

UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP - 2019/21 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Slovenia

Stadion Ljudski vrt - Maribor

Wednesday 24 March 2021
18.00CET (18.00 local time)

Group B - Matchday 1



Spain

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UEFA UNDER 21 OFFICIAL SPONSORS



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Previous meetings

Head to Head

No UEFA competition matches have been played between these two teams

Match background

Co-hosts Slovenia face a baptism of fire on their UEFA European Under-21 Championship debut as they take on holders and five-time champions Spain at Maribor's Stadion Ljudski vrt.

- While Slovenia are making their first finals appearance, Spain joined Italy on a record five titles by lifting the trophy on Italian soil two years ago and have reached the final in four of the last five editions of the competition, winning three.

Previous meetings

- This is the first time Slovenia have met Spain in a European U21 Championship fixture.
- Indeed, this is only the second time the teams have crossed paths. Spain were 3-0 winners in a friendly on 15 October 2002, Jorge Larena (11, 56) scoring twice before Javier Portillo (65) wrapped up the win.
- Abel Ruiz was in the Spain side that drew 0-0 against Slovenia, whose side included Žan Celar, in the European U17 Championship elite round on 13 March 2016.
- Ruiz scored Spain's goal from the penalty spot in a 1-1 draw against Slovenia in the European U19 Championship elite round on 20 March 2019. Álvaro Fernández, Juan Miranda and Hugo Guillamón also played for Spain.

Form guide

Slovenia

- Slovenia and fellow hosts Hungary are the only sides to be making their debuts at the 2021 tournament.
- Slovenia's most successful U21 campaign came in 2006, when they reached the qualifying play-offs only to lose 2-0 on aggregate to eventual champions the Netherlands (0-0 h, 0-2 a).
- In the qualifying campaign for the 2019 finals, a team coached by Primož Gliha – who was replaced by current boss Milenko Ačimovič in November 2020 – finished second in their qualifying section, 12 points behind France, having picked up 16 points from their ten games (W4 D4 L2).
- Slovenia have drawn their last two competitive U21 matches; a 2-1 home win against Kazakhstan on 11 September 2018 is their only victory in their last six European U21 Championship fixtures (D3 L2).

Spain

- This is Spain's eighth appearance in the U21 final tournament since 1998, and a sixth in the competition's last seven editions. They have only failed to get past the group stage once in those eight participations, in 2009, and have reached the final in each of their last four, lifting the trophy in 2011, 2013 and 2019.
- Current coach Luis de la Fuente – who succeeded Albert Celades in July 2018 – led Spain to a 2-1 final victory against Germany in Udine in 2018. His side had finished first in Group A, level with hosts Italy and Poland on six points but top in the three-way head-to-head, before beating France 4-1 in the semi-finals.
- Spain have lost only three of their last 36 European U21 Championship games (W29 D4) – against Italy on Matchday 1 at the 2019 finals (1-3), in qualification at home to Northern Ireland on 11 September 2018 (1-2) and Germany in the 2017 final (0-1).
- De la Fuente's team won nine of their ten qualifiers in booking their place at the 2021 finals, dropping points only in a 1-1 draw in Israel on 19 November 2019. They won their next five qualifiers, keeping a clean sheet in each, and have not conceded in 459 minutes of competitive football. They finished on 28 points, ten ahead of North Macedonia at the top of Group 6.
- Spain conceded only one goal – a penalty – in qualifying, which gave them the best defensive record; no other team conceded fewer than four.
- Spain have won 18 of their last 21 matches at the final tournament (D1 L2); the 2019 defeat by Italy was their first in the group stage since a 2-0 reverse to England on 18 June 2009.
- De la Fuente also led Spain to the 2015 UEFA European Under-19 Championship title in Greece.

