

# Romania national football team

The **Romania national football team** (Romanian: *Echipa națională de fotbal a României*) represents Romania in men's international football, and is administered by the Romanian Football Federation (Romanian: *Federația Română de Fotbal*), also known as FRF. They are colloquially known as *Tricolorii* (The Tricolours).

Romania is one of only four national teams from Europe—the other three being Belgium, France, and Yugoslavia—that took part in the inaugural FIFA World Cup in 1930. Including that participation, Romania has qualified for seven World Cup editions, the latest in 1998. The national team's finest hour came in 1994, when led by playmaker Gheorghe Hagi it defeated Argentina 3–2 in the round of 16, before being eliminated by Sweden on a penalty shoot-out in the quarter-finals.

At the European Championships, Romania's best performance was in 2000 when they advanced to the quarter-finals from a group with Germany, Portugal, and England, before falling to eventual runners-up Italy. They also reached the last eight in 1960, 1972 and 1984, and have qualified for a total of six tournaments.

## History


### Early years

The Romanian Football Federation (*Federația Română de Fotbal*) was established in October 1909 in Bucharest. Romania played their first international match on 8 June 1922, a 2–1 win over Yugoslavia in Belgrade, being coached by Teofil Moraru.<sup>[4]</sup> Several temporary coaches were employed, before Moraru resumed control in August 1924, managing the side for nearly four years. Romania enjoyed some success during the 1930s; manager Costel Rădulescu took them to the first three FIFA World Cup tournaments, a feat matched only by Brazil, Belgium and France.

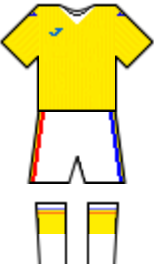
### World Cups in the 1930s

At the 1930 World Cup, Romania won their first match against Peru, 3–1, with goals from Adalbert Deșu, Constantin Stanciu, and Nicolae Kovács and Samuel Zaubert as goalkeeper, before being thrashed 4–0 by hosts and eventual winners Uruguay.


Romania



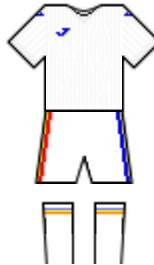
Nickname(s)	Tricolorii (The Tricolours)
Association	Federația Română de Fotbal (FRF)
Confederation	UEFA (Europe)
Head coach	Edward Iordănescu
Captain	Nicolae Stanciu
Most caps	Dorinel Munteanu (134)
Top scorer	Adrian Mutu Gheorghe Hagi (35)
Home stadium	Various
FIFA code	ROU




First colours



Second colours



Third colours

FIFA ranking	
Current	45 ▼ 2 (15 February 2024) <sup>[1]</sup>
Highest	3 (September 1997)
Lowest	57 (February 2011, September 2012)
First international	
<div><div></div> Kingdom of SCS 1–2 Romania <div></div></div>	
(Belgrade, Kingdom of SCS; 8 June 1922)	

Romania qualified for the next World Cup in 1934 after beating Yugoslavia 2–1 in a repeat of their first international. At the finals, Romania played only one game in a new knock-out format, losing 2–1 to Czechoslovakia in Trieste, Italy, with Ștefan Dobay scoring their only goal of the tournament.

Romania qualified by default for the 1938 World Cup after their qualifying playoff opponents Egypt withdrew. They suffered a shock defeat in the finals in France, losing to minnows Cuba, who, like Romania, had only qualified due to the withdrawal of their qualifying opponents, the United States. The first match at the Stade du T.O.E.C. in Toulouse ended 3–3 after extra time, but Cuba won the replay four days later 2–1.

## 1970 World Cup

Despite a 3–0 thrashing by Portugal in Lisbon and two unconvincing draws against unfancied Greece, Romania was able to qualify for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. Angelo Niculescu's promising side were given the toughest of draws, in Group 3 with holders England, giants Brazil and Czechoslovakia.

A Geoff Hurst goal gave England a narrow victory in Romania's first match at the Estadio Jalisco in Guadalajara in what was a very physical game. Chances were improved with a 2–1 win over the Czechs. After going behind early to a Ladislav Petráš goal, Romania turned it around after half-time with Alexandru Neagu and Florea Dumitrache scoring to give them two vital points. Even then, only a win over the Brazilians would take them into the quarter-finals.

There were rumours before the match that Brazil might prefer Romania to progress than world champions England; after beating them 1–0 in their previous match in Guadalajara, the South American giants still viewed England as one of its biggest obstacles to tournament victory. But Brazil played some of the best football of the competition, with Pelé scoring twice and a Jairzinho goal in between. Romania battled bravely; Dumitrache pulled the score back to 2–1 before the break and a late Emerich Dembrowski goal made it 3–2, but they were out.

## 1972 to 1978

On 26 September 1972, under new coach Valentin Stănescu, Romania suffered a significant defeat to East Germany in Leipzig. The East Germans won 2–0 to effectively seal their first ever qualification for the World Cup, which would be held over the border in West Germany. With East Germany scoring a predictable 4–1 win in Albania, Romania were out, despite a huge 9–0 win over Finland in Bucharest.

Romania continued to suffer poor form in the UEFA European Championship. In their qualifying group for the 1976 European Football Championship, they were out-qualified by Spain despite an impressive 1–1 draw in the away match. Romania failed to win matches, drawing twice with Scotland and Spain and dropping points in Denmark with a dismal goalless draw.

Biggest win		
<div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div>Romania 9–0 <span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span>Finland</div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div></div></div>	(Bucharest, Romania; 14 October 1973)	
Biggest defeat		
<div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div>Hungary 9–0 <span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span>Romania</div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div><span></span></div></div></div><div></div></div></div>	(Budapest, Hungary; 6 June 1948)	
World Cup		
Appearances	7 ( <i>first in 1930</i> )	
Best result	Quarter-finals (1994)	
European Championship		
Appearances	6 ( <i>first in 1984</i> )	
Best result	Quarter-finals (2000)	
Medal record		
		<span>[show]</span>
Balkan Cup		
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Romania playing against Peru at the 1930 World Cup in Uruguay

Romania were again beaten by Spain for a place in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. After a 1–0 win in Bucharest, Romania lost a match at home to Yugoslavia 6–4 having led 3–2 at half time. Spain won 1–0 in Belgrade to seal passage to Argentina.

## 1984 European Championship

Romania's sole successful qualifying campaign between 1970 and 1990 was for the European Championships in 1984 in France. At the finals, Romania were drawn with Spain, holders West Germany and Portugal. Under head coach Mircea Lucescu, an encouraging opening game in Saint-Étienne saw them draw with the Spanish. Francisco José Carrasco opened the scoring from the penalty spot but Romania equalized before half-time with a goal from Laszlo Bölöni.

Against the Germans in Lens, Marcel Coraș scored an equalizer in the first minute of the second half in response to Rudi Völler's opener, but Völler would score a winning goal. Their last match in Nantes was a must-win match, but Nené's late winner meant Portugal progressed with Spain, who netted a dramatic late winner against West Germany at the Parc des Princes in Paris.

Romania stuttered throughout the rest of the decade, but a stronger squad at the end of the decade saw them qualify for their fifth World Cup in 1990. A win over Denmark in their last match took Emerich Jenei's side to the finals for the first time in 20 years.

## Golden Team era

### 1990 World Cup

With an increasing trend for big clubs in Italy and Spain buying up the best foreign talent, Romania's squad was entirely domestic-based. Midfielder Ilie Dumitrescu, striker Florin Răducioiu and genius playmaker Gheorghe Hagi, were in the squad. After world champions Argentina stunned by Cameroon in the tournament's opening match, Romania did their chances no harm with a convincing win over the Soviet Union at the San Nicola in Bari, with Marius Lăcătuș scoring in each half. The result was all the more impressive given the absence of Hagi. There was controversy, however, as Lăcătuș' second was a penalty given for a handball by Vagiz Khidiatullin that television replays clearly showed to be some way outside the penalty area.

Romania lost to Cameroon next; cult hero Roger Milla, aged 38, came on as a substitute for Emmanuel Maboang Kessack and scored twice before Gavril Balint pulled one back. Romania needed a point in their last match against improving Argentina at the San Paolo in Naples; Pedro Monzón gave Argentina the lead after an hour, but Balint quickly equalized and Romania held on to reach Round 2.

Against Jack Charlton's Republic of Ireland side in Genoa, Romania did not have the quality to break down a defensive opposition. Daniel Timofte was the only player to miss in the penalty shoot-out – his kick saved by Packie Bonner – and Romania were out.

