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Cover:

*The second season of
the UEFA Youth League
culminated in the sunshine
at Colovray stadium in Nyon,
where lots of spectators
turned out to see the stars
of the future in action.*

Photo: UEFA via Getty Images

CHELSEA WIN THE UEFA YOUTH LEAGUE 4

On 13 April in Nyon, Chelsea FC overcame FC Shakhtar Donetsk to become the second club to win the UEFA Youth League.



KAIRAT ALMATY RECLAIM THE UEFA FUTSAL CUP TITLE 5

In Lisbon, Kairat Almaty beat FC Barcelona in the UEFA Futsal Cup final to take back the title they first won two years ago.



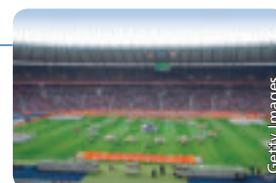
THE CZECH REPUBLIC GEARS UP FOR THE U21 FINAL ROUND 6

With just a few weeks to go until the tournament kicks off, the Czech Republic is pulling out all the stops to ensure that the European Under-21 Championship finals are a success all round.



ALL EYES ON BERLIN 9

On the evening of 6 June, thousands of spectators at the Olympiastadion in Berlin and millions of TV viewers worldwide will have their eyes glued on the 2015 UEFA Champions League final.



UEFA FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN GETS OFF THE GROUND 15

1 May marked the official launch of the UEFA Foundation for Children, set up to help children, particularly through football.



NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS 16





OUTLAWING THIRD-PARTY OWNERSHIP: A VICTORY FOR THE GAME

1 May 2015 was a significant day for UEFA and European football as third-party ownership (TPO) was finally outlawed. TPO is bad for players, for player development, for clubs, for the integrity of competition and for the financial health of the game.

This subject has been discussed extensively by various UEFA bodies in recent years. For example, in 2012 the Professional Football Strategy Council (consisting of clubs, players, leagues and national associations) adopted a strong stance against TPO. This was followed by a decision adopted by the UEFA Executive Committee in December 2012, at which time UEFA called on FIFA (as the body responsible for policing international transfers) to act, indicating that if FIFA failed to do so then UEFA would itself act against TPO in Europe.

Subsequently, FIFA undertook a number of detailed studies on TPO and set up a working group to examine how the issue should be tackled (a working group in which UEFA participated). Unsurprisingly, the detailed analyses of TPO revealed that the practice was negative for football on just about every front. It had very little to recommend it, other than as a vehicle for certain third parties to make a financial returns from 'speculating' on the future transfer value of players.

UEFA is therefore very pleased that the working group recommended that TPO be banned and that this ban is now being brought into effect.

At the time of writing, the ban on TPO has been challenged both before the European Commission and in a number of national courts. Such legal challenges were predictable. Nevertheless, UEFA (together with FIFPro) has lodged its own complaint with the European Commission, arguing that the practice of TPO was already contrary to European law. UEFA considers that TPO undermines contractual stability, has a negative effect on employment relationships, distorts the recruitment of players, threatens the integrity of competition, and also raises serious ethical and moral concerns regarding the treatment of players (in particular, young players). We are optimistic that the European Commission will support us in this view.

We can now look forward to a world without TPO. A world in which both clubs and players can have more control over their respective futures; where players on opposing teams cannot have their economic rights 'owned' by the same third-party; and where more money should remain in the game, rather than being extracted by financial speculators.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Gianni Infantino'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Gianni Infantino
UEFA General Secretary

BLUE IS THE COLOUR IN NYON

The form book seems to be thrown out the window more regularly in football than in other sports, and the game’s unpredictability only becomes more enhanced at youth level.

Nevertheless, it was not a great surprise to those who had been following the second season of the UEFA Youth League that the two teams who contested the final were an unbeaten FC Shakhtar Donetsk side, and a Chelsea FC outfit that had powered their way past all comers.

Les Mauves et Blancs went for the jugular, but Shakhtar had come from behind in both their knockout round games to go through. If Anderlecht did not already know about the resilience of the Ukrainian side, they were about to find out: Viktor Kovalenko came off the bench, scored one goal, set up another, and then confirmed Shakhtar’s spot in the final with his second goal in a superb 27-minute cameo.