Links and trivia

- Slovenia have never beaten Spain in a competitive international at any level; their record across all age groups is D2 L4.
- Slovenian clubs have enjoyed slightly more success against Spanish opponents, winning two of their ten matches (D3 L5). Olimpija Ljubljana were 2-1 winners at home to Espanyol in the 2000/01 UEFA Cup first round first leg – although they lost the tie on aggregate after a 2-0 away defeat – before Maribor enjoyed better fortune against Villarreal in the 2007 UEFA Intertoto Cup third round, recording a 3-2 aggregate victory that included a 2-1 first-leg success in Spain.

Squad list

Slovenia

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season				Overall	
						Qual.		FT		Team	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Igor Vekič	06/05/1998	22	Bravo	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
12	Martin Turk	21/08/2003	17	Parma	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
22	Žan-Luk Leban	15/12/2002	18	Everton	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Defenders											
3	Dušan Stojinovič	26/08/2000	20	Celje	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
4	David Brekalo	03/12/1998	22	Bravo	-	0	0	0	0	4	-
5	Žan Zaletel	16/09/1999	21	Celje	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
6	Jan Gorenc	26/07/1999	21	Mura	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
13	Andraž Žinič	12/02/1999	22	Domžale	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
20	Sven Karič	07/03/1998	23	Domžale	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
21	Aljaž Ploj	30/08/1998	22	Aluminij	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
23	Žan Kolmanič	03/03/2000	21	Maribor	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Midfielders											
2	Žan Rogelj	25/11/1999	21	Tirol	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
7	Tomi Horvat	24/03/1999	22	Mura	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
8	Dejan Petrovič	12/01/1998	23	Rapid Wien	-	0	0	0	0	1	-
14	Tamar Svetlin	30/07/2001	19	Domžale	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
15	Sandi Ogrinec	05/06/1998	22	Bravo	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
16	Adam Gnezda Čerin	16/07/1999	21	Rijeka	-	0	0	0	0	2	-
Forwards											
9	Žan Medved	14/06/1999	21	Wisła Kraków	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
10	Timi Elšnik	29/04/1998	22	Olimpija Ljubljana	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
11	Žan Celar	14/03/1999	22	Cremonese	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
17	Aljoša Matko	29/03/2000	20	Maribor	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
18	Dario Kolobaric	06/02/2000	21	Domžale	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
19	Nik Prelec	10/06/2001	19	Sampdoria	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Coach											
-	Milenko Acimovic	15/02/1977	44		-	0	0	0	0	-	-

Spain

No.	Player	DoB	Age	Club	D	Current season				Overall	
						Qual.		FT		Team	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers											
1	Álvaro Fernández	13/04/1998	22	Huesca	-	4	0	0	0	4	-
13	Josep Martínez	27/05/1998	22	Leipzig	-	3	0	0	0	3	-
23	Alejandro Dominguez	30/07/1998	22	Las Palmas	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Defenders											
2	Pipa	26/01/1998	23	Huddersfield	-	2	0	0	0	2	-
3	Adrià Pedrosa	13/05/1998	22	Espanyol	-	6	2	0	0	6	2
4	Hugo Guillamón	31/01/2000	21	Valencia	-	4	1	0	0	4	1
5	Jorge Cuenca	17/11/1999	21	Almería	-	6	0	0	0	6	-
11	Marc Cucurella	22/07/1998	22	Getafe	-	6	1	0	0	6	1
12	Juan Miranda	19/01/2000	21	Betis	-	2	0	0	0	2	-
14	Oscar Mingueza	13/05/1999	21	Barcelona	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Midfielders											
6	Martin Zubimendi	02/02/1999	22	Real Sociedad	-	3	0	0	0	3	-
7	Alejandro Pozo	22/02/1999	22	Eibar	-	6	0	0	0	6	-
8	Fran Beltrán	03/02/1999	22	Celta	-	8	0	0	0	8	-
10	Gonzalo Villar	23/08/1998	22	Roma	-	4	0	0	0	4	-
15	Jon Moncayola	13/05/1998	22	Osasuna	-	4	1	0	0	4	1
16	Manu García	02/01/1998	23	Sporting Gijón	-	4	1	0	0	4	1
17	Brahim Díaz	03/08/1999	21	Milan	-	4	2	0	0	4	2
20	Ricard Puig	13/08/1999	21	Barcelona	-	3	0	0	0	3	-
21	Ander Barrenetxea	27/12/2001	19	Real Sociedad	-	2	1	0	0	2	1
Forwards											
9	Abel Ruiz	28/01/2000	21	Braga	-	3	0	0	0	3	-
18	Javier Puado	25/05/1998	22	Espanyol	-	5	0	0	0	5	-
19	Dani Gómez	30/07/1998	22	Levante	-	5	2	0	0	5	2
22	Yeremi Pino	20/10/2002	18	Villarreal	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Coach											
-	Luis de la Fuente	21/06/1961	59		-	10	0	0	0	19	-