### 1994 World Cup

Romania missed out on Euro 1992. Scotland qualified after Romania drew a must-win last match in Sofia against Bulgaria, with Nasko Sirakov's equalizer sealing their fate.



Romania and the Netherlands drawing goalless at De Kuip, 1974

Romania was successful, however, in reaching another World Cup in the United States in 1994. After losing in Belgium and suffering a heavy 5–2 defeat in Czechoslovakia, Romania went into their last match at Cardiff Arms Park with Wales needing a win to pip them to a place in the finals. Goals from Gheorghe Hagi and Dean Saunders meant the game was finely balanced, before Wales were awarded a penalty. Paul Bodin of Swindon Town stepped up but hit the woodwork and Romania went on to win 2–1, Florin Răducioiu's late goal proving unnecessary as Czechoslovakia dropped a point in Belgium and were eliminated.<sup>[5]</sup>

At the finals, Romania were one of the most entertaining teams in the early stages, with Gheorghe Hagi, Florin Răducioiu and Ilie Dumitrescu on form. Romania beat Colombia 3–1 at the Pasadena Rose Bowl in Los Angeles (all but one of Romania's games took place in California, and they were awarded the advantage of playing most of their games in LA). Răducioiu opened the scoring before Hagi scored a spectacular second from wide on the left touchline. Adolfo Valencia pulled one back with a headed goal just before half-time, but Romania held on and Răducioiu sealed the win with a late third.

In Detroit's indoor Pontiac Silverdome, the temperature soared due to the greenhouse effect in the indoor arena. Switzerland, acclimatized after having already played the hosts there, outran Romania in the second half and turned a 1–1 half time score into a 4–1 win. Romania responded by beating the hosts 1–0 in Pasadena with an early Dan Petrescu goal.

In the Round of 16 knockout stage they faced Argentina, minus Diego Maradona who had been thrown out of the tournament for taking drugs, in Los Angeles. The suspended Răducioiu was hardly missed, as coach Anghel Iordănescu pushed Dumitrescu forward to play as a striker and the player responded by scoring twice in the first 20 minutes, one a subtle left foot flick from a right-wing Hagi cross slotted between the Argentine defenders. In between, Gabriel Batistuta scored a penalty, but after half-time Romania netted a third on the counterattack, with Hagi beating goalkeeper Luis Islas. Abel Balbo pulled one back, but Romania held on for a shock win.

Romania would suffer penalty heartbreak again in the quarter-final against Sweden in San Francisco. With just 13 minutes to play, a tight match opened up as Sweden's Thomas Brolin scored from a clever free-kick move, the ball passed outside the Romanian wall by Håkan Mild for Brolin to smash in. Iordănescu threw caution to the wind and the returning Răducioiu found a late equalizer, again from a free-kick move but this time down to a deflection and a failure of the Swedes to clear. In extra time Răducioiu scored again after a mistake by Patrik Andersson, but Sweden then scored their own late equalizer as giant striker Kennet Andersson climbed above goalkeeper Florin Prunea to head home a long ball. Prunea had come in after two matches to replace Bogdan Stelea, whose confidence was shattered by the 4–1 loss to the Swiss. In the shoot-out, Dan Petrescu and Miodrag Belodedici had their kicks saved by Thomas Ravelli and Sweden went through.

## Euro 1996

At Euro 1996, held in England, Romania arrived as a highly thought-of and popular team but had a nightmare. Iordănescu's side were based in the north east, with their first two games at St James' Park in Newcastle. Against France, they lost to a Christophe Dugarry header reminiscent of Kennet Andersson's two years earlier, beating the goalkeeper to a lofted through ball. An early goal from Bulgaria striker Hristo Stoichkov at St James' Park put Romania on the back foot in Euro 1996, but Dorinel Munteanu appeared to have kept Romania in the match – and in the tournament – with a thunderbolt that hit the bar, bounced over the line, and back out. Referee Peter Mikkelsen merely waved play on, however, and Romania went on to lose the game 1–0 a defeat which sent them out of the tournament. English manager Harry Redknapp was in the crowd that day, and later said that it convinced him there and then that goal-line technology was needed in football. Romania finally



1994 FIFA World Cup  
stamp issued by Poșta  
Română



scored in their last game, Florin Răducioiu equalizing an early goal by Spain's Javier Manjarín. Spain had to win to qualify with France at the expense of Bulgaria and did so when Guillermo Amor stooped to head a late winner. Romania exited in total shame, with no points and tons of regrets of what could have been.

### 1998 World Cup

Despite a poor performance at Euro 1996, Romania impressed in qualifying, finishing ten points clear of the Republic of Ireland and were seeded for the final tournament of the 1998 World Cup thanks to their strong showing in 1994.

Adrian Ilie scored the only goal with a fine chip in their first match against Colombia at Lyon's Stade Gerland. In Toulouse, they met an England side starting with prodigal striker Michael Owen on the bench, with Teddy Sheringham preferred alongside Alan Shearer. A mistake by Tony Adams was punished by Viorel Moldovan, who played for Coventry City, before Owen came on to claim an equalizer. But Romania won with a wonderful late goal from Dan Petrescu, also playing in England with Chelsea, fighting off his club teammate Graeme le Saux and nutmegging goalkeeper David Seaman.

The next match was against Tunisia. With England–Colombia being the more decisive game, the Stade de France in Paris was an 80,000-strong sell out and the crowd were nearly rewarded with a shock as Skander Souayah scored an early penalty to give the north Africans the lead. Romania needed a point to win the group and, crucially, avoid Argentina in the round of 16, and got it when Moldovan volleyed a late equalizer. It did them little good, however, as in the round of 16 match at Bordeaux against Croatia, Davor Šuker scored a twice-taken penalty to eliminate Romania.

### Euro 2000

Romania had a strong qualifying campaign, winning a tough Group 7 with Portugal, Slovakia, Hungary, Azerbaijan and Liechtenstein. The Romanians impressed, never losing and winning seven times, including a big upset in Porto after defeating Portugal thanks to a late goal scored by Dorinel Munteanu. In Bucharest, the score finished 1–1.

At Euro 2000, held in Belgium and the Netherlands, Romania was facing a very difficult group against 1996 champions Germany, semi-finalists England and Portugal. The chances for the Romanians to qualify through quarter-finals were seen as slim.

Romania, however, started brightly against the Germans in Liège, with Viorel Moldovan scoring from close range. A long-range Mehmet Scholl equalizer meant they had to be content with a point and their position looked shaky after Costinha headed a last minute winner for Portugal in their second match.

Emerich Jenei, back as coach, threw caution to the wind in the last match in Charleroi against England, a match which Romania had to win. Defender Cristian Chivu's cross went in off the post in the 22nd minute but, despite Romania dominating, England led at half-time through an Alan Shearer penalty and a late Michael Owen goal after he rounded goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea to score a tap-in, both in the last five minutes of the half. Romania attacked after the break and were quickly rewarded; Dorinel Munteanu punishing a poor punch from Nigel Martyn, a late replacement for injured goalkeeper David Seaman, to equalize three minutes after the restart. England cracked under the pressure. Unable to retain possession or pose an attacking threat, they fell deep and late on Phil Neville, playing out of position at left-back, conceded a penalty scored by Ioan Ganea in the 89th minute.



Line-ups for Romania versus England at the UEFA Euro 2000

Romania's relief was tempered by tough opposition in the last eight, and Italy, who would end up seconds from being crowned European champions in an agonizing final, comfortably saw them off 2–0 in Brussels. Francesco Totti and Filippo Inzaghi scoring towards the end of the first half. In the 35th minute, Gheorghe Hagi, in his final international tournament, hit the woodwork with goalkeeper Francesco Toldo stranded off his line and, after the break, was sent off for diving. Romania's tournament was over and Emerich Jenei left his job as coach again.

## 2000s – World Cup dry spell

Romania failed to qualify for the next three major tournaments. They drew Slovenia, who had been surprise qualifiers for Euro 2000 in a playoff for a place in the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. A narrow 2–1 deficit – having led through a Marius Niculae goal – after the first leg in Ljubljana was not irretrievable. With fans' hero Gheorghe Hagi now coaching the side, they were confident of getting the win they needed in Bucharest against the Balkan upstarts, but Slovenia took the lead before the hour through Mladen Rudonja. Right wing-back Cosmin Contra quickly equalized but Romania could not find the goal they needed to force extra time and Slovenia, with maverick manager Srečko Katanec, were in a major tournament again.