With 12 goals, including a header in the final, Chelsea FC forward Dominic Solanke finished comfortably top of the UEFA Youth League scorers chart

Destination Nyon

Nyon was once again the venue for the ‘finals weekend’. Like during the inaugural 2013/14 edition, the Colovray sports centre was bathed in spring sunshine as the products of the academies of four of Europe’s leading clubs brought to an end a journey they will hope to repeat many times at senior level – a long continental cup run.

RSC Anderlecht started the weekend a team on a high: after topping their group ahead of Arsenal FC, they had ended the reign of champions FC Barcelona before seeing off FC Porto 5-0 in the quarter-finals. They were the side to watch for many close observers, who appeared to have got it right when Anderlecht took the lead against Shakhtar ten minutes into the second half of their semi-final.

English obstacles

Having lost to Manchester City FC twice in the group stage, it was third time lucky for AS Roma as they overcame City 2-1 in the last eight. That meant a semi-final meeting with another English side, in the shape of Chelsea, comfortably the competition’s top scorers and with a number of players already having played in the Stamford Bridge first team.

The London club’s prolific form continued as they swept to a 4-0 victory, with all the goals coming after the interval. These included two from Dominic Solanke, his 10th and 11th of the competition, and set up a Monday meeting with Valeriy Kryventsov’s Shakhtar.

Packed house

The semi-finals were well attended, with plenty of locals as well as fans of the clubs, and Colovray was again sold out and awash with colour for the final itself. Among those watching were also UEFA President Michel Platini, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Honorary UEFA President Lennart Johansson, after whom the competition’s trophy is named.

The spectators would still have been settling in when Chelsea took the lead. Isaiah Brown, the Under-19 skipper who had been called back to London by José Mourinho for the senior team’s Premier League game against Queens Park Rangers FC just one day earlier, pounced in the seventh minute and Chelsea were on top. Yet again, though, Shakhtar were not to be pushed aside and Denys Arendaruk’s direct running led to Andreas Christensen putting the ball into his own net: the score was 1-1 at half-time.

Chelsea upped the tempo and Solanke struck just after the break, with Brown adding another before Shakhtar could respond as they had done so often during the season. Kovalenko again came off the bench to add a late consolation, but Chelsea were worthy successors to Barcelona as the UEFA Youth League’s second champions. Blue was certainly the colour in Nyon in 2015. ●

10 April

Semi-finals

RSC Anderlecht – FC Shakhtar Donetsk 1-3
AS Roma – Chelsea FC 0-4

13 April

Final

FC Shakhtar Donetsk – Chelsea FC 2-3

KAIRAT TAKE SECOND TITLE IN LISBON

Comparing Kairat Almaty’s 2014/15 UEFA Futsal Cup victory in Lisbon to that in Tbilisi two years earlier, goalkeeper Higuita said the second one meant more *“because when we became champions back then, there were people who said it was just dumb luck. Today we have proved it wasn’t.”*

What he meant is that when Kairat became Kazakhstan’s first UEFA champions in any discipline in 2013, critics said coach Cacau had just caught favourites FC Barcelona and Moscow’s FC Dynamo by surprise with their use of Higuita effectively as an outfield player. That tactic remained as Kairat overcame ISK Dina Moskva and Barcelona at the Meo Arena in the Portuguese capital, but this time no one had the excuse of not knowing exactly how Cacau would set up his team.

Kairat stormed into the finals with 28 elite-round goals, twice as many as any other qualifier. In the semis they took on Dina, the dominant Russian and European side of the 1990s but in this 14-year-old UEFA competition for the first time. Dina actually scored twice in the last two minutes to force extra time, the equaliser coming from captain and flying goalkeeper Dmitri Prudnikov, who played with painkilling injections in his ankle, having sat out training the previous day with the joint in ice. However, Kairat eventually won 7-4 with four Leo goals.

Attendance record

Up against them in the decider were holders Barcelona, who won their semi-final 5-3, with two last-gasp goals against hosts Sporting Clube de Portugal, urged on by a competition-record 12,076 fans, the first five-figure crowd at a UEFA club futsal fixture. Sporting captain João Benedito, who suffered an Achilles tear during the match, told UEFA.com: *“What we experienced today here was unique. It is a long time since I have seen such a communion between a team and a crowd.”*

The fans were cheered up two days later as Sporting surged to bronze, Alex getting four goals in an 8-3 win against Dina. They had not quite matched SL Benfica’s feat of winning the trophy at the same arena in 2010, but having beaten three-time champions Inter FS 1-0 in a tense elite round decider, Sporting had more than proved their worth.