Match officials

Referee	François Letexier (FRA)
Assistant referees	Cyril Mugnier (FRA) , Mehdi Rahmouni (FRA)
Fourth official	Glenn Nyberg (SWE)
UEFA Delegate	Nebojša Ivkovic (SRB)
UEFA Referee observer	Hugh Dallas (SCO)

Referee

Name	Date of birth	Under-21 matches	UEFA matches
François Letexier	23/04/1989	2	26

François Letexier

Referee since: 2002
First division: 2016
FIFA badge: 2017

Tournaments: N/A

Finals

2019 UEFA Youth League

UEFA European Under-21 Championship matches featuring teams from the two countries involved in this match

No such matches refereed

Other matches involving teams from either of the two countries involved in this match

Date	Competition	Stage reached	Home	Away	Result	Venue
27/09/2017	UYL	GS	Sporting Clube de Portugal	FC Barcelona	0-1	Alcochete
21/11/2017	UYL	GS	Sevilla FC	Liverpool FC	0-4	Seville
07/08/2019	UCL	3QR	NK Maribor	Rosenborg BK	1-3	Maribor
07/11/2019	UEL	GS	RCD Espanyol	PFC Ludogorets 1945	6-0	Barcelona

Match-by-match lineups

Slovenia

Under-21 - Group stage – final tournament

Group B

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Matchday 1 (24/03/2021)

Slovenia-Spain

Matchday 2 (27/03/2021)

Slovenia-Czech Republic

Matchday 3 (30/03/2021)

Italy-Slovenia

Spain

Under-21 - Qualifying round

(06/09/2019)

Kazakhstan 0-1 Spain

Goals: 0-1 Olmo 28 (P)

Spain: D. Martín, Pedro Porro, Jorge Cuenca, Amo, Aleñá (63 Martin), Olmo, Puado (46 Pozo), Óscar Rodríguez (71 Fran Beltrán), Cucurella, Carles Pérez (46 Ferran Torres), Oriol Busquets

(10/09/2019)

Spain 2-0 Montenegro

Goals: 1-0 Olmo 3, 2-0 Olmo 9

Spain: D. Martín, Jorge Cuenca, Miranda, Fran Beltrán (75 Óscar Rodríguez), Olmo (83 Pozo), Buñuel, E. García (65 Amo), Cucurella, Martin (46 Ruiz), Lozano, Ferran Torres (75 Morlanes)

(15/10/2019)

Montenegro 0-2 Spain

Goals: 0-1 Buñuel 34, 0-2 Cucurella 62

Spain: D. Martín, Buñuel, Jorge Cuenca, E. García, Fran Beltrán (58 Villar), Martin (68 Pozo), Olmo, Cucurella (80 Fati), Pedrosa, Ferran Torres (68 Dani Gómez), Lozano

(14/11/2019)

Spain 3-0 North Macedonia

Goals: 1-0 M. García 7, 2-0 Serafimov 47 (og) , 3-0 Pedrosa 87

Spain: Fernández, E. García, M. García (68 Fran Beltrán), Pozo (46 Fati), Ruiz (46 Martin), Óscar Rodríguez (46 Villar), Buñuel, Pepelu, Pedrosa, Clemente, Ferran Torres (81 Sergio Gómez)