## Euro 2004

Romania were confident of qualifying for the tournament, drawn in Group 2 with seeds Denmark, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina and minnows Luxembourg, with Anghel Iordanescu back as coach. Despite a good start – a 3–0 win away to Bosnia in Sarajevo – Romania stuttered. Steffen Iversen's late goal gave Norway a surprise win in Bucharest and they were stunned at home by the Danes, 5–2, with Thomas Gravesen scoring a spectacular goal from around 50 yards out, despite leading twice. They recovered slightly, completing a double over the Bosnians and earning a point in Oslo, but conceded a cutting injury time equalizer in Denmark to draw 2–2. It was decisive, as they now required Norway to fail to win at home to Luxembourg to stand any realistic chance of qualifying. Eventually, the Danes got a point in Bosnia to scrape through a tight group, with Norway going to a play-off with Spain.

## 2006 World Cup

Romania were put in a difficult group for the qualifying tournament for the 2006 World Cup in Germany. The Netherlands and the Czech Republic were ranked first and second in Europe respectively. Early wins over Finland and Macedonia were unconvincing, and they were behind the two leaders by the time they earned a 2–0 home win over the Czechs. Despite a record of eight wins, three losses and one draw, they finished third behind the Dutch and the Czechs and missed out on another major tournament.

## Euro 2008

Romania were drawn in a group with group favourites the Netherlands and tough opponents Bulgaria for Euro 2008 qualifying. Romania, however, had a good qualifying campaign, losing only away against Bulgaria and beating the Netherlands 1–0 at home with a goal scored by Dorin Goian from a suspicious off-side position not seen by referee Kyros Vassaras. On 17 October 2007, Romania became the fourth team to qualify for Euro 2008, the nation's first international tournament since Euro 2000. Coincidentally, Victor Pițurcă also led Romania to qualification for Euro 2000, only to sit back and let Emerich Jenei coach the team in the final tournament; this time, however, he stayed in the role, the first time he coached a national team in the final stages of a tournament.

Romania was drawn in the so-called "Group of death" alongside the Netherlands, world champions Italy and France, runners-up in the 2006 World Cup. Romania started with a 0–0 draw against a lacklustre France while Italy were soundly beaten by the Netherlands, 3–0. In their next match, against Italy, Adrian Mutu opened the scoring early in the second half. Their lead was a very short one, however, as Italy's Christian Panucci scored a minute later off of a corner kick. Nearing the end of the match, Daniel Niculae earned a penalty for his team, but goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon saved the subsequent Mutu penalty, leaving Romania with two points and needing a

win against the Netherlands, who defeated France 4–1 that same evening. The Netherlands beat Romania 2–0 in the final game of the group, which meant that Italy joined the Netherlands in the quarter-finals and Romania finished third, ahead of France.

## 2010 World Cup

Romania were drawn into the UEFA qualifying round for the 2010 World Cup alongside France, Serbia, Austria, Lithuania and the Faroe Islands. Although Romania were seeded in the second pot, they eventually finished fifth, above only the Faroe Islands. Their campaign was a disaster that began with a 3–0 home loss to Lithuania and included a 5–0 trashing in Belgrade by Serbia. Furthermore, various problems were caused during the poor campaign, such as the retirement from international football of Cosmin Contra, Mirel Rădoi and Adrian Mutu (the latter would later be recalled after a year's absence). Coach Victor Pițurcă resigned and was replaced by Răzvan Lucescu.



Arena Națională, opened in 2011, the national stadium of Romania, as seen on a Romanian stamp (2011)

## Euro 2012

In Euro 2012 qualifying, Romania was drawn into Group D along with France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Albania and Luxembourg. Although the team initially seemed prepared to continue their awful form from their disastrous World Cup campaign, beginning with a 1–1 draw with Pot 5 members Albania and following up with a goalless draw with Belarus and a pair of losses to France and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the team was able to rebound somewhat and register their first two victories. The first was a win against Luxembourg but the second was an important win in the rematch against Bosnia and Herzegovina. Romania's last decent result came when they battled France to a goalless draw before ending the campaign the way it began – two disappointing draws with Albania and Belarus. They finished qualification in a distant third place and only one point ahead of Belarus.



Romanian fans at the new Arena Națională in June 2013

## 2014 World Cup

Romania was drawn into the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying round with the Netherlands, Turkey, Hungary, Estonia and Andorra. They made an impressive start with a 2–0 away win in Estonia followed by a 4–0 win at home against modest Andorra and another away win in Turkey (1–0). After that, Romania was defeated by the Netherlands, both at home and away, and managed to secure only a draw in Hungary, in between. Romania started the last part of the campaign with a victory at home, against Hungary, but was defeated by Turkey. The last two match days were decisive, with Romania securing its place in the play-off with two wins, against Andorra and Estonia, while qualification rivals Turkey and Hungary were both defeated by the winner of the group, the Netherlands. Romania were drawn to play Greece for a place in the World Cup finals, but a 3–1 loss in Greece and a 1–1 home draw ended its run.

## Euro 2016

For the qualifying stage of the Euro 2016 Romania was drawn into Group F along with Greece, Hungary, Finland, Northern Ireland and the Faroe Islands. Romania began its first successful qualification campaign since 2008 with a win over group favourites Greece before following up with a 1–1 draw with Pot 2 member Hungary and a 2–0 win over Finland. Despite the initial success, Romania decided to part with coach Victor Pițurcă by mutual consent. Anghel Iordănescu came out of retirement to return to coach Romania for a third time.

Under Iordănescu, Romania was able to follow up with comfortable 2–0 win over Northern Ireland and, despite a disappointing 1–0 win over the Faroe Islands and a 0–0 draw in the return game against Northern Ireland, Romania remained on top of Group F, one point above Northern Ireland and three points above third-placed Hungary. After a goalless draw in the match against Hungary in Budapest, however, the team fell back on the second place, one point behind Northern Ireland and three above Hungary, still placed third. Following a 1–1 draw clinched in overtime at home against Finland, Romania secured their spot at the final tournament in the last game after a confident 3–0 win in the Faroe Islands. Romania finished the qualification group second, one point behind group winners Northern Ireland, completing their first successful qualification campaign in eight years undefeated after five wins and five draws. With only two goals conceded, Romania had the best defence in the qualifiers.



France's 2–1 win over Romania at the Stade de France opened the UEFA Euro 2016

Romania advanced to Euro 2016, where they were drawn in Group A, being named to play the opening match against the hosts France. The match began better for the Romanian side, who almost scored the first goal of the tournament in the fourth minute, after Bogdan Stancu tricked the French defence at a corner kick executed by his co-national Nicușor Stanciu and his shot was narrowly saved by the French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris. Shortly after the half-time, the match began being dominated by France, who scored the first goal of the tournament after a header of Olivier Giroud in the 57th minute. Not more than eight minutes later, Nicușor Stanciu was fouled by Patrice Evra in the French box, the Hungarian referee Viktor Kassai giving Romania a penalty which the same Bogdan Stancu scoring for the Romanian side. With the match coming to an end, just after Romania narrowly missed an opportunity after a free kick, Dimitri Payet shot hard from outside the box and scored France's second goal, crushing Romania's dream of a perfect start in Euro.

In the second match, Romania faced Switzerland, in a match that began with the Swiss side dominating. In the 17th minute, Alexandru Chipciu was fouled in the box, the second penalty of the tournament being accorded again to Romania. The same Bogdan Stancu went on and scored, giving an advantage for the Romanian side. Just after Switzerland almost scored an own goal, Admir Mehmedi scored for an equalizer in the 57th minute. The score remained the same and the match ended 1-1.

With one point accumulated and on the third place in the group before the final match, Romania needed a victory against Albania in order to be among the first four best-third-placed teams and to qualify further in Euro. The match began good for the Romanian side, but Armando Sadiku's header in the 43rd minute went past Ciprian Tătărușanu, giving Albania the lead and their first ever goal in a tournament. The despondent Romanian side failed to score in this match, with Florin Andone striking the post in the 76th minute. The negative score meant that Romania ended on the last place of the group, ending their Euro dream with no victory and after one draw, two defeats, two goals scored (both from penalties) and four conceded, with only one point, the poor results making the manager Anghel Iordănescu to resign before the matches for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers began three months later.