Barcelona were favourites to win the final, as they aimed to equal UEFA Futsal Cup records by claiming a third title and a second in a row. They also had Gabriel in their team, taking part in his seventh final in ten years, already having a record four titles to his name, two with Barcelona and two at Inter.

But Kairat were the only team ever to have beaten Barcelona in Europe, in the 2013 semis, and after a shaky start they led 2-0 at half-time,

thanks to Humberto and former Sporting player Divanei, who ensured his team had home fans’ backing. Barcelona twice pulled one back but Kairat won it 3-2, Higuita’s passing in attack having proved as important as his goalkeeping.

Cacau, the fourth coach to clinch a second UEFA Futsal Cup, mused: *“We played a complete match, and I think this final was a great show.”* He could have been speaking for the finals as a whole, an unprecedented aggregate attendance of nearly 30,000 watching the four games.



The winners of the 2015 competition

Barcelona’s Wilde, who in a long career has won two FIFA Futsal World Cups, including one at home in Brazil, not to mention a pair of UEFA Futsal Cups with the Blaugrana, said of the semi-final with Sporting: *“I have played many, many matches and I have never seen anything like this. I have to congratulate Sporting for what they did inside the arena, for futsal this is very beautiful.”* ●

24 April

Semi-finals

ISK Dina Moskva – Kairat Almaty 4-7 aet
 FC Barcelona – Sporting CP 5-3

26 April

Third-place play-off

ISK Dina Moskva – Sporting CP 3-8

Final

Kairat Almaty – FC Barcelona 3-2

DESTINATION PRAGUE

All three of the Czech Republic's Group A matches are already practically sold out as the host nation looks forward to putting on a show at the final tournament of the current European Under-21 Championship.



The tournament kicks off on 17 June with the hosts facing Denmark at Stadion Eden in Prague, and anticipation has been rising for months. *"It's the biggest football event we've ever held,"* says Petr Fousek, head of the local organising committee. *"We believe Prague, Olomouc and Uherske Hradiste will become capital cities of football and that the fans will leave with awesome experiences. We expect top-quality football and that people will enjoy the hospitality of the Czech Republic."*

The home supporters are certainly enthusiastic. A trophy tour organised by the Football Association of the Czech Republic was well attended and kept the championship at the forefront of people's minds. Czech greats such as Pavel Horváth, Antonín Panenka and Zdeněk Grygera joined the tour, which stopped at league games around the country, including the derby between AC Sparta Praha and SK Slavia Praha on 11 April.

Czech television has been profiling the U21 players, while tournament ambassador Pavel Nedvěd drummed up support by running the Prague half-marathon wearing a European Under-21 Championship top, calling on fans to get involved. *"We'll do our best to fill the stadiums and show that the Czech Republic really lives for football,"* Nedvěd said.

The final will be played at the 20,800-capacity Stadion Eden on 30 June, yet the tournament will be enjoyed by supporters across the nation. *"The concept is Group A in Prague and Bohemia, and Group B in Moravia, so we cover the whole country,"* Fousek explained. *"We didn't want to limit it to a small region, so we will offer all fans in the Czech Republic – and also, we hope, from abroad – good accessibility to matches."*

Football enthusiasts have much to look forward to from a development tournament that showcases Europe's brightest young talent. The Spain side that lifted the title in 2013 shows the calibre of player keen to garner important finals experience: David de Gea, Asier Illarramendi, Koke, Thiago Alcántara and Isco all impressed as Spain successfully defended their crown.



Getty Images

Who will follow Spain on 30 June?

This time, La Roja are already out, stunned in the play-offs by Serbia, who sealed their place with Filip Kostić's added-time, second-leg clincher. Sweden, too, were late victors, knocking out France with a goal at the death as a qualifying competition spanning 20 months, 52 teams and 234 matches went to the wire.

