



UEFA European Women's Championship

Overview

The UEFA European Women's Championship is the most prestigious European national team competition for women. It is currently being played every four years, over two seasons, alternating with the European qualifying competition for the FIFA Women's World Cup.

The continued rise of women's football and several meetings of the UEFA Women's Football Committee led to the creation of the UEFA European Competition for Representative Women's Teams in the early 1980s. This inaugural Competition for National Women's Teams was played in the period between 1982 and 1984. All matches were played on a home-and-away basis, including the final, which crowned Sweden as the first champion on 27 May 1984.

A final tournament, organised by one of the four qualified associations, was introduced as of the second competition in 1984/87. In 1989/91, when more than 50% of UEFA's member associations entered the fourth competition, it was given European Championship status. This tournament also served as qualifying competition for the 1st FIFA Women's World Cup in November 1991 in China.

For the 3rd European Women's Championship in 1995/97, eight teams qualified for the final tournament. From 2003/05 the host association of the final round was appointed in advance and automatically qualified for the final tournament. It was also the first time that the final round was marketed alongside the men's national team competitions, thus benefitting from top-level commercial partners.

The last final tournament was played in Finland in 2009, with twelve finalists instead of eight. Previously, a record number of participants had entered for qualification (46). For the first time prize-money was awarded to the finalist teams (total amount of EUR 1.4 million distributed among the twelve finalists). The UEFA Women's EURO 2013 will be hosted by Sweden.

The current competition format includes a preliminary round (mini-tournaments), followed by a qualifying group stage (home-and-away matches). The seven group winners and the best runner-up progress to the final tournament. The other six runners-up go to the play-offs to qualify for the remaining three places, bringing the total number of finalists to twelve. The final tournament sees three groups of four teams, the top two from each group and the two best third-placed teams going into the quarter-finals, from when the competition is a straight knockout.

With seven victories in ten championships and as winner of the last five tournaments, Germany is without any doubt the dominant nation in UEFA's main women's national team competition. Other champions are Norway (2) and Sweden (1).

UEFA organises two other national team competitions for women/girls, namely the UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship (2010/11 winners: Germany) and the UEFA Women's Under-17 Championship (2010/11 winners: Spain).



Finals

Season	Winners	Finalists	Score	Venue
1982/84	Sweden	England	1 – 0 and 0 – 1 4-3 Penalty kicks	Gothenburg/Luton (home- and-away matches)
1984/87	Norway	Sweden	2 – 1	Norway
1987/89	Germany	Norway	4 – 1	Germany
1989/91	Germany	Norway	3 – 1 Extra time	Denmark
1991/93	Norway	Italy	1 – 0	Italy
1993/95	Germany	Sweden	3 – 2	Kaiserslautern, Germany (final only)
1995/97	Germany	Italy	2 – 0	Sweden and Norway
1999/2001	Germany	Sweden	1 – 0 Extra time, Golden goal	Germany
2003/05	Germany	Norway	3 – 1	England
2007/09	Germany	England	6 – 2	Finland
2011/13				Sweden

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