## 2018 World Cup

For the qualification round, Romania was drawn in Group E, being in Pot 1. Romania's opponents were Denmark and Poland, Montenegro, Armenia and Kazakhstan. The qualifying campaign started with a 1–1 home draw against Montenegro followed by a thrashing away victory against Armenia, 0–5. In the next match, Romania recorded another draw (0–0), against Kazakhstan. The last match played in 2016 was a 0–3 defeat



against Poland, with Robert Lewandowski scoring a double. After an uninspiring campaign, Romania ended in the fourth place in Group E with 13 points. After 8 of the 10 games, due to lackluster performances, coach Christoph Daum was fired and replaced with Cosmin Contra.

## 2018–19 Nations League

Romania's poor performance previously meant that the country had to participate in the 2018–19 UEFA Nations League C, where they were grouped again with Montenegro, alongside neighbor Serbia and minnows Lithuania. Romania managed an acceptable performance, with the team beating Lithuania and Montenegro, but three draws, two against Serbia, meant that Romania was unable to gain the top spot or a direct playoff ticket. However, when UEFA revised the format, Romania was officially promoted to 2020–21 UEFA Nations League B.

## Euro 2020

Romania was drawn in a group including Spain, Sweden, and Norway alongside Malta and the Faroe Islands in UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying. In the opening game, Romania suffered a 1–2 away defeat to Sweden.<sup>[6]</sup> This was followed by an easy 4–1 victory over the Faroe Islands and a 2–2 draw with Norway in Oslo, two victories over Malta and a 1–2 loss at home to Spain. Eventually, Romania stayed on track by beating Faroe Islands 3–0 away, but it was later followed with a disappointing 1–1 home draw to the Norwegians.<sup>[7]</sup> This had significantly reduced their chances of automatic qualification, as they had to meet the Swedish and Spanish sides for the two remaining competitive games. A 0–2 home defeat to Sweden ensured that Romania would be unable to finish in the automatic qualification places.<sup>[8]</sup> Romania eventually qualified for the playoff, but their performance cost Cosmin Contra his coaching position, as he was sacked prior to the playoff. Romania went on to lose 1–2 to Iceland, and was eliminated from UEFA Euro 2020 contention.



Romania playing Sweden at Friends Arena, March 2019

## 2020–21 Nations League

On the other hand, Romania, promoted to League B thanks to UEFA's rule change despite finishing 2nd in 2018 behind Serbia, have had a lacklustre 2020–21 Nations League, showing no signs of improvement in their play. During group matches, the team was unable to win the opening match at home to Northern Ireland (1–1), conceding a late equaliser following a Northern Irish red card, and was soundly beaten in Norway (0–4) on matchday 3. However, they avoided relegation to League C at the expense of the Northern Irish thanks to a 3–2 win over Austria on matchday 2 and a 3–0 victory at home to Norway, as the Scandinavians were unable to travel to Bucharest following Omar Elabdellaoui's positive test for COVID-19 and the restrictive measures imposed by the Norwegian Ministry of Health.<sup>[9]</sup>

## World Cup 2022

For the 2022 FIFA World Cup hosted in Qatar, Romania was drawn in UEFA Group J, along with Germany, Armenia, North Macedonia, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.<sup>[10]</sup> Romania failed to qualify, finishing in third in the group.

## 2022–23 Nations League and Euro 2024

Romania participated in the 2022–23 UEFA Nations League B, where they were grouped with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Finland, and Montenegro. Romania managed an acceptable performance, with the team beating Finland twice, but three losses, two against Montenegro, meant that they were relegated to League C.<sup>[11]</sup>

Their terrible Nations League performance meant that they must realistically qualify for UEFA Euro 2024 directly. Romania, in Euro 2024 qualifiers, finished at the top of their group and unbeaten with six wins and four draws. In particular, Romania achieved two results against Switzerland (a 2–2 away draw in the first leg after trailing 0–2, and a 1–0 home win in the return on the final day to consolidate their position as leaders) and showed defensive solidity with only five goals conceded, thus marking the Tricolorii's return to a Euro final phase after an eight–year absence.<sup>[12][13][14][15]</sup>

## Team image

### Rivalry

Romania has a long-standing rivalry with its neighbours Hungary. The rivalry between the two nations dates back from the Treaty of Trianon, where Hungary lost Transylvania to Romania, after World War I.<sup>[16]</sup> Usually flares and matches are thrown by the two sides and that often ends in a fight between the Hungarian and Romanian supporters, however, recently also before the matches conflicts have emerged outside the stadium. They shared the same group in 1982 FIFA World Cup qualifying, UEFA Euro 2000 qualifying, 2002 World Cup qualifying, 2014 World Cup qualifying and UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying.

Romania has also a football rivalry against Greece, because it is the team that has been their opponent the most times in their history (36 times – 37 matches were played against Yugoslavia which does not exist anymore). Romania has won 18 of the matches, Greece won 8 and 10 ended in a draw.

### Kits

Romania's kits have been supplied by Spanish company Joma from 2015, which replaced Adidas following a three-decade contract. In 2017, the Romanian Football Federation announced its first brand identity and a new kit; the new emblem references the coat of arms of all five Romanian provinces with the intention to symbolise the unity of Romania.<sup>[17]</sup>

Kit provider	Period
 <u>Le Coq Sportif</u>	1977–1983
 <u>Adidas</u>	1984–2015
 <u>Joma</u>	2015–present

### Home stadium

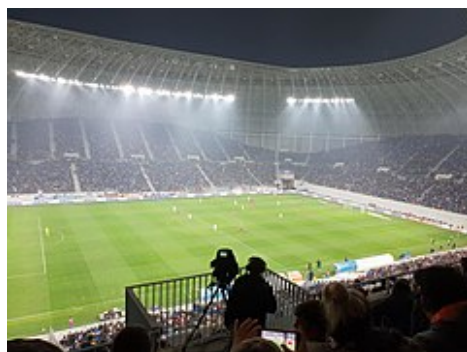
The Romania national team mainly plays its home games at the Arena Națională in Bucharest, the largest stadium in the country, which was opened in 2011 and has a capacity of 55,600 seats. The National Stadium is a Category 4 venue and hosted the 2012 UEFA Europa League Final and UEFA Euro 2020 matches.

Other games, including not only friendlies but also FIFA World Cup and UEFA European Championship qualifiers, have been played in recent years at other venues such as the Steaua Stadium (Bucharest), the Ion Oblemenco Stadium (Craiova), the Cluj Arena (Cluj-Napoca), or the smaller Dr. Constantin Rădulescu (Cluj-Napoca), Ilie Oană (Ploiești) and Rapid-Giulești (Bucharest) stadiums.

#### Romanian national team home stadiums



Arena Națională-Bucharest



Stadionul Ion Oblemenco-Craiova



Stadionul Rapid Giulești-Bucharest

## Media coverage












Romania's UEFA Nations League games, major tournament qualifiers and friendlies are to be televised on Pro TV up until 2022. Between 2008 and 2014, Antena 1 had the rights to broadcast the country's home matches, friendlies and qualifiers. From 2014 to 2018, Romania's qualifying matches for the European Championship and the World Cup, plus two pre-Euro and one post-Euro friendly match were taken over by TVR. The friendly matches that were not broadcast by TVR were taken over by Pro TV. In March 2019, the latter took over all broadcasts of Romania's fixtures from TVR, with the effective broadcasting starting in September 2018.













## Results and fixtures

The following is a list of match results in the last 12 months, as well as any future matches that have been scheduled.