Serbia join the Czech hosts, 2009 champions Germany, and Denmark in Group A. In Group B two-time winners England, Italy – champions a record five times – Portugal and Sweden square off. Four sides will also qualify for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, providing further motivation. *"It's a great stage,"* Sweden striker John Guidetti says. *"Some of the best players in the world play in these tournaments. Anybody who loves football will want to watch."*

For the coaches, a ticket to the Olympics and a shot at the trophy is the short-term goal, but the bigger picture is preparing these players for the future. *"This tournament is very, very useful – only teams who have had this experience know how big an influence it can have on player development,"* Serbia coach Mladen Dodić says. *"These finals are the best possible stage for them."*

Veterans of past U21 championships vouch for that. Petr Čech, triumphant with the Czechs in 2002, considers that event a pivotal career moment: *"The fact we won showed we could stand up to the best teams in the world and that all of us were good enough to play for any team. For me personally, it was a big motivation to see that I could hold my own in top-level football."* With such outstanding role models, the Czech Republic have reason to start dreaming again. ●

OFF TO THE EUROPE'S NORTHERNMOST CAPITAL

Eighteen months after Germany lifted the trophy for a record fourth time in England in December 2013, the European Women's Under-17 Championship final tournament will take place in Iceland between 22 June and 4 July.



Unusually, the 2013/14 event was held in the winter, in time to determine Europe's qualifiers for the 2014 U-17 Women's World Cup. It returns to its normal summer slot this season, with England, France, holders Germany, Norway, the Republic of Ireland, Spain and Switzerland joining the Icelandic hosts in vying for the European crown.

The competition came of age in 2013/14 when, for the first time, the final tournament was staged away from the UEFA campus in Nyon, Switzerland. It was expanded from four to eight teams to reflect the growth in women's youth football, but though the format and venue may have changed, Germany's pre-eminence did not. As with the seniors, Germany are the dominant force in European football at this level, winning all four finals they have contested since the championship's introduction in 2007/08. Two of those victories, in 2009 and 2013/14, came at the expense of Spain, who are the second most successful side with two titles. In a battle of the champions, Germany and Spain meet again in Group A on 25 June. Only Poland, in 2013, have broken those countries' grip on the WU17 crown.

The tournament will be played in and around Reykjavik in southwest Iceland, with three venues in the capital and three more in neighbouring Akranes, Grindavik and Kopavogur. Reykjavik, Europe's northernmost capital, provides the base for the finals as well as the ideal starting point to get to know this unique island nation, home to the continent's largest glacier. Driving away from Reykjavik's picturesque harbour, the town soon gives way to a rugged volcanic landscape, famous for the stunning Gullfloss waterfall, geysers and hot geothermal springs such as the Blue Lagoon just outside Grindavik. No trip to Iceland is complete without a wallow in the Blue Lagoon's waters.

Iceland are no strangers to the European Women's Under-17 Championship. In 2011 they beat Sweden en route to their first final tournament, and though they were defeated heavily by both Germany and Spain in Switzerland (both of whom Iceland face in Group A this time around), the experience was an important one.

Icelandic international Glódís Perla Viggósdóttir was in that team that reached the semi-finals and she has urged the current generation to make the most of an experience they will never forget. She recalls: "It was frustrating to lose both games heavily, but the experience of playing big

matches in a big tournament was good. Maybe we didn't think it at the time, but it is an enormous experience to play games like that and handle the pressure."

Two years later Viggósdóttir, who is still just 19, was in Iceland's Women's EURO 2013 squad, and she credits playing in the U17 finals for helping prepare her for Europe's elite. "I remember going with the seniors to EURO 2013 and feeling like I had done something similar before," she said. "That comes from experiencing it with the youth sides, which helps you prepare."

Germany's Women's EURO 2013 winners would concur, with no fewer than seven of them having triumphed at U17 level. Leonie Maier and Dzenifer Marozsán in 2007, Isabelle Linden and Svenja Huth in 2008, Jennifer Cramer and Luisa Wensing in 2009, and Sara Däbritz in 2012 – all have landed the junior prize. "It was the first big trophy for me," Marozsán said of Germany's 2007 success. "The moment you lift the trophy you don't think about anything, you just enjoy having achieved what you dreamt of as a child. It is an indescribable feeling." And one that the girls of all eight squads in Iceland will be hoping to savour for themselves come 4 July. ●

2015 EUROPEAN WOMEN'S UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL TOURNAMENT 22 June–4 July 2015

Group A
England, Germany, Iceland, Spain

Group B
France, Norway, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland

England (Sarah McKeivitt) and the Republic of Ireland (Anna Patten) have both qualified for the final round



Sportsfile

DUBLIN HERE WE COME

The cream of Europe's amateur footballers will descend on Dublin this summer when the Republic of Ireland hosts the final tournament of the ninth UEFA Regions' Cup.

