in Euro 2023 for the third time in a row. During the qualifying round, they secured the second position, winning seven matches, losing twice, and drawing once. In an intense playoff match against the Danes, the Croats won 2:1 at home, but lost with the same score in regular and extra time of away match. However, they managed to secure their spot in the Euros by winning a penalty shoot-out.

Dragan SKOČIĆ – head coach of the National team of Croatia U-21



Place of birth - Rijeka, Yugoslavia
Nationality - Croatia
Age - 54 years old.

Player's career (Position - midfielder)

Appearances - 83, goals - 8
Senior career teams:
Rijeka (1987-91)
Las Palmas, Spain (1991-93)
SD Compostela (1993-96)
Rijeka (1996)
Novalja (2001-04)
Al Ittihad, UAE (2004)
He never played for the national team.

Player's achievements:

Segunda División winner (1992-93, 1993-94).

Coaching career:

2005-2006 - head coach of Rijeka
2007-2008 - head coach of Interblock, Slovenia
2009-2010 - head coach of Al-Arabi, Kuwait
2011 - head coach of Al-Nasr, Saudi Arabia
2012 - head coach of Rijeka
2013-2014 - head coach of Malavan, Iran
2014-2016 - head coach of Fulad, Iran
2018 - head coach of Raik Babol, Iran
2019-2020 - head coach of Sanat Oil, Iran
2020-2022 - head coach of the National team of Iran
from 2023-... - head coach of the National team of Croatia U-21.

Coaching achievements:

Croatian Cup winner (2005-2006)
Slovenian Cup winner (2007-2008)
Slovenian Super Cup winner (2008)
Iranian Cup runner-up (2018).

THE NATIONAL TEAM OF CROATIA U-21

Croatian Football Federation

Founded: 1912.

UEFA affiliation: 1993.

FIFA affiliation: 1941 (1992).

Address: Ulica grada Vukovara 269A,
10000 ZAGREB.

Phone: +385-1/236 1555.

Fax: +385-1/244 1501.

E-mail: international@hns-cff.hr.

Website: www.hns-cff.hr.

President: Marijan KUSTIĆ.

The national team of Croatia U-21

FIFA rankings as of April 6, 2023: 7
(1 730 points).

First international match: Croatia -
Hungary - 4:1 (10.14.1992).

Biggest victory: 10:0 (Croatia - San
Marino, 08.10.2020).

Biggest defeat: 0:5 (Croatia - Spain,
09.10.2012).

Most appearances: Luka Ivanusec
(28 games).

Top scorer: Tomislav Bušić
(13 goals).

First colors: red and white shirts and
white shorts

Second colors: navy blue shirts and
shorts

Head coach: Dragan SKOCIC.



Croatia U-21 roster

Players	D.O.B.	Club	Matches/Goals
Goalkeepers			
Dominik KOTARSKI	10.02.2000	PAOK, Greece	13/-15
Ivor PANDUR	25.03.2000	Fortuna Sittard, Netherlands	5/-3
Nikola CAVLINA	02.06.2002	Lokomotiva Zagreb	2/-1
Defenders			
David COLINA	19.07.2000	Augsburg, Germany	17/0
Bartol FRANJIC	14.01.2000	Wolfsburg, Germany	12/1
Nikola SOLDO	25.01.2001	1. FC Köln, Germany	10/1
Niko SIGUR	09.09.2003	Hajduk Split	0/0
Mauro PERKOVIC	22.03.2003	Dinamo Zagreb	3/0
Kresimir KRIZMANIC	03.07.2000	Gorica	7/0
Luca JELENIC	24.05.2000	Varazdin	4/0
Nico GALESIC	26.03.2001	Rijeka	0/0
Moris VALINCIC	17.11.2002	NK Široki Brijeg, Bosnia and Herzegovina	0/0
Roko JURESKIN	29.09.2000	Benevento, Italy	3/1
Midfielders			
Jurica PRSIR	29.05.2000	Gorica	13/1
Lukas KCAVENDA	02.03.2003	Lokomotiva Zagreb	11/1
Martin BATURINA	16.02.2003	Dinamo Zagreb	9/1
Ante PALAVERSA	06.04.2000	Troyes, France	10/0
Veldin HODZA	15.10.2002	Rijeka	8/0
Toni FRUK	09.03.2001	Gorica	5/2
Marco BULAT	26.09.2001	Dinamo Zagreb	3/0
Forwards			
Roko SIMIC	10.09.2003	Zürich, Switzerland	16/7
Stipe BIUK	26.12.2002	Los Angeles, USA	10/2
Dion BELJO	01.03.2002	Augsburg, Germany	9/2
Marin LJUBICIC	28.02.2002	LASK, Austria	8/2
Gabriel VIDOVIC	01.12.2003	Vitesse, Netherlands	8/2
Luka STOJKOVIC	28.10.2003	Lokomotiva Zagreb	4/0
Matija FRIGAN	11.02.2003	Rijeka	3/0
Mikele SEGO	05.08.2000	Varazdin	4/0