☐ Win ☐ Draw ☐ Loss ☐ Fixture

### 2023

UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	25 March 2023	<b>Andorra</b>  <b>0–2</b>  <b>Romania</b>	Andorra la Vella, Andorra <a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45	Report (html) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036309/">tps://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036309/</a> Man  35' Alibec  50'	Stadium: Estadi Nacional Referee: <a href="#">Dario Bel</a> (Croatia)
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	28 March 2023	<b>Romania</b>  <b>2–1</b>  <b>Belarus</b>	Bucharest, Romania <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:45	Stanciu  17' Burcă  19' Report (html) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036331/">tps://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036331/</a> Morozov  86'	Stadium: Arena Națională Attendance: 27,837 Referee: <a href="#">Allard Lindhout</a> (Netherlands)
UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	16 June 2023	<b>Kosovo</b>  <b>0–0</b>  <b>Romania</b>	Pristina, Kosovo <a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45	Report (html) <a href="https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036331/">tps://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/2036331/</a>	Stadium: Fadil Vokrri Stadium Attendance: 11,000

<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	19 June 2023	<a href="#">Switzerland</a>  <b>2–2</b>  <a href="#">Romania</a>	<a href="#">Lucerne, Switzerland</a> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45	<a href="#">Amdouni</a> ⚽ 28', 41' <a href="#">Report</a> (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/203635/5/)	<a href="#">Mihăilă</a> ⚽ 89', 90+2' Stadium: <a href="#">Swissporarena</a> Attendance: 14,000 Referee: <a href="#">Daniele Orsato</a> (Italy)
<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	9 September 2023	<a href="#">Romania</a>  <b>1–1</b>  <a href="#">Israel</a>	<a href="#">Bucharest, Romania</a> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:45	<a href="#">Alibec</a> ⚽ 27' <a href="#">Report</a> (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/203640/0/)	<a href="#">Gloukh</a> ⚽ 54' Stadium: <a href="#">Arena Națională</a> Attendance: 49,193 Referee: <a href="#">Slavko Vinčić</a> (Slovenia)
<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	12 September 2023	<a href="#">Romania</a>  <b>2–0</b>  <a href="#">Kosovo</a>	<a href="#">Bucharest, Romania</a> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:45	<a href="#">Stanciu</a> ⚽ 83' <a href="#">Report</a> (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/203642/4/)	<a href="#">Mihăilă</a> ⚽ 90+3' Stadium: <a href="#">Arena Națională</a> Referee: <a href="#">Willy Delajod</a> (France)
<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	12 October 2023	<a href="#">Belarus</a>  <b>0–0</b>  <a href="#">Romania</a>	<a href="#">Budapest, Hungary</a> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45	<a href="#">Report</a> (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/203644/7/)	Stadium: <a href="#">Szusza Ferenc Stadion</a> Attendance: 0 Referee: <a href="#">Espen Eskås</a> (Norway)
<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	15 October 2023	<a href="#">Romania</a>  <b>4–0</b>  <a href="#">Andorra</a>	<a href="#">Bucharest, Romania</a> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:45	<a href="#">Stanciu</a> ⚽ 23' <a href="#">Report</a> (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/203646/9/)	<a href="#">Hagi</a> ⚽ 28' <a href="#">R. Marin</a> ⚽ 44' (pen.) <a href="#">Coman</a> ⚽ 50' Stadium: <a href="#">Arena Națională</a> Attendance: 21,723 Referee: <a href="#">Kristo Tohver</a> (Estonia)
<a href="#">UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying</a>	18 November 2023	<a href="#">Israel</a>  <b>1–2</b>  <a href="#">Romania</a>	<a href="#">Felcsút, Hungary</a> <sup>[note 1]</sup> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:45	<a href="#">Zahavi</a> ⚽ 2' <a href="#">Report</a> (https://www.uefa.com/europe/an-qualifiers/match/203649/3/)	<a href="#">Pușcaș</a> ⚽ 10' <a href="#">Hagi</a> ⚽ 63' Stadium: <a href="#">Pancho Aréna</a> Attendance: 2,921 Referee: <a href="#">François Letexier</a> (France)



UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying	21 November 2023	<u>Romania</u>  <b>1–0</b>  <u>Switzerland</u>	<u>Bucharest, Romania</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:45	<u>Alibec</u>  50' <u>Report (https://www.uefa.com/euroan-qualifiers/match/2036514/)</u>	<u>Stadium: Arena Națională</u> <u>Attendance: 50,224</u> <u>Referee: Davide Massa (Italy)</u>

## 2024

<u>Friendly</u>	22 March 2024	<u>Romania</u>  <b>–</b>  <u>Northern Ireland</u>	<u>Bucharest, Romania</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
			<u>Stadium: Arena Națională</u>
<u>Friendly</u>	26 March 2024	<u>Romania</u>  <b>–</b>  <u>Colombia</u>	<u>Madrid, Spain</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
			<u>Stadium: Metropolitano Stadium</u>
<u>Friendly</u>	4 June 2024	<u>Romania</u>  <b>–</b>  <u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>Bucharest, Romania</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
			<u>Stadium: Stadionul Steaua</u>
<u>Friendly</u>	8 June 2024	<u>Romania</u>  <b>–</b>  <u>Liechtenstein</u>	<u>Bucharest, Romania</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
			<u>Stadium: Stadionul Steaua</u>
<u>UEFA Euro 2024 Group E</u>	17 June 2024	<u>Romania</u>  <b>–</b> <u>Play-off winner B</u>	<u>Munich, Germany</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	15:00	<u>Report (https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036170/)</u>	<u>Stadium: Allianz Arena</u>
<u>UEFA Euro 2024 Group E</u>	22 June 2024	<u>Belgium</u>  <b>–</b>  <u>Romania</u>	<u>Cologne, Germany</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:00	<u>Report (https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036181/)</u>	<u>Stadium: RheinEnergieStadion</u>
<u>UEFA Euro 2024 Group E</u>	26 June 2024	<u>Slovakia</u>  <b>–</b>  <u>Romania</u>	<u>Frankfurt, Germany</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	18:00	<u>Report (https://www.uefa.com/uefaeuro/match/2036194/)</u>	<u>Stadium: Waldstadion</u>
<u>2024–25 Nations League</u>	6 September 2024	<u>Kosovo</u>  <b>v</b>  <u>Romania</u>	<u>Kosovo</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45		
<u>2024–25 Nations League</u>	9 September 2024	<u>Romania</u>  <b>v</b>  <u>Gibraltar/Lithuania</u>	<u>Romania</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:45		
<u>2024–25 Nations League</u>	12 October 2024	<u>Cyprus</u>  <b>v</b>  <u>Romania</u>	<u>Cyprus</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	21:45		
<u>2024–25 Nations League</u>	15 October 2024	<u>Gibraltar/Lithuania</u>  <b>v</b>  <u>Romania</u>	<u>TBD or Lithuania</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45		
<u>2024–25 Nations League</u>	15 November 2024	<u>Romania</u>  <b>v</b>  <u>Kosovo</u>	<u>Romania</u> <a href="#">[show]</a>
	20:45 (21:45 UTC+2)		

## Coaching staff

Role	Name
Head Coach	<span><span></span></span> <span>Edward Iordănescu</span>
Assistant Coaches	<span><span></span></span> <span>Florin Constantinovici</span>
	<span><span></span></span> <span>Jerry Gane</span>
Goalkeeping Coach	<span><span></span></span> <span>Leontin Toader</span>
Fitness Coaches	<span><span></span></span> <span>Cristian Dragotă</span>
	<span><span></span></span> <span>Darius Hîmpea</span>
Video Analyst	<span><span></span></span> <span>Alexandru Radu</span>
Data Analyst	<span><span></span></span> <span>Michele Iannucci</span>
Doctor	<span><span></span></span> <span>Claudiu Stamatescu</span>
	<span><span></span></span> <span>Iulian Mircea</span>
	<span><span></span></span> <span>Gabriel Niculescu</span>
	<span><span></span></span> <span>Ovidiu Blendea</span>
	<span><span></span></span> <span>Adrian Gherovăț</span>
Physioterapists	<span><span></span></span> <span>Dragoș Paraschiv</span>
Head of Performance Analysis	<span><span></span></span> <span>Rareș Ene</span>
Team Manager	<span><span></span></span> <span>Cătălin Gheorghiu</span>
Kit Manager	<span><span></span></span> <span>Cornel Mateiași</span>
Technical Director	<span><span></span></span> <span>Mihai Stoichiță</span>



Edward Iordănescu, the head coach of the Romania national team since 2022.