This will be the first UEFA tournament to be held on Irish soil since the 1994 European Under-16 Tournament, and the Football Association of Ireland is pulling out all the stops to ensure the event goes off without a hitch. The draw for the 2014/15 UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament took place at the Dublin Arena in March, with UEFA Youth and Amateur Football Committee chairman Jim Boyce joined by former World Cup star Ray Houghton and Ireland's most capped amateur international, James Walsh.

Ireland's representatives, Eastern Region, were grouped with Bosnia and Herzegovina outfit Tuzla Canton, Czech Republic side South Moravia and Turkish team Ankara in Group A.

Group B pools Croatian side Zagreb with 2006/07 winners Dolnośląski (Poland), Northern

Ireland's Eastern Region and German region Württemberg.

The UEFA Regions' Cup final tournament commences on Friday 26 June in the Irish capital and culminates when the winners of each group meet in the final on Saturday 4 July.

The FAI president, Tony Fitzgerald, said: "It is a great honour for the Football Association of Ireland to host this prestigious event. It is more than 20 years since a major tournament was held on Irish soil so there is a lot of excitement among the Irish football community in anticipation of the UEFA Regions' Cup finals coming to the Dublin area. This competition is tremendously important to amateur footballers across Europe. They seldom get an opportunity to play on an international stage and representing their regions in this competition is something they'll never forget. We anticipate some brilliant games of football, but what we can guarantee is a very warm welcome from Ireland to all of our visitors."

Italian selection Veneto won the 2013 edition on home soil. They also won the initial tournament in 1999. The subsequent winners were Central Moravia (Czech Republic) in 2000/01, Italians C. R. Piemonte Valle d'Aosta in 2002/03, Spain's Basque Country in 2004/05, Dolnośląski two years later, Spanish side Castilla y León in 2008/09 and Portuguese team Braga in 2010/11. ●

Stephen Finn

Tallaght Stadium will host matches of the Republic of Ireland's Eastern Region team as well as the final of the UEFA Regions' Cup



THE STADIUMS

TALLAGHT STADIUM

The top league ground in the country, with a capacity of 6,000, this stadium will host two of the Eastern Region (IRL) Group A fixtures and the final.

UCD BOWL

The UCD Bowl is the home of league club UCD AFC and is based on the campus of University College Dublin. It has been used for top-level football matches since 2008 and also houses the UCD rugby club. The ground capacity is 3,000, with 1,500 seats, and it has one of the widest pitches in the league.

RICHMOND PARK

This ground is situated 4km from the heart of Dublin city centre and is one of the oldest grounds in the country. League of Ireland football was played there as far back as 1925 – 26 years before current owners St Patrick's Athletic joined the league for the first time. The capacity is 5,340, with 2,800 seats.

TOLKA PARK

Tolka Park is another famous old Irish football ground situated close to the heart of the city centre. Now home to Shelbourne FC, the ground was originally the home of Drumcondra FC, a famous Irish club that ceased trading in the early 1970s. The venue has a capacity of 4,500.

HOME FARM FC

Home Farm FC is one of Dublin's oldest schoolboy football clubs, having commenced in 1928. The seated capacity is 300. Three Group B fixtures in the UEFA Regions' Cup final round will take place at this venue.

CARLISLE GROUNDS

This is the only tournament venue which is outside of Dublin. It is situated in the County Wicklow coastal town of Bray, just under 21km from the heart of Dublin city. This is another ground with a storied history, having hosted cricket as far back as 1862, when it was called the Carlisle Cricket and Archery Ground, before being renamed with its present moniker. The Carlisle Grounds venue currently has 3,185 seats. ● S.F.

DESTINATION BERLIN: YOUR FULL GUIDE TO FINAL WEEK

The last preparations are being made for the 2015 UEFA Champions League final, with Berlin ready to host European club football's showpiece match on Saturday 6 June – and while the match itself will dominate proceedings, there are plenty of other activities going on around the German capital.