THE ROMANIAN U-21 NATIONAL TEAM

Little «tricolore»



The Romanian U-21 national team made their debut in 1978. However, the first time the blue, yellow and red team played in the final stage of the European Championships was 20 years later at the home Euro. Despite being the host, the Romanians qualified for the tournament based on their sporting performance.

The Romanian team exited the competition at the quarterfinals due to an unusual tournament format that excluded a group stage. They were defeated by the Netherlands, Germany, and Russia.

Between 2000 and 2017, the team in blue, yellow, and red struggled to advance to the final stage of the Euros. Their best performance was in 2012, where they won eight matches during the qualifying stages. Despite winning their group, Romania still had to compete in the playoffs. Unfortunately, they lost to England in the head-to-head matches, and failed to qualify for the Euros.

In 2019, the Romanian national team put an end to their losing streak with an impressive achievement- their best result in history. They showed great confidence and skill in Euro 2019 qualifiers, defeating Portugal, Wales, and Switzerland, as well as the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Liechtenstein to top their qualifying group.

During the final stage, the Romanian U-21 team emerged victorious against Croatia and England while managing to secure a draw against France. This impressive performance allowed them to advance to the playoffs in first place, leading them to the semifinals where they unfortunately fell short against Germany.

During that period, George Pușcaș and Janis Hagi were leading the team. Romania participated in Euro 2021 and managed to finish second in the qualifying tournament, surpassing Denmark and ranking higher than

Ukraine, Finland, Northern Ireland, and Malta. They achieved a 3:0 victory at home and a 1:1 draw in the away game against the blue and yellow team. As one of the best second teams, Romania successfully qualified for the Euros.

In the end, the Romanian U-21 team was unable to advance. Despite going undefeated with a draw against both the Netherlands and Germany, as well as a victory over Hungary, the team in blue, yellow, and red did not make it to the playoffs.

The Romanian U-21 team has successfully continued their streak of appearances at the continental tournament by participating in Euro 2023. This marks their third consecutive competition in the blue-yellow-reds colors. As hosts of the Euro, the Romanians did not take part in the qualifying stage.

Emil SENDOI – head coach of the National team of Romania U-21



Place of birth - Craiova, Romania
Nationality - Romania
Age - 58 years old.

Player's career (Position - defender)

Appearances - 380, goals - 51
Played 380 matches, scored 51 goals
Senior career teams:
FC U Craiova 1948 (1983-95).
Angers, France (1995-96)
Arjes (1996-98)
FC U Craiova 1948 (1998-99)
International caps – 30.

Player's achievements:

Romanian League I champion (1990-91)
Romanian Cup winner (1990-91, 1992-93).

Coaching career:

1999-2000 - head coach of FC U Craiova 1948
2001-2002 - head coach of Pandurii
2002 - head coach of FC U Craiova 1948
2003-2005 - head coach of Pandurii
2006-2013 - head coach of the National team of Romania U-21
2008 - head coach of Vaslui
2011 - acting head coach of the national team of Romania
2014-2016 - head coach of FC U Craiova 1948
2016 - head coach of Concordia Chiaovna
2018-2019 - head coach of Arges
2020-2022 - head coach of Kindia Tirgoviste
from 2022-... - head coach of the National team of Romania U-21.

Coaching achievements:

Romanian Cup runner-up (1999-2000)
Divizia B winner(2004-2005).

NATIONAL TEAM OF ROMANIA U-21

Romanian Football Federation

Founded: 1909.

UEFA affiliation: 1955.

FIFA affiliation: 1923.

Address: Str. Serg. Serbanica Vasile
12, 022186 BUCHAREST.

Phone: +40-21/302 9150.

Fax: +40-21/302 9192.

E-mail: frf@frf.ro.

Website: www.frf.ro.

President: Rezvan BURLIANU.

National team of Romania U-21

FIFA rankings as of April 6, 2023:
46 (1 445 points).

