

Euro 2020 (Summer 2021)

The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Euro 2020 football tournament will take place in June and July 2021 across multiple nations in Europe. The tournament has been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Euros

The UEFA European Championship, commonly known as the Euros, is a football competition involving national teams from across Europe. Typically held every four years, teams compete to become the continental champions. The last European Championship — hosted in Paris, France, in 2016 — was won by Portugal.

Host Cities



The 2020 games were originally planned as a special event to celebrate the tournament's 60th anniversary. Rather than being hosted by one nation, the games would be played in different venues across different nations during July 2020. The host cities are:

- Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Baku, Azerbaijan
- Bucharest, Romania
- Budapest, Hungary
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Glasgow, Scotland
- London, England
- Munich, Germany
- Rome, Italy
- St Petersburg, Russia
- Seville, Spain

The opening match will take place at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. The semi-final matches and the final match will take place at Wembley Stadium in London. All other cities will host at least three matches.

Euro 2020 Teams

In order to earn a place in the finals of the Euro 2020, a total of 55 national teams were put into groups to compete in qualifying matches. The best-performing 24 teams were then put into six groups for the finals. The groupings are as follows:

Group A: Italy Switzerland Turkey Wales	Group B: Belgium Denmark Finland Russia	Group C: Austria The Netherlands North Macedonia Ukraine
Group D: Croatia Czech Republic England Scotland	Group E: Poland Slovakia Spain Sweden	Group F: France Germany Hungary Portugal

COVID-19

Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, organisers were forced to postpone the Euro 2020 tournament until 2021 and many changes have been made to the traditional set-up. There are now 11 host cities (rather than 12) and the capacity of many of the stadiums has been reduced to allow for greater social distancing.

Tournament Stages

The first stage of the tournament is the group stage where each team will play against the other three members of the same group. The winners and runners-up from each group, along with four other teams, will progress to the next stage of the tournament, known as the round of 16. During this stage, all 16 teams play one match. The winning eight teams will then move to the quarter-finals, where the four highest-scoring teams will earn a place in the semi-finals.

The final of Euro 2020 will see the remaining two teams competing for the prestigious prize.

Prizes

As well as the glory and (perhaps even) the coveted trophy, there is also a large financial reward for being successful in the tournament. All 24 qualifying teams will receive at least €9.25m and the winning team could earn up to €34m.

Key Players

Each team has the chance to select the cream of the crop of their nation's talent to compete as part of the national squad. Some of the big names expected to take part in the tournament include:



Kylian Mbappé: France

Kylian Mbappé is one of France's key players. He was considered to be a teenage prodigy and he has been footballing since he was a young child.



Phil Foden: England

Manchester City player, Phil Foden, rose to fame after playing a key role in the squad that won the U-17 (under 17s) World Cup in 2017.



Kevin De Bruyne: Belgium

Kevin De Bruyne currently plays for Manchester City and is known for helping other members of his team to score goals (known as goal assists).



Robert Lewandowski: Poland

Robert Lewandowski has scored over 40 goals for FC Bayern Munich and is Poland's all-time top goalscorer.

Questions

1. How often are the Euros usually held? Tick one.

- every year
- every five years
- every four years
- every 10 years

2. **The tournament has been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Which word means the same as 'rescheduled'. Tick one.

- rearranged
- cancelled
- started
- relocated

3. Look at the section called **Key Players**.

Find and copy a phrase that suggests that some of the players will be well known to football fans.

4. How many teams took part in the qualifying matches of Euro 2020?

5. In which section of the text would you find information about how the winning teams progress to the final?

6. Look at the section called **Euro 2020 Teams**.

Explain why you think that the table has been included in the text.

7. **Each team has the chance to select the cream of the crop of their nation's talent to compete as part of the national squad.**

Think of another word or phrase that could be used instead of 'cream of the crop'.

8. Discuss why Robert Lewandowski would be a good choice for the Polish national team.

9. Discuss how you think players might feel about taking part in the Euros.