(19/11/2019)

Israel 1-1 Spain

Goals: 0-1 Óscar Rodríguez 50, 1-1 Karzev 81 (P)

Spain: Fernández, Pedro Porro, E. García, Amo, M. García (46 Óscar Rodríguez), Martin (70 Ruiz), Villar (46 Sergio Gómez), Cucurella (46 Fran Beltrán), Pedrosa, Ferran Torres, Lozano (84 Pepelu)

(03/09/2020)

North Macedonia 0-1 Spain

Goals: 0-1 Hugo Duro 83 (P)

Spain: Martinez, Pipa, Hugo Guillamón, Miranda, Clemente, Aleñá (55 Villar), Pozo (70 Antoñín), Dani Gómez (46 Hugo Duro), Martin (70 Pedri), Ricard Puig, Zubimendi (90 Moncayola)

(08/10/2020)

Faroe Islands 0-2 Spain

Goals: 0-1 Brahim Díaz 51, 0-2 Brahim Díaz 90+1

Spain: Martínez, Jorge Cuenca, Hugo Guillamón, Ricard Puig (60 Antoñín), Óscar Rodríguez (88 Moncayola), Puado (60 Pedri), Zubimendi, Pipa (69 Pedro Porro), Cucurella, Pedrosa, Barrenetxea (46 Brahim Díaz)

(13/10/2020)

Spain 3-0 Kazakhstan

Goals: 1-0 Hugo Guillamón 65, 2-0 Dani Gómez 71, 3-0 Dani Gómez 85

Spain: Fernández, Pedro Porro, Jorge Cuenca, Hugo Guillamón (84 Manu Hernando), Ricard Puig (46 Pedri), Brahim Díaz, Óscar Rodríguez (63 Fran Beltrán), Puado (60 Bryan Gil), Fran García (46 Dani Gómez), Cucurella, Moncayola

(12/11/2020)

Spain 2-0 Faroe Islands

Goals: 1-0 Pedrosa 67, 2-0 López 87

Spain: Fernández (46 Sotorres), Jorge Cuenca, Pozo, Fran Beltrán (60 M. García), Dani Gómez (46 López), Brahim Díaz (46 Puado), Zubimendi, Manu Hernando, Bryan Gil, Pedrosa, Pedri (74 Óscar Rodríguez)

(17/11/2020)

Spain 3-0 Israel

Goals: 1-0 López 65 (P) , 2-0 Barrenetxea 75, 3-0 Moncayola 89

Spain: Martínez, Pedro Porro, Hugo Guillamón, Clemente, M. García, Óscar Rodríguez (58 Brahim Díaz), López (74 Dani Gómez), Bryan Gil (74 Barrenetxea), Pedrosa (79 Manuel Sánchez), Puado (58 Fran Beltrán), Moncayola

Group stage – final tournament

Group B

Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Matchday 1 (24/03/2021)

Slovenia-Spain

Matchday 2 (27/03/2021)

Spain-Italy

Matchday 3 (30/03/2021)

Spain-Czech Republic

Team facts

Slovenia

Tournament record

2019: did not qualify
2017: did not qualify
2015: did not qualify
2013: did not qualify
2011: did not qualify
2009: did not qualify
2007: did not qualify
2006: play-offs
2004: did not qualify
2002: did not qualify
2000: did not qualify
1998: did not qualify
1996: did not qualify

Biggest wins

Final tournament

N/A

Qualifying

1-7: Estonia v Slovenia, 08/09/14
2015 qualifying group stage, Rakvere

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament

N/A

Qualifying

0-5: Slovenia v Greece, 08/10/99
2000 qualifying group stage, Ruse

Spain

Tournament record

2019: winners
2017: runners-up
2015: play-offs
2013: winners
2011: winners
2009: group stage
2007: play-offs
2006: did not qualify
2004: play-offs
2002: play-offs
2000: third place
1998: winners
1996: runners-up
1994: third place
1992: did not qualify
1990: quarter-finals
1988: quarter-finals
1986: winners
1984: runners-up
1982: quarter-finals
1980: did not qualify
1978: did not qualify

