

Euro 2012: Croatia

Euro 2012 Preview: Croatia

April 1st 2012

On this week's main listening report we look ahead to this summer's European Championships in Poland and Ukraine and focus on Croatia's chances. You can listen to the report by clicking on the link below, while vocabulary support (**in bold**) appears at the foot of the report. There is also a worksheet (see right) for learners who wish to improve their English.

**Pre-Listening – warm-up**

Before you listen to the report test your partner about how much you know about Croatia.

1. What colours does the Croatian national side play in?
2. What is the capital city of Croatia?
3. How many times have Croatia qualified for the European Championships?
4. True or False Croatia finished third in the 1998 World Cup.

**A. Main Idea – note taking**

Listen to the report and take notes under the following headings.

Qualifying	
Key Players	
Manager	
Their Chances	

### **B. Main Ideas – True or False**

*Listen to the report and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Give a reason for your choice.*

1. T / F Croatia did not win their qualifying group
  
2. T / F Croatia were consistent throughout the qualifying campaign
  
3. T / F Croatia's best player is Luka Modrić
  
4. T / F The Croatian manager will be one of the youngest managers at this year's tournament.
  
5. T / F The Languagecaster team is tipping them as dark horses

### **C. Listening - vocabulary**

*Listen to the final section of the report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.*

In a group that \_\_\_\_\_ Ireland, Italy and Spain few \_\_\_\_\_ Croatia to progress to the knock-out stages and the first game of their campaign against the Irish is \_\_\_\_\_ – the will need to beat the Republic to \_\_\_\_\_ any kind of a chance of making the last eight. Their lack of a top striker means that \_\_\_\_\_ showing flashes of brilliance the Croatians will \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ point and finish bottom of the group.

## ANSWERS

On this week's main listening report we take a look at the FA Cup: the format, its history and the [giant killing](#). You can listen to the report by clicking [here](#), while vocabulary support appears at the foot of the report.

### Pre-Listening – warm-up

*Before you listen to the report test your partner about how much you know about Croatia.*

1. What colours do the Croatian national side play in?

**Red and White Check or All Blue**

2. What is the capital city of Croatia?

**Zagreb**

3. How many times have Croatia qualified for the European Championships?

**Four (including this one)**

4. True or False Croatia finished third in the 1998 World Cup.

**True (they lost to France in the semi-final)**

### B. Main Ideas – True or False

*Listen to the report and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Give a reason for your choice.*

1. T / F Croatia did not win their qualifying group

**Second behind Greece**

2. T / F Croatia were consistent throughout the qualifying campaign

**a rather lacklustre campaign**

3. T / F Croatia's best player is Luka Modrić

**Standout player**

4. T / F The Croatian manager will be one of the youngest managers at this year's tournament.

**Second youngest (after Portuguese manager)**

5. T / F The Languagecaster team is tipping them as dark horses

**Probably finish bottom of the group.**

### C. Listening - Vocabulary

*Listen to the final section of the report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase.*

In a group that **includes** Ireland, Italy and Spain few **expect** Croatia to progress to the knock-out stages and the first game of their campaign against the Irish is **vital** – they will need to beat the Republic to **stand** any kind of a chance of making the last eight. Their lack of a top striker means that **despite** showing flashes of brilliance the Croatians will **end up** with a **solitary** point and finish bottom of the group

## Transcript

### Main Listening Report: Euro 2012 Preview – Croatia

*On this week's main listening report we look ahead to this summer's European Championships in Poland and Ukraine and focus on Croatia's chances. You can listen to the report by clicking on the link below, while vocabulary support (**in bold**) appears at the foot of the report. There is also a worksheet (see right) for learners who wish to improve their English.*

#### Qualifying

Like the [Republic of Ireland](#), Croatia had to qualify **via** the play-offs after finishing two points behind Greece in Group F. They then easily defeated Turkey to progress to the finals after they won 3-0 **on aggregate** with a 3-0 away win in Istanbul making the second leg at home in Zagreb **a formality**. It was not always so as Croatia could only manage one point against group winners Greece and also surprisingly lost to Georgia in a rather **lacklustre** campaign but **they hit form** at just the right time.

#### Key Players

Without a doubt **the standout player** from the Croatian side playmaker is Luka Modrić who, along with his Tottenham Hotspur teammate Niko Kranjčar, forms part a strong midfield that also includes captain and Shakhtar Donetsk player Darijo Srna. Where Croatia may suffer is their lack of a proven goalscorer - Bayern Munich forward Ivica Olić works hard though his return of 15 goals in 77 appearances is not enough, though Everton striker Nikica Jelavić may make an impact from the bench.

#### The Manager

Former national team player, Slaven Bilić has been manager of Croatia since 2006 and will be the second youngest coach at the tournament, at 43, though with 55 games as manager (and only 6 defeats) he will bring **a wealth of experience** that may prove to be invaluable. This will be his second European Championship tournament in charge of Croatia after helping his team reach the last eight in 2008 and he for one at least feels that they can go further this time round.

#### Their Chances

In a group that includes Ireland, Italy and Spain few expect Croatia to progress to the knock-out stages and the first game of their campaign against the Irish is vital - they will need to beat the Republic to stand any kind of a chance of making the last eight. Their lack of a top striker means that despite showing **flashes** of brilliance the Croatians will end up with a solitary point and finish bottom of the group.

#### Vocabulary

**via**: Through (by)

**on aggregate**: In total

**lacklustre**: Not playing well

**a wealth of experience**: A lot of experience

**flashes**: Moments

**they hit form**: Started to play better, started to win