First international match: Romania -
Yugoslavia - 0:2 (31.03.1940).

Biggest victory: 5:0 (Romania
- Armenia, 16.11. 2004; Romania -
Azerbaijan, 25.04.1995).

Biggest defeat: 0:8 (Romania -
Germany, 09.09.2014).

Most appearances: Alex Pascănu
(29 games).

Top scorer: George Pușcaș
(18 goals).

First colors: yellow shirts and
white shorts

Second colors: blue shirts and
shorts.

Head coach: Emil Sendoi.



Romania U-21 roster

Players	D.O.B.	Club	Matches/Goals
Goalkeepers			
Mihai POPA	12.10.2000	Voluntari	8/-17
Otto HINDRICH	05.08.2002	CFR Cluj	1/0
Andrei GORCEA	02.08.2001	Universitatea Craiova	0/0
Defenders			
Bogdan RACOVITAN	06.06.2000	Rakow, Poland	7/1
Victor DICAN	11.10.2000	Botosani	9/0
Mihai LIXANDRU	05.06.2001	FCSB	5/0
Alexandru PANTEA	11.09.2003	FCSB	2/0
Marco EHMANN	03.08.2000	Enosis, Cyprus	0/0
Andres DUMITRESCU	11.03.2001	Sepsi OSK	7/0
Valentin TICU	19.09.2000	Petrolul Ploiesti	7/0
Andrei BORZA	12.11.2005	Farul Constanta	0/0
Midfielders			
Octavian POPESCU	27.12.2002	FCSB	6/0
David MICULESCU	02.05.2001	FCSB	11/2
Claudiu PETRILA	07.11.2000	CFR Cluj	10/0
Vlad POP	31.08.2000	Universitatea Craiova	4/0
Adrian MAZILU	13.09.2005	Farul Constanta	0/0
Alexandru ISFAN	31.01.2000	Universitatea Craiova	4/0
Constantin GRAMENI	23.10.2002	Farul Constanta	6/0
Aleksandru CIMPANU	08.10.2000	Universitatea Craiova	8/1
Alexi PITU	05.06.2002	Bordeaux, France	6/0
Dragos ALBU	15.03.2001	Universitatea Craiova	8/1
Forwards			
Jovan MARKOVIC	23.03.2001	Universitatea Craiova	10/2
Daniel BIRLIGEA	19.04.2000	CFR Cluj	8/2

EURO 2023 U-21

GROUP A

GEO			June 21 18.00			POR
Tbilisi, Paichadze Stadium						
BEL			June 21 18.00			NED
Tbilisi, Meskhi Stadium						
GEO			June 24 18.00			BEL
Tbilisi, Paichadze Stadium						
POR			June 24 18.00			NED
Tbilisi, Meskhi Stadium						
NED			June 27 18.00			GEO
Tbilisi, Paichadze Stadium						
POR			June 27 18.00			BEL
Tbilisi, Meskhi Stadium						

GROUP B

UKR			June 21 18.00			CRO
Bucharest, Giulești Stadium						
ROM			June 21 20.45			ESP
Bucharest, Steaua Stadium						
ROM			June 24 18.00			UKR
Bucharest, Steaua Stadium						
ESP			June 24 20.45			CRO
Bucharest, Giulești Stadium						
CRO			June 27 20.45			ROM
Bucharest, Steaua Stadium						
ESP			June 27 20.45			UKR
Bucharest, Giulești Stadium						

GROUP C

CZE			June 22 18.00			ENG
Batumi, Batumi Arena						
GER			June 22 18.00			ISR
Kutaisi, Shengelia Arena						
CZE			June 25 18.00			GER
Batumi, Batumi Arena						
ENG			June 25 18.00			ISR
Kutaisi, Shengelia Arena						
ENG			June 28 18.00			GER
Batumi, Batumi Arena						
ISR			June 28 18.00			CZE
Kutaisi, Shengelia Arena						

GROUP D

NOR			June 22 18.00			SUI
Cluj, CFR Cluj Stadium						
FRA			June 22 20.45			ITA
Cluj, Cluj Arena						
SUI			June 25 18.00			ITA
Cluj, Cluj Arena						
NOR			June 25 20.45			FRA
Cluj, CFR Cluj Stadium						
SUI			June 28 20.45			FRA
Cluj, CFR Cluj Stadium						
ITA			June 28 20.45			NOR
Cluj, Cluj Arena						

