



□□□□ The 52 European entrants were drawn into nine groups, seven of six and two of five, seeded according to their FIFA world ranking.

□□□ 17.00CET, 25 July 2015, Konstantinovsky Palace, St Petersburg

Group A

Netherlands
France
Sweden
Bulgaria
Belarus
Luxembourg

Group B

Portugal
Switzerland
Hungary
Faroe Islands
Latvia
Andorra

Group C

Germany
Czech Republic
Northern Ireland
Norway
Azerbaijan
San Marino

Group D

Wales
Austria
Serbia
Republic of Ireland
Moldova
Georgia

☐☐ **Group E**

Romania

Denmark

Poland

Montenegro

Armenia

Kazakhstan

Group F

England

Slovakia

Scotland

Slovenia

Lithuania

Malta

Group G

Spain

Italy

Albania

Israel

FYR Macedonia

Liechtenstein

Group H

Belgium

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Greece

Estonia

Cyprus

Group I

Croatia

Iceland
Ukraine
Turkey
Finland

Format

- The **52 entrants** (all the UEFA national associations except automatically qualified hosts Russia and non-FIFA members Gibraltar) were drawn into **six** groups of **five** teams and **two** teams and **two**

Continental allocations

Africa: 5

Asia: 4.5

Europe: 13

North, Central America and Caribbean: 3.5

Oceania: 0.5

South America: 4.5

Hosts: 1 (Russia)

Dates

Matchday 1: 4–6 September 2016

Matchday 2: 6–8 October 2016

Matchday 3: 9–11 October 2016

Matchday 4: 11–13 November 2016

Matchday 5: 24–26 March 2017

Matchday 6: 9–11 June 2017

Matchday 7: 31 August–2 September 2017

Matchday 8: 3–5 September 2017

Matchday 9: 5–7 October 2017

Matchday 10: 8–10 October 2017

Play-off first leg: 9–11 November 2017

Play-off second leg: 12–14 November 2017

Final tournament (Russia): 14 June–15 July 2018

European qualifying for the 2018 FIFA World Cup consists of a group stage and a play-off round, providing 13 UEFA member nations for the 32-team final tournament in Russia (who qualify as by right).

Qualifying group stage

Matches take place between 4 September 2016 and 10 October 2017 with seven groups of six teams and two of five. The nine group winners qualify directly for the finals and the eight runners-up with the best record against the teams finishing first, third, fourth and fifth in their section go into the play-offs.

Play-offs

The eight teams are drawn into four pairings for two-legged ties played from 9 and 14 November 2017. If scores are level after the second leg the team with the most away goals

qualified, whether after 90 minutes or extra time. The four winners qualify for the finals.

Final tournament

The allocation for other confederations is: Asian Football Confederation (AFC) 4.5, Confederation of African Football (CAF) 5.0, Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) 3.5, South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) 4.5, Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) 0.5, and one slot for the hosts Russia. The teams are drawn into eight groups of four with the top two going into the knockout phase.