

Mircea Lucescu: Six Decades of Romanian Football

The complete career of Mircea Lucescu (1945-2026), Romania's most decorated football manager, from his playing days at Dinamo Bucuresti to landmark titles in Italy, Turkey and Ukraine. Based on Wikipedia, UEFA and FRF records.

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- 1945-07-29

Born in Bucharest

[\[romania, biography, bucharest\]](#)

Mircea Lucescu is born in Bucharest, Romania, just weeks after the end of World War II. He will grow up to become the most decorated Romanian football manager in history.
 - 1964-06-21

Dinamo Bucuresti debut

[\[football, romania, dinamo, playing-career\]](#)

Lucescu makes his senior debut for Dinamo Bucuresti at age 18. He will spend the bulk of his playing career at the club, making over 250 league appearances and scoring 57 goals.
 - 1964-07-01

First Divizia A title as player

[\[romania, dinamo, trophy, liga-1\]](#)

Dinamo Bucuresti wins the 1963-64 Romanian Divizia A with Lucescu in the squad. It is the first of six league titles he will collect as a player with the Bucharest club. Exact championship date approximated.
 - 1966-07-01

Romania national team debut

[\[romania, national-team, football, playing-career\]](#)

Lucescu earns his first cap for Romania. Over the next 13 years he will play 64 matches for the national side and score 9 goals, becoming one of the era's most respected Romanian footballers. Date approximated.
 - 1968-06-15

Romanian Cup winner with Dinamo

[\[romania, dinamo, trophy, cup\]](#)

Dinamo Bucuresti wins the 1967-68 Cupa Romaniei, adding a domestic cup to Lucescu's

growing trophy cabinet as a player. Exact final date approximated.

1970-06-02

Captains Romania at the World Cup

[romania, world-cup, national-team, mexico]

Lucescu captains Romania at the 1970 FIFA World Cup in Mexico, the nation's first World Cup appearance in 32 years. Romania is eliminated in the group stage by England, Brazil and Czechoslovakia.

1977-07-01

Transfer to Corvinul Hunedoara

[romania, corvinul, playing-career]

After 14 years and six league titles with Dinamo, Lucescu moves to Corvinul Hunedoara. He will play 141 matches for the provincial club while gradually transitioning into coaching.

1979-01-15

Becomes player-manager at Corvinul

[romania, corvinul, training, coaching-debut]

Lucescu takes charge of Corvinul Hunedoara as player-manager, launching what will become a six-decade coaching career. He leads the club to promotion from Divizia B in 1979-80.

1981-11-01

Appointed Romania head coach

[romania, national-team, training]

At only 36, Lucescu is named head coach of the Romania national team. During his tenure he will hand a teenage Gheorghe Hagi his international debut and qualify the team for Euro 1984.

1983-12-17

Romania qualifies for Euro 1984

[romania, euros, national-team, training]

Under Lucescu, Romania qualifies for the UEFA European Championship in France – the country's first appearance at a Euros final tournament. It is a breakthrough result for a generation that will go on to dominate Romanian football in the 1990s.

1985-07-01

Returns to Dinamo as manager

[romania, dinamo, training]

Lucescu takes over as head coach of Dinamo Bucuresti while still leading the national team. He will remain at the club until 1990, combining trophies with the final appearances of his playing career.

1986-10-15

Leaves Romania national team

[romania, national-team, training]

After five years in charge, Lucescu steps down as Romania head coach to focus on his club work at Dinamo Bucuresti. Date approximated.

1990-06-15

Divizia A title as Dinamo manager

[romania, dinamo, trophy, liga-1, training]

Lucescu leads Dinamo Bucuresti to the 1989-90 Romanian league title and Cupa Romaniei double, in the first post-revolution season. It is his first championship as a manager.

1990-07-01

Italian adventure begins at Pisa

[italia, pisa, serie-a, training]

Lucescu moves abroad for the first time, taking charge of Serie A club Pisa. The stint is brief but opens the door to a long Italian chapter of his career.

1991-07-01

Takes over at Brescia

[italia, brescia, serie-b, training]

Lucescu becomes head coach of Brescia, where he will spend nearly five seasons. He wins the 1991-92 Serie B title and the 1993-94 Anglo-Italian Cup, establishing himself in Italian football.

1994-03-20

Anglo-Italian Cup at Wembley

[italia, brescia, trophy, wembley]

Brescia beats Notts County 1-0 at Wembley to win the Anglo-Italian Cup under Lucescu, one of the unusual trophies of his collection and a rare Italian triumph at the English national stadium.

1997-07-01

Returns home to Rapid Bucuresti

[romania, rapid, training]

After spells at Reggiana and other Italian clubs, Lucescu returns to Romania as head coach of Rapid Bucuresti. He will win the Cupa Romaniei in 1998 and the Divizia A title in 1999, with a brief interim stint at Inter Milan in between.

1998-12-01

Interim spell at Inter Milan

[italia, inter, serie-a, training]

Lucescu is appointed head coach of Inter Milan, becoming the first Romanian to manage one of Italy's biggest clubs. The stint lasts only a few months before he returns to Rapid Bucuresti.

1999-06-15

League title with Rapid Bucuresti

[romania, rapid, trophy, liga-1]

Lucescu guides Rapid Bucuresti to the 1998-99 Divizia A title, ending the dominance of Steaua and Dinamo. It is his second Romanian championship as a manager.

