

# UNITY EURO CUP



## Why the UNITY EURO CUP?

Since May 2021, UEFA and UNHCR have worked together to improve the lives of displaced people through the transformative power of football; to assist and uphold their rights and be better included into the communities that so generously host them. As part of the [UEFA Football Sustainability Strategy 2030](#), UEFA supports refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people to remain physically and mentally healthy and be included in their host community through football. The [UNHCR Sport Strategy - More than a Game](#) - outlines the role that sport and sport organizations can play in improving the lives of displaced and stateless people.

## UNITY EURO CUP 2022

UEFA headquarters in Switzerland hosted the inaugural edition with **8 teams** representing Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Malta, the Republic of Ireland and Switzerland. Each team was accompanied by a well known football ambassador, including **Laura Georges, Demetrio Albertini, Stephen Kenny and Murat Yakin**.

## What did we achieve in 2022?

Through the universal language of football, the UNITY EURO CUP demonstrated the powerful role sport can play in bringing people together. The tournament gave the participants the opportunity to represent their country or host country, in an international competition held at the prestigious UEFA HQ in Nyon - a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The event strengthened awareness of refugee issues highlighted the power of sport and the role refugees already play in all of our communities.



88 youth from refugee and host communities participated in the tournament.



4.58m estimated views through 96 pieces of coverage across social, offline and online content.

## UNITY EURO CUP 2023

Following the successful first edition, UEFA and UNHCR will host an expanded second edition in June. This time, **15 teams** will compete to be champions of Europe, representing Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine.



28 June 2023 - DFB Campus, Frankfurt



165 youth from refugee and host communities



7-a-side teams composed of 11 amateur players:  
8 refugees, 3 non-refugees, at least 2 women



15 illustrious football ambassadors to support their teams



Partners: UEFA National Associations  
UNHCR Country Offices

"A tournament about sharing, solidarity, respect, discovery and consideration for others - these are values close to my heart and stand for what football should always try to achieve"

**Laura Georges, Sec-Gen, French Football Federation**

"I cannot think of a better way to learn more about each other than through the game itself. The game helps us grow together rather than drifting apart. There are too many walls in the world already; we need more bridges."

**Aleksander Čeferin, UEFA President**



Watch the UEFA video



Watch the UNHCR video

"When people are forced to flee their homes, they don't leave behind their aspirations and interests. Sport, and football in particular can play an essential role in helping to create a sense of normality, especially for children and youth, enabling them to adapt to their new lives, be included in their new communities, and reignite their hopes and dreams."

**Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees**

"Tournaments like this bring us together and make us feel equal with everyone else in society."

**Daniel, Ghanian refugee, Team Malta**