



WOMEN'S EURO 2009

Every two years UEFA organizes the qualification tournament for the European Women's Cup, in which 30 teams are involved in 6 rounds of 5 teams each. Only 12 national teams will participate in the final round: Finland, as host-team, the winners of the play-off competition played by 6 second and the best 4 third teams.

The competition develops in 3 stages: preliminary phase, qualification phase, final tournament. The path to Finland was opened on 18th November 2006, when 20 countries with a lower coefficient started the preliminary phase involving 5 rounds of 4 teams each. The winners were actually 25 after the qualification-stage that was played between 1st April '07 and 2nd October '08. The 6 group-winners were qualified straight for the final stage, while the six best second teams and the four best third teams bought the play – off in October in order to decide the 5 teams which appear in the final scoreboard together with the host – team (Finland).

Qualification for the final round:

round a: Finland, Ukraine, Denmark and Nederland;

round b: Germany, Iceland, Norway and France;

round c: Sweden, England, Russia and Italy.

The opening match Finland vs. Denmark will be played on the ground of the Olympic stadium on the 23rd August. Also the final game will take place on the same ground (10th September). The matches of the round – phase will take place no later than 31st August. The first 2 teams of each round and the two best teams will play the quarter – finals on the 3rd and 4th September in the city of Turku, Tampere, Lahti and on the ground of Helsinki Football Stadium. The semifinals are fixed on the 6th and 7th September in Tampere and at the Helsinki Football Stadium. The final game will take place 3 days later at the Olympic Stadium