2000-08-25

Galatasaray and the UEFA Super Cup

[turcia, galatasaray, uefa, super-cup, trophy]

Just weeks after taking charge of Galatasaray, Lucescu wins the UEFA Super Cup against Real Madrid in Monaco. It is his first European trophy as a manager and opens his successful Turkish period.

2002-05-19

Turkish Super Lig champion

[turcia, galatasaray, trophy, super-lig]

Lucescu wins the 2001-02 Turkish Super Lig with Galatasaray, his first Turkish league title. He will repeat the feat the following season with rivals Besiktas.

2003-05-18

Second Turkish title with Besiktas

[turcia, besiktas, trophy, super-lig]

Lucescu wins the 2002-03 Super Lig with Besiktas, becoming one of the few coaches to win the Turkish championship with two different Istanbul clubs in consecutive seasons.

2004-05-15

Era begins at Shakhtar Donetsk

[ucraina, shakhtar, training]

Lucescu is appointed head coach of Shakhtar Donetsk, starting a 12-year tenure that will reshape Ukrainian football. He will win eight league titles and make Shakhtar a regular Champions League contender.

2005-05-22

First Ukrainian league title

[ucraina, shakhtar, trophy, liga]

Shakhtar Donetsk wins the 2004-05 Ukrainian Premier League under Lucescu, breaking Dynamo Kyiv's long dominance. It is the first of eight championships he will win with the Donetsk club.

2009-05-20

UEFA Cup glory in Istanbul

[ucraina, shakhtar, uefa, europa-league, trophy]

Shakhtar Donetsk beats Werder Bremen 2-1 in Istanbul to win the 2008-09 UEFA Cup, the last edition before it was rebranded as the Europa League. It is Lucescu's biggest European triumph and Shakhtar's first continental trophy.

2015-09-30

100 Champions League matches

[[ucraina](#), [shakhtar](#), [champions-league](#), [record](#)]

Lucescu becomes only the fifth manager in history to coach 100 UEFA Champions League matches, reaching the milestone with Shakhtar Donetsk. It confirms his status among the most experienced European coaches.

2016-05-15

Leaves Shakhtar after 12 years

[[ucraina](#), [shakhtar](#), [training](#)]

After eight league titles, six domestic cups and the UEFA Cup, Lucescu departs Shakhtar Donetsk. His 12-year tenure remains one of the longest and most successful in Eastern European football history.

2016-05-25

One season at Zenit Saint Petersburg

[[rusia](#), [zenit](#), [training](#), [trophy](#)]

Lucescu is appointed head coach of Russian club Zenit Saint Petersburg. He wins the 2016 Russian Super Cup but leaves after a single season.

2017-08-02

Head coach of Turkey

[[turcia](#), [national-team](#), [training](#)]

Lucescu takes charge of the Turkey national team, the second country he leads at international level. He remains in the role until February 2019 without qualifying for a major tournament.

2020-07-23

Controversial move to Dynamo Kyiv

[[ucraina](#), [dynamo-kyiv](#), [training](#)]

Lucescu is named head coach of Dynamo Kyiv, archrivals of his former club Shakhtar Donetsk. The appointment sparks protests from Dynamo ultras but he quickly wins the league and cup double.

2021-05-09

League title with Dynamo Kyiv

[[ucraina](#), [dynamo-kyiv](#), [trophy](#), [record](#)]

Lucescu wins the 2020-21 Ukrainian Premier League with Dynamo Kyiv, becoming the first manager to win the Ukrainian championship with both of its biggest clubs. He also lifts the

Ukrainian Cup and Super Cup.

2022-02-24

Coaching through war in Ukraine

[[ucraina](#), [dynamo-kyiv](#), [war](#), [training](#)]

When Russia launches its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Lucescu chooses to stay with Dynamo Kyiv. He continues coaching in exile and charity matches across Europe to raise funds for Ukrainian football.

2023-11-10

Leaves Dynamo Kyiv

[[ucraina](#), [dynamo-kyiv](#), [training](#)]

After more than three years and a league title, Lucescu steps down as head coach of Dynamo Kyiv. He ends his Ukrainian career as the most successful foreign manager in the country's history.

2024-08-01

Returns to coach Romania

[[romania](#), [national-team](#), [training](#), [comeback](#)]

At 79, Lucescu is appointed head coach of Romania for a second time, 38 years after his first spell. The Romanian Football Federation hails it as a symbolic homecoming for the country's most titled manager.

2024-11-18

Wins UEFA Nations League C with Romania

[[romania](#), [national-team](#), [nations-league](#), [trophy](#)]

Romania wins its UEFA Nations League League C group under Lucescu, securing promotion and a play-off path to the 2026 FIFA World Cup. It is his first trophy in a second spell at the national team.

2026-03-26

Eliminated in World Cup play-offs

[[romania](#), [national-team](#), [world-cup](#), [play-off](#)]

Romania is eliminated from the 2026 FIFA World Cup play-offs, ending Lucescu's dream of taking Romania back to the World Cup as head coach. It turns out to be his last major match on the touchline.

2026-04-07

Death in Bucharest

[[romania](#), [biography](#), [bucharest](#), [death](#)]

Mircea Lucescu dies in Bucharest at the age of 80. He leaves behind an unmatched legacy of 38 official trophies, eight Ukrainian league titles, a UEFA Cup and the affection of three

footballing nations.