Biggest wins

Final tournament

5-0 twice, most recently v Poland, 22/06/19

Group stage, Bologna

Qualifying

14-0: Spain v San Marino, 08/02/05
2006 qualifying group stage, El Ejido

Heaviest defeats

Final tournament

3-1: Italy v Spain, 16/06/19
Group stage, Bologna
2-0 twice, most recently v England, 18/06/09
Group stage, Gothenburg

Qualifying

5-0: Netherlands v Spain, 16/02/83
1984 qualifying group stage, Utrecht

Legend

:: Squad list

No: number **DoB:** date of birth **Qual:** qualifying **FT:** final tournament **Pld:** played **Gls:** goals **Overall U21:** all-time qualifying and final tournament data

:: Match officials

Nat: nationality **DoB:** date of birth

Under-21: Total matches officiated in the UEFA European U21 Championship including all qualifying round matches. Matches as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

UEFA: Total matches officiated in all UEFA competitions including all qualifying round matches. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

:: Group statistics/Tournament schedule

Pos: position **Pld:** played **W:** won **D:** drawn **L:** lost **GF:** goals for **GA:** goals against **Pts:** points

:: NOTE: All-time statistics

Goals totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (eg. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined). Goals totals do not include goals scored from the penalty mark during a penalty shoot-out.

Competitions

Club competitions

UCL: UEFA Champions League
ECCC: European Champion Clubs' Cup
UEL: UEFA Europa League
UCUP: UEFA Cup
UCWC: UEFA Cup Winners' Cup
SCUP: UEFA Super Cup
UIC: UEFA Intertoto Cup
ICF: Inter-Cities Fairs Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship
WC: FIFA World Cup
CONFCUP: FIFA Confederations Cup
FRIE: Friendly internationals
U21FRIE: Under-21 friendly internationals
U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship
U17: UEFA Under-17 Championship
U16: UEFA European Under-16 Championship
U19: UEFA Under-19 Championship
U18: UEFA European Under-18 Championship
WWC: FIFA Women's World Cup
WEURO: UEFA European Women's Championship

Competition stages

F: Final
GS1: First group stage
GS2: Second group stage
3QR: Third qualifying round
R2: Second round
R4: Fourth round
SF: Semi-finals
R16: round of 16
R32: Round of 32
1st: first leg

2nd: second leg
PO: Play-off
Rep: Replay
PO - FT: Play-off for Final Tournament

GS: Group stage
R1: First round
R3: Third round
PR: Preliminary round
QF: Quarter-finals
QR: Qualifying round
1QR: First qualifying round
2QR: Second qualifying round
FT: Final tournament
ELITE: Elite round
3rdPO: Third-place play-off
GS-FT: Group stage – final tournament

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time
No.: Number
ag: Match decided on away goals
Pld: Matches played
Pos.: Position
Pts: Points
R: Sent off (straight red card)
Res.: Result
sg: Match decided by silver goal
GF: Goals for
gg: Match decided by golden goal
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)
f: Match forfeited

pens: Penalties
og: Own goal
P: Penalty
agg: Aggregate
AP: Appearances
Comp.: Competition
D: Drawn
DoB: Date of birth
ET: Extra Time
GA: Goals against
t: Match decided by toss of a coin
W: Won
Y: Booked
L: Lost
Nat.: Nationality
N/A: Not applicable

Statistics

-: Denotes player substituted

+: Denotes player introduced

*: Denotes player sent off

+/-: Denotes player introduced and substituted

Squad list

D: Disciplinary

*: Misses next match if booked

S: Suspended

Overall: Total appearances in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship final tournament only

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