

UEFA EURO 2020 FROM A DATA ANGLE

Creating a different perspective on the tournament by ranking the countries





FOREWORD

The European Championships are finally here. It may be a year later than we all expected, but this summer's tournament looks set up for some exciting action across the continent. As the first-ever European Championship to be played all across Europe, supporters across the continent will be treated to a festival of football. As the past year has proven at domestic level, unpredictability is at an all-time high in the elite game. France and Portugal - holders of both major honours currently - go into the tournament as two of the favourites alongside the likes of Germany, Belgium and England too. Meanwhile, such a big stage to perform on will give an opportunity to hidden gems and youngsters who look to make a name for themselves.

Below, we take a data-driven look at how the teams competing in the European Championships this summer.

Team SciSports

BELGIUM'S AGEING GOLDEN GENERATION

Of all squads heading into the tournament, Belgium have the joint-highest average age alongside Sweden at 28.7. Roberto Martinez's side boast a range of world class talents including Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku and Eden Hazard, yet this could be one of the last chances for the Golden Generation to win something as a group as they are near the age of 30. Could this finally be the year for Belgium to clinch some silverware?

Country	Average Age
Belgium	28.7
Sweden	28.7
Slovakia	27.8
Hungary	27.6
Finland	27.5

TURKEY YOUNGSTERS SET TO BRING COMPETITIVE EDGE

On the opposite end of the scale, Turkey have the youngest average age of all squads heading into the European Championships at 24.6. Marginally younger than England's squad of 24.8, Turkey will be looking to qualify from an interesting group alongside Wales, Switzerland and Italy.

Country	Average Age
Turkey	24.6
England	24.8
Wales	25.0
Netherlands	26.9
Ukraine	26.0

SOUTHGATE'S ENGLAND BOAST THE HIGHEST VALUE

Using the SciSports transfer fee predictor, England come out on top with an average value of €48.3 million. The likes of Phil Foden, Mason Mount and Harry Kane will be looking to impress in this summer's championships as the Three Lions top the value charts. Followed by France, Spain, Germany and Portugal respectively, all of the usual suspects will have their eyes on silverware this summer.

Country	Average Predicted Transfer Fee
England	€ 48,265,135
France	€ 39,555,792
Spain	€ 37,477,812
Germany	€ 36,386,990
Portugal	€ 31,053,129

THREE LIONS THE PICK OF THE BUNCH

According to the SciSkill Index, England also top the charts for the highest value average of all squads in the competition. Despite Trent Alexander-Arnold's absence through injury, Southgate still holds the most skilled squad with some of the world's best players. If they look to progress through the latter stages, such expertise could become vital. That said, Germany and France both follow suit closely behind as expected.

Country	Average SciSkill
England	111.4
Germany	109.1
France	108.4
Spain	103.0
Portugal	99.4

NORTH MACEDONIA FACE THE TOUGHEST TASK

Despite beating Germany in an historic victory earlier this year, North Macedonia come into the European Championships with the least skilled squad on average. At 54.1, their SciSkill is noticeably lower than any other side. Leeds United's Ezgjan Alioski will likely be the team's talisman as they compete in a tough group against the Netherlands, Ukraine and Austria.

Country	Average SciSkill
North Macedonia	54.1
Finland	56.1
Hungary	59.7
Slovakia	65.1
Wales	68.8

THE TOURNAMENT'S MOST EXCITING TEAMS

At the top level, the tournament is likely to see some of the most exciting names coming from England, Germany and France. The trio top the list in terms of SciSkill Potential which indicates that there are plenty of players in the ranks for more than just this tournament. With the World Cup only a year away, too, keeping an eye on the high potential talents here could be a glimpse into the future.

Country	Average SciSkill Potential
England	123.9
Germany	116.4
France	115.3
Spain	112.8
Portugal	106.9



ASTONISHING VALUE IN THE FRENCH RANKS

When looking at the best 11 of each team, France come out on top as the most valuable. With an astonishing €60 million average predicted transfer fee, it is easy to see why they are one of the tournament favourites. All the pressure is likely to be on Kylian Mbappe and co. as they look to continue on from their 2018 World Cup triumph.

Country	Average Predicted Transfer Fee
France	€ 59,975,381
England	€ 58,737,839
Germany	€ 55,793,632
Portugal	€ 49,453,393
Italy	€ 47,090,225

ARE PORTUGAL STRONGER THAN IN 2016?

Current holders Portugal arguably go into the tournament in better shape than when they won back in 2016. Despite Cristiano Ronaldo heading towards the end of his career, several key players such as Ruben Dias, Joao Cancelo, Diogo Jota and Bernado Silva will be hugely important figures. Ranking as the fifth-highest in terms of potential, Portugal's best 11 has a reasonable chance of reaching the final once more.

Country	Average SciSkill Potential
Germany	132.7
England	132.0
France	128.8
Italy	119.8
Portugal	119.4

MANCINI'S EXCITING YOUNG SQUAD

When comparing the SciSkill and Potential of each squad in the top 10, we get a good indicator of the balance throughout their squads in terms of experience and promise. Belgium are joined by Spain and Croatia in the more experienced ranks whereas France and Italy have plenty of room to continue developing over the years. Looking further than just this summer's tournament may be the focus for Italy in particular who have some exciting young players coming through the ranks.

Rank	Country	Average age	Average Transfer fee prediction	Average SciSkill	Average Potential	Average difference SciSkill - Potential
1	Germany	26.73	€ 55,793,632	125.24	132.70	7.46
2	England	26.00	€ 58,737,839	124.15	132.03	7.87
3	France	26.55	€ 59,975,381	118.95	128.83	9.88
4	Spain	28.45	€ 38,515,473	114.87	118.35	3.47
5	Portugal	27.18	€ 49,453,393	113.61	119.45	5.85
6	Belgium	28.27	€ 41,007,276	113.33	118.02	4.69
7	Italy	26.27	€ 47,090,225	110.21	119.80	9.59
8	Netherlands	27.73	€ 36,667,168	107.15	113.76	6.61
9	Denmark	27.82	€ 20,793,627	101.85	105.55	3.70
10	Croatia	28.27	€ 20,969,338	100.65	104.86	4.21



THE DREADED GROUP OF DEATH

There's always a group of death. But this summer's mix of France, Germany and Portugal includes the current holders of the World Cup, European Championship and the side that won the World Cup in 2014. While all three could technically reach the knockout rounds via the best third-placed position, the estimated transfer fees of each team's best 11 has all three in the top four.

Country	Average Predicted Transfer Fee
France	€ 59,975,381
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GLOSSARY

SciSkill: This Index measures a player's impact on his team's results and provides an indication of his skill level. To make it possible for scouts to compare players from all around the world, SciSkill is calculated using general match sheet data. After each match, a player's value is adjusted based on the outcome of the match by taking into account factors such as age, minutes played, competition strength and match outcome.

Potential: This Index predicts the expected quality of a player. The value reflects the expected maximum SciSkill that the player will achieve at the peak of his career. This prediction is made by comparing players with a similar SciSkill development. To calculate a player's SciSkill Potential, the model utilises a huge set of players with historical SciSkill values to find the most accurate predictions.

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