## Coaching history

Below is the full list of all former coaches for Romania from 1922 onwards:<sup>[18]</sup>

- Teofil Moraru (1922–1923)
  - Costel Rădulescu (1923, 1928–1934, 1935–1938)
  - Adrian Suci (1923–1924)
  - Teofil Moraru (1924–1928)
  - Josef Uridil (1934)
  - Peter Farmer (1934–1935)
  - Alexandru Săvulescu 1938)
  - Liviu Iuga (1938–1939, 1940)
  - Virgil Economu (1939–1940, 1941–1942, 1946)
  - Ion Lăpușneanu (1942–1943)
  - Emerich Vogl (1943, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950–1952)
  - Coloman Braun-Bogdan (1945)
  - Colea Vâlcov (1947)
  - Francisc Ronnay (1947)
  - Colea Vâlcov (1948, 1949)
  - Petre Steinbach (1948)
  - Iuliu Baratky (1948)
  - Ion Mihăilescu (1949)
- Gheorghe Albu (1950)
  - Volodea Vâlcov (1950)
  - Gheorghe Popescu (1951–1957, 1961, 1962)
  - Augustin Botescu (1958–1960)
  - Constantin Teașcă (1962, 1967)
  - Silviu Ploeșteanu (1962–1963)
  - Ilie Oană (1965–1966, 1967)
  - Bazil Marian (1967)
  - Angelo Niculescu (1967–1971, 1972)
  - Gheorghe Ola (1972)
  - Valentin Stănescu (1973–1975, 1980–1981)
  - Cornel Drăgușin (1975)
  - Ștefan Kovács (1976–1979, 1980)
  - Florin Halagian (1979)
  - Constantin Cernăianu (1979)
  - Mircea Lucescu (1981–1986)
  - Emerich Jenei (1986–1990)
  - Gheorghe Constantin (1990)
  - Mircea Rădulescu (1990–1992)

- Cornel Dinu (1992–1993)
- Anghel Iordănescu (1993–1998, 2001–2004, 2014–2016)
- Victor Pițurcă (1998–1999)
- Emerich Jenei (2000)
- Ladislau Bölöni (2000–2001)
- Gheorghe Hagi (2001)
- Victor Pițurcă (2005–2009, 2011–2014)
- Răzvan Lucescu (2009–2011)
- Christoph Daum (2016–2017)
- Cosmin Contra (2017–2019)
- Mirel Rădoi (2019–2021)
- Edward Iordănescu (2022–present)

## Players

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### Current squad

The following players were called up for the UEFA Euro 2024 qualifying matches against Israel and Switzerland on 18 and 21 November 2023.<sup>[19]</sup>

*Caps and goals correct as of 21 November 2023, after the match against Switzerland.*

No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
1	<a href="#">GK</a>	<a href="#">Florin Niță</a>	3 July 1987	19	0	 <a href="#">Gaziantep</a>
12	<a href="#">GK</a>	<a href="#">Horațiu Moldovan</a>	20 January 1998	9	0	 <a href="#">Atlético Madrid</a>
16	<a href="#">GK</a>	<a href="#">Ionuț Radu</a>	28 May 1997	4	0	 <a href="#">Bournemouth</a>
2	<a href="#">DF</a>	<a href="#">Andrei Rațiu</a>	20 June 1998	15	1	 <a href="#">Rayo Vallecano</a>
3	<a href="#">DF</a>	<a href="#">Radu Drăgușin</a>	3 February 2002	13	0	 <a href="#">Tottenham Hotspur</a>
4	<a href="#">DF</a>	<a href="#">Adrian Rus</a>	18 March 1996	19	1	 <a href="#">Pafos</a>
11	<a href="#">DF</a>	<a href="#">Nicușor Bancu</a>	18 September 1992	34	2	 <a href="#">Universitatea Craiova</a>
15	<a href="#">DF</a>	<a href="#">Andrei Burcă</a>	15 April 1993	25	1	 <a href="#">Al-Okhdood</a>
22	<a href="#">DF</a>	<a href="#">Vasile Mogoș</a>	31 October 1992	4	0	 <a href="#">CFR Cluj</a>
23	<a href="#">DF</a>	<a href="#">Andres Dumitrescu</a>	11 March 2001	0	0	 <a href="#">Sepsi OSK</a>
	<a href="#">DF</a>	<a href="#">Bogdan Racovițan</a>	6 June 2000	0	0	 <a href="#">Raków Częstochowa</a>
5	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Vladimir Screciu</a>	13 January 2000	4	0	 <a href="#">Universitatea Craiova</a>
6	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Marius Marin</a>	30 August 1998	15	0	 <a href="#">Pisa</a>
8	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Alexandru Cicâldău</a>	8 July 1997	35	4	 <a href="#">Konyaspor</a>
10	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Nicolae Stanciu</a> ( <i>captain</i> )	7 May 1993	66	14	 <a href="#">Damac</a>
13	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Valentin Mihăilă</a>	2 February 2000	17	4	 <a href="#">Parma</a>
14	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Ianis Hagi</a>	22 October 1998	31	4	 <a href="#">Alavés</a>
17	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Florinel Coman</a>	10 April 1998	12	1	 <a href="#">FCSB</a>
18	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Răzvan Marin</a>	23 May 1996	52	3	 <a href="#">Empoli</a>
20	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Darius Olaru</a>	3 March 1998	15	0	 <a href="#">FCSB</a>
21	<a href="#">MF</a>	<a href="#">Olimpiu Moruțan</a>	25 April 1999	14	1	 <a href="#">Ankaragücü</a>



No.	Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club
	<u>MF</u>	<u>Marius Ștefănescu</u>	14 August 1998	2	0	 <u>Sepsi OSK</u>
	<u>MF</u>	<u>Andrei Artean</u>	14 August 1993	0	0	 <u>Apollon Limassol</u>
7	<u>FW</u>	<u>Denis Alibec</u>	5 January 1991	36	5	 <u>Muaither</u>
9	<u>FW</u>	<u>George Pușcaș</u>	8 April 1996	40	11	 <u>Bari</u>
19	<u>FW</u>	<u>Denis Drăguș</u>	6 July 1999	8	2	 <u>Gaziantep</u>
	<u>FW</u>	<u>Florin Tănase</u>	30 December 1994	17	2	 <u>Al-Okhdood</u>

### Recent call-ups

The following players have been called up for the team within the last 12 months.

Pos.	Player	Date of birth (age)	Caps	Goals	Club	Latest call-up
<u>GK</u>	<u>Ștefan Târnovanu</u>	9 May 2000	1	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>FCSB</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> Kosovo, 12 September 2023
<u>GK</u>	<u>Mihai Aioani</u>	7 September 1999	0	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>Rapid București</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> Kosovo, 12 September 2023
<u>DF</u>	<u>Deian Sorescu</u>	29 August 1997	14	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>Gaziantep</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Andorra</u> , 15 October 2023
<u>DF</u>	<u>Andrei Borza</u>	12 November 2005	0	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>Rapid București</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Andorra</u> , 15 October 2023
<u>DF</u>	<u>Mário Camora</u> <sup>INJ</sup>	10 November 1986	10	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>CFR Cluj</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Belarus</u> , 12 October 2023
<u>DF</u>	<u>Cristian Manea</u>	9 August 1997	24	2	<span><span></span></span> <u>CFR Cluj</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> Kosovo, 12 September 2023
<u>DF</u>	<u>Ionuț Nedelcearu</u>	25 April 1996	25	2	<span><span></span></span> <u>Palermo</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Switzerland</u> , 19 June 2023
<u>DF</u>	<u>Raul Opruț</u>	4 January 1998	3	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>Kortrijk</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Switzerland</u> , 19 June 2023
<u>DF</u>	<u>Valentin Țicu</u>	19 September 2000	0	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>Petrolul Ploiești</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Switzerland</u> , 19 June 2023
<u>MF</u>	<u>Dennis Man</u>	26 August 1998	20	6	<span><span></span></span> <u>Parma</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Andorra</u> , 15 October 2023
<u>MF</u>	<u>Tudor Băluță</u>	27 March 1999	12	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>Farul Constanța</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> Kosovo, 12 September 2023
<u>MF</u>	<u>Octavian Popescu</u>	27 December 2002	7	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>FCSB</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Belarus</u> , 28 March 2023
<u>MF</u>	<u>Alex Dobre</u>	30 August 1998	2	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>Famalicão</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Belarus</u> , 28 March 2023
<u>MF</u>	<u>Adrian Țut</u>	30 April 1999	0	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>FCSB</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Belarus</u> , 28 March 2023
<u>FW</u>	<u>Daniel Bîrligea</u> <sup>INJ</sup>	19 April 2000	1	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>CFR Cluj</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Israel</u> , 18 November 2023
<u>FW</u>	<u>Louis Munteanu</u>	16 June 2002	1	0	<span><span></span></span> <u>Farul Constanța</u>	v. <span><span></span></span> <u>Belarus</u> , 12 October 2023
<b>Notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><sup>INJ</sup> = Player withdrew from the squad due to an injury</li> <li><sup>COV</sup> = Player withdrawn from the squad due to positive COVID-19 test</li> <li><sup>RET</sup> = Player who retired from national team</li> <li><sup>WD</sup> = Player withdrew from the squad</li> <li><sup>SUS</sup> = Player suspended</li> </ul>						

## Records

*As of 18 November 2020.*<sup>[20]</sup>

Players in **bold** are still active with Romania.

## Most appearances

Rank	Player	Caps	Goals	Career
1	<u>Dorinel Munteanu</u>	134	16	1991–2007
2	<u>Gheorghe Hagi</u>	124	35	1983–2000
3	<u>Gheorghe Popescu</u>	115	16	1988–2003
4	<u>Răzvan Raț</u>	113	2	2002–2016
5	<u>László Bölöni</u>	102	23	1975–1988
6	<u>Dan Petrescu</u>	95	12	1989–2000
7	<u>Bogdan Stelea</u>	91	0	1988–2005
8	<u>Michael Klein</u>	89	5	1981–1991
9	<u>Bogdan Lobonț</u>	86	0	1998–2018
10	<u>Marius Lăcătuș</u>	83	13	1984–1998
	<u>Mircea Rednic</u>	83	2	1981–1991



Dorinel Munteanu is Romania's most capped player with 134 appearances.

## Most goals



Adrian Mutu and Gheorghe Hagi are Romania's joint top goalscorers with 35 goals each.

Rank	Player	Goals	Caps	Average	Career
1	<u>Adrian Mutu</u>	35	77	0.45	2000–2013
	<u>Gheorghe Hagi</u>	35	124	0.28	1983–2000
3	<u>Iuliu Bodola</u>	31	48	0.65	1931–1939
4	<u>Viorel Moldovan</u>	25	70	0.36	1993–2005
	<u>Ciprian Marica</u>	25	72	0.35	2003–2014
6	<u>László Bölöni</u>	23	102	0.23	1975–1988
7	<u>Dudu Georgescu</u>	21	40	0.53	1973–1984
	<u>Florin Răducioiu</u>	21	40	0.53	1990–1996
	<u>Anghel Iordănescu</u>	21	57	0.37	1971–1981
	<u>Rodion Cămătaru</u>	21	73	0.29	1978–1990

## Youngest debutants

*As of 15 November 2021.<sup>[21]</sup>  
Results list Romania's goal tally first.*

Rank	Player	Age on debut	Opponent	Result	Year	Ref.
1	<b>Enes Sali</b>	15 years, 8 months and 22 days	<span><span></span></span> Liechtenstein	2–0	2021	<sup>[22]</sup>
2	<b>Cristian Manea</b>	16 years, 9 months and 22 days	<span><span></span></span> Albania	1–0	2014	<sup>[23]</sup>
3	Grațian Sepi	17 years, 3 months and 15 days	<span><span></span></span> Turkey	4–2	1928	<sup>[23]</sup>
4	Ilie Balaci	17 years, 6 months and 10 days	<span><span></span></span> France	0–1	1974	<sup>[23]</sup>
5	Nicolae Kovács	17 years, 8 months and 17 days	<span><span></span></span> Bulgaria	3–2	1929	<sup>[23]</sup>



In 2014, [Cristian Manea](#) (pictured) broke [Grațian Sepi](#)'s record from 1928 for being the youngest debutant of Romania. He was surpassed by [Enes Sali](#) in 2021.

## Managers with the most matches

*As of 8 August 2022.<sup>[24]</sup>*

Rank	Manager	Matches
1	<a href="#">Anghel Iordănescu</a>	101
2	<a href="#">Victor Pițurcă</a>	95
3	<a href="#">Mircea Lucescu</a>	58
4	<a href="#">Emerich Jenei</a>	51
5	<a href="#">Constantin Rădulescu</a>	49
6	<a href="#">Angelo Niculescu</a>	38
7	<a href="#">Valentin Stănescu</a>	36
8	<a href="#">Ștefan Kovács</a>	34
9	<a href="#">Gheorghe Popescu</a>	28
10	<a href="#">Cosmin Contra</a>	24

































[Anghel Iordănescu](#) managed Romania with the most matches for any manager, with 101.

## Competitive record

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







# FIFA World Cup

FIFA World Cup record									FIFA World Cup qualification record						
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D*	L	GF	GA	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
 <a href="#">1930</a>	Group stage	8th	2	1	0	1	3	5	Qualified as invitees						
 <a href="#">1934</a>	Round of 16	12th	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	0	4	3
 <a href="#">1938</a>		9th	2	0	1	1	4	5	Egypt withdrew <sup>[25]</sup>						
 <a href="#">1950</a>	Did not enter								Declined participation						
 <a href="#">1954</a>	Did not qualify								2	4	2	0	2	5	5
 <a href="#">1958</a>									2	4	2	1	1	6	4
 <a href="#">1962</a>									Withdrew						
 <a href="#">1966</a>									3	6	3	0	3	9	7
 <a href="#">1970</a>	Group stage	10th	3	1	0	2	4	5	1	6	3	2	1	7	6
 <a href="#">1974</a>	Did not qualify								2	6	4	1	1	17	4
 <a href="#">1978</a>									2	4	2	0	2	7	8
 <a href="#">1982</a>									3	8	2	4	2	5	5
 <a href="#">1986</a>									3	8	3	3	2	12	7
 <a href="#">1990</a>	Round of 16	12th	4	1	2(1*)	1	4	3	1	6	4	1	1	10	5
 <a href="#">1994</a>	Quarter-finals	6th	5	3	1*	1	10	9	1	10	7	1	2	29	12
 <a href="#">1998</a>	Round of 16	11th	4	2	1	1	4	3	1	10	9	1	0	37	4
  <a href="#">2002</a>	Did not qualify								Playoffs	10	5	2	3	12	10
 <a href="#">2006</a>									3	12	8	1	3	20	10
 <a href="#">2010</a>									5	10	3	3	4	12	18
 <a href="#">2014</a>									Playoffs	12	6	2	4	21	16
 <a href="#">2018</a>									4	10	3	4	3	12	10
 <a href="#">2022</a>									3	10	5	2	3	13	8
   <a href="#">2026</a>	To be determined								To be determined						
   <a href="#">2030</a>															
 <a href="#">2034</a>															
Total	Quarter-finals	7/22	21	8	5	8	30	32	Total	138	72	29	37	238	142

*\*Denotes draws including knockout matches decided via penalty shoot-out. Normal colour indicates loss.*

UEFA European Championship

UEFA European Championship record									UEFA European Championship qualifying record						
Year	Round	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Position	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
 1960	Did not qualify								Quarter-Finals	4	1	0	3	3	7
 1964									Preliminary round	2	1	0	1	3	7
 1968									First round	6	3	0	3	18	14
 1972									Quarter-finals	9	4	3	2	15	7
 1976									First round	6	1	5	0	11	6
 1980									3	6	2	2	2	9	8
 1984	Group stage	7th	3	0	1	2	2	4	1	8	5	2	1	9	3
 1988	Did not qualify								2	6	4	1	1	13	3
 1992									3	8	4	2	2	13	7
 1996	Group stage	15th	3	0	0	3	1	4	1	10	6	3	1	18	9
 2000	Quarter-finals	7th	4	1	1	2	4	6	1	10	7	3	0	25	3
 2004	Did not qualify								3	8	4	2	2	21	9
 2008	Group stage	12th	3	0	2	1	1	3	1	12	9	2	1	26	7
 2012	Did not qualify								3	10	3	5	2	13	9
 2016	Group stage	19th	3	0	1	2	2	4	2	10	5	5	0	11	2
 2020	Did not qualify								Play-off	11	4	2	5	18	17
 2024	Qualified								1	10	6	4	0	16	5
 2028	To be determined								To be determined						
 2032															
Total	Quarter-finals	6/17	16	1	5	10	10	21	Total	136	69	41	26	242	123

*\*Red border colour indicates tournament was held on home soil.*

## UEFA Nations League

UEFA Nations League record										
Season	Division	Group	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	P/R	RK
<u>2018–19</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>4</u>	6	3	3	0	8	3		32nd
<u>2020–21</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>1</u>	6	2	2	2	8	9		26th
<u>2022–23</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>3</u>	6	2	1	3	6	8		29th
<u>2024–25</u>	<u>C</u>	Future event								
Total			18	7	6	5	22	20	26th	

## Summer Olympics

Football at the Summer Olympics was first played officially in 1908. The Olympiads between 1896 and 1980 was only open for amateur players. The 1984 and 1988 tournaments were open to players with no appearances in the FIFA World Cup. After the 1988 Olympics, the football event was changed into a tournament for U23 teams, with a maximum of three older players. See Romania Olympic football team for competition records from 1992 until present day.

Host nation(s) – Year	Result	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
<u>1900 to 1920</u>	<i>Did not enter</i>	—					
 <u>1924</u>	Round of 16	1	0	0	1	0	6
<u>1928 to 1948</u>	<i>Did not qualify</i>	—					
 <u>1952</u>	Preliminary Round	1	0	0	1	1	2
<u>1956 to 1960</u>	<i>Did not qualify</i>	—					
 <u>1964</u>	Quarter-Finals	6	4	1	1	12	6
<u>1968 to 1976</u>	<i>Did not qualify</i>	—					
<u>1980 to 1988</u>	<i>Did not enter</i>	—					
Since <u>1992</u>	<i>See <u>Romania Olympic football team</u></i>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>3/24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

## Balkan Cup

Balkan Cup record							
Edition	Result	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA
<u>1929–31</u>	Champions	6	5	0	1	26	13
<u>1931</u>	<i>Did not enter</i>						
<u>1932</u>	Third place	3	1	0	2	4	5
<u>1933</u>	Champions	3	3	0	0	13	0
<u>1934–35</u>	Third place	3	1	1	1	5	8
<u>1935</u>	Fourth place	3	0	1	2	2	8
<u>1936</u>	Champions	2	2	0	0	9	3
<u>1946</u>	Third place	3	1	1	1	4	4
<u>1947</u>	Third place	4	2	0	2	8	8
<u>1948*</u>	Fourth place	6	2	1	3	6	18
<u>1973–76</u>	Runners-up	4	2	1	1	7	5
<u>1977–80</u>	Champions	6	3	2	1	12	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 titles</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>77</b>

































*\*Edition abandoned.*




## All-time head-to-head record


*Last match updated was against  Switzerland on 21 November 2023.*

☐ Positive record
 ☐ Neutral record
 ☐ Negative record



Against	<a href="#">[show]</a>	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
 <a href="#">Albania</a>		17	11	3	3	64.71%
 <a href="#">Algeria</a>		5	1	2	2	20%
 <a href="#">Andorra</a>		6	6	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Argentina</a>		6	1	2	3	16.67%
 <a href="#">Armenia</a>		7	5	1	1	66.67%
 <a href="#">Australia</a>		1	1	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Austria</a>		12	4	5	3	33.33%
 <a href="#">Azerbaijan</a>		4	4	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Belarus</a>		7	4	3	0	57.14%
 <a href="#">Belgium</a>		12	5	2	5	41.67%
 <a href="#">Bolivia</a>		1	1	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Bosnia and Herzegovina</a>		6	4	0	2	66.67%
 <a href="#">Brazil</a>		3	0	0	3	0%
 <a href="#">Bulgaria</a>		33	18	6	9	54.55%
 <a href="#">Cameroon</a>		1	0	0	1	0%
 <a href="#">Chile</a>		3	3	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">China</a>		2	2	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Colombia</a>		3	2	1	0	66.67%
 <a href="#">Croatia</a>		4	0	1	3	0%
 <a href="#">Cuba</a>		2	0	1	1	0%
 <a href="#">Cyprus</a>		13	9	3	1	69.23%
 <a href="#">Czech Republic</a>		2	1	0	1	50%
 <a href="#">Czechoslovakia</a>		32	7	8	17	21.88%
 <a href="#">Denmark</a>		11	4	4	3	36.36%
 <a href="#">DR Congo</a>		2	0	2	0	0%
 <a href="#">East Germany</a>		16	5	3	8	31.25%
 <a href="#">Ecuador</a>		1	0	0	1	0%
 <a href="#">Egypt</a>		6	3	2	1	50%
 <a href="#">England</a>		12	3	6	3	25%
 <a href="#">Estonia</a>		4	3	0	1	75%
 <a href="#">Faroe Islands</a>		8	8	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Finland</a>		13	9	4	0	69.23%

Against	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
 <a href="#">France</a>	16	3	5	8	18.75%
 <a href="#">Georgia</a>	8	5	2	1	62.5%
 <a href="#">Germany</a>	15	2	3	10	13.33%
 <a href="#">Greece</a>	36	18	10	8	50%
 <a href="#">Honduras</a>	1	1	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Hungary</a>	26	7	8	11	23.08%
 <a href="#">Iceland</a>	5	3	1	1	60%
 <a href="#">Iran</a>	2	0	2	0	0%
 <a href="#">Iraq</a>	2	0	2	0	0%
 <a href="#">Israel</a>	25	13	7	5	52%
 <a href="#">Italy</a>	17	2	5	10	11.76%
 <a href="#">Ivory Coast</a>	1	0	0	1	0%
 <a href="#">Japan</a>	4	3	1	0	75%
 <a href="#">Jordan</a>	1	0	0	1	0%
 <a href="#">Kazakhstan</a>	2	1	1	0	50%
 <a href="#">Kosovo</a>	2	1	1	0	50%
 <a href="#">Latvia</a>	5	4	1	0	80%
 <a href="#">Liechtenstein</a>	6	6	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Lithuania</a>	12	11	0	1	90.91%
 <a href="#">Luxembourg</a>	6	6	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Malta</a>	2	2	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Mexico</a>	2	1	0	1	50%
 <a href="#">Moldova</a>	4	4	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Montenegro</a>	7	2	2	3	28.57%
 <a href="#">Morocco</a>	3	2	0	1	66.67%
 <a href="#">Nigeria</a>	2	2	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Netherlands</a>	14	1	3	10	7.14%
 <a href="#">North Macedonia</a>	7	5	1	1	71.43%
 <a href="#">Northern Ireland</a>	8	2	3	3	25%
 <a href="#">Norway</a>	14	4	7	3	28.57%
 <a href="#">Paraguay</a>	2	1	0	1	50%
 <a href="#">Peru</a>	5	2	2	1	40%

Against	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	% Won
 <a href="#">Poland</a>	35	14	15	6	40%
 <a href="#">Portugal</a>	11	4	2	5	36.36%
 <a href="#">Republic of Ireland</a>	5	1	2	2	20%
 <a href="#">Russia</a>	2	1	0	1	50%
 <a href="#">San Marino</a>	3	3	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Serbia</a>	6	1	2	3	20%
 <a href="#">Scotland</a>	6	2	2	2	33.33%
 <a href="#">Slovakia</a>	11	5	5	1	45.45%
 <a href="#">Slovenia</a>	9	3	3	3	33.33%
 <a href="#">South Korea</a>	1	1	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Soviet Union</a>	9	3	2	4	33.33%
 <a href="#">Spain</a>	18	5	6	7	27.78%
 <a href="#">Sweden</a>	11	3	3	5	27.27%
 <a href="#">Switzerland</a>	15	6	5	4	40%
 <a href="#">Trinidad and Tobago</a>	1	1	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Tunisia</a>	1	0	1	0	0%
 <a href="#">Turkey</a>	26	14	7	5	53.85%
 <a href="#">Turkmenistan</a>	1	1	0	0	100%
 <a href="#">Ukraine</a>	6	3	1	2	50%
 <a href="#">United Arab Emirates</a>	1	0	0	1	0%
 <a href="#">United States</a>	4	2	1	1	50%
 <a href="#">Uruguay</a>	5	1	2	2	20%
 <a href="#">Wales</a>	5	3	1	1	60%
 <a href="#">Yugoslavia</a>	37	15	5	17	40.54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>44.24%</b>

## FIFA ranking history

The following is a chart of yearly averages of Romania's [FIFA ranking](#).<sup>[26]</sup>

# Honours

- [Balkan Cup](#)
  -  **Winners (4) – Record:** [1929–31](#), [1933](#), [1936](#), [1977–80](#)

- 2 Runners-up (1): 1973–76
- 3 Third place (4): 1932, 1934–35, 1946, 1947

## See also

- Romania Olympic football team
- Romania national under-21 football team
- Romania national under-20 football team
- Romania national under-19 football team
- Romania national under-17 football team
- Romania national futsal team
- Romania national beach soccer team
- Romania women's national football team
- Hungary–Romania football rivalry



## Notes

- The Israel v Romania match, originally scheduled to be played at the  Teddy Stadium,  Jerusalem, was relocated to a neutral site due to the  Israel–Hamas war.

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## External links

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- Official website (<http://www.frf.ro/>) (in Romanian)
  - Romania national football team (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalaRomanieiOfficial>) on Facebook
  - Romania national football team (<https://www.instagram.com/echipanationalala/>) on Instagram
  - Romania (<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/ROU/>) at UEFA
  - Romania (<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/associations/ROU>) at FIFA
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  - Romania national team /details 1922–/ (<http://www.srcf.ucam.org/~nfm24/football/rom.html>)
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