The final will be played at the Olympiastadion, built for the 1936 Olympic Games and the home ground of Hertha BSC Berlin since the Bundesliga was established in 1963. Extensively renovated between 2000 and 2004 in advance of the 2006 World Cup – at which it hosted the Italy v France final – the stadium has been the venue for the German Cup final since 1985 and has a UEFA capacity of 70,500.

While the European Cup final has never before been staged in Berlin – indeed, this will be the first UEFA club competition final to be played in the city – the Olympiastadion boasts a rich sporting and cultural heritage outside football. In addition to the 1936 Olympics, it also hosted the 2009 World Championships in Athletics, while the likes of the Rolling Stones, U2, Bruce Springsteen and Madonna have all performed at the venue.

Let the festivities commence

Though most of the focus will understandably be on the game, there is much else for visitors to Berlin to enjoy. The UEFA Champions Festival has been a key part of the UEFA Champions League final for many years now, and this year it will be held at the Brandenburg Gate between 4 and 7 June. The festival will start in the historical site of Pariser Platz and continue west through Brandenburg Gate, across Platz des 18. März and along the first part of Strasse des 17 Juni.

Entrance is free, as usual, and a host of activities will be on offer to the thousands of visitors – indeed, there will be more entertainment, music and football-themed events than ever before. These include Friday's Ultimate Champions match, in which a number of former stars will revive their skills for a five-a-side contest. With a litany of high-profile names involved, this has proved very popular in the past and seems sure to be one of the most exciting attractions again, although it will not be the sole opportunity for visitors to interact with some of the legends of the game – there will be a series of autograph sessions with former UEFA Champions League aces.

As part of the build-up to the final, fans at the festival will have an assortment of other football-related features to enjoy. Such highlights include the chance to play on a pitch installed in front of the monumental Brandenburg Gate; to have their photograph taken with one of the world's most famous sporting prizes, the UEFA Champions League trophy; to win tickets to the final and take the UEFA Champions League trophy to the stadium; and to test their skills in the football activities organised by UEFA Champions League partners and against world-renowned football freestylers.

And that is not all that's on offer: the UEFA Champions Festival will also showcase sets from some of the best DJs in Berlin and Germany, plus bands on the stage, while there will also be a strong visual element, including the Champions film and several other short movies from around



Sportsfile

the world, shown on a giant screen at the open air cinema. Fans will also get to witness some of the best youth football at the UEFA Young Champions tournament.

The UEFA Champions Festival begins at 11.00 local time on Thursday 4 June and will be open throughout the following three days, before closing its doors for the last time at 17.00 on the Sunday. ●

From 4 to 7 June, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin will come alive with the UEFA Champions Festival

COACHING CONVENTION REVISED

Since its launch in 1997, the UEFA Coaching Convention has improved coaching standards, established the credibility of the coaching profession and paved the way for the free movement of qualified coaches within Europe. Around 200,000 coaches across Europe now have a UEFA-endorsed coaching qualification – and the convention has recently been revised and updated in line with developments within coaching and coach education, both at UEFA and across Europe.

The convention has a number of clear aims: to ensure the future quality of football, given that coaches play crucial roles in building teams and nurturing players; to promote European integration, through the free movement of coaches and mutual recognition of coaching qualifications; to create unified minimum coaching standards; to protect players from unqualified coaches; to increase the numbers of qualified male and female coaches who are recognised throughout Europe; and to establish coaching as a recognised profession.

creating more coherence, consistency and clarity in legal terms.

UEFA has introduced specialist goalkeeper and futsal coach education programmes in recent times, with accompanying diplomas and licences, so specific rules on goalkeeper and futsal coach education have been included in the 2015 document. This means that all of the coaching licences in place at UEFA level are incorporated in the new convention.

Other major features of the 2015 convention include the adjustment of the minimum hours of education for each coaching diploma course, further organisational details and greater flexibility for UEFA member associations to regulate their own further education courses.

Important tool

"This document will be an important tool for technical directors and heads of coach education to improve the quality of their own coaching education," says panel member Michel Sablon, former long-serving technical director of the Royal Belgian Football Association. *"It is, without any doubt, a fundamental document for all associations to create more consistency in the process of educating coaches and to improve the quality of European football."*

"The new convention is a huge step for training in Europe," adds Ginés Meléndez, another panel member and director of Spain's national coaching school. *"One of the basic pillars in the success of partnerships is the training of coaches, and UEFA, with this convention, offers them all the tools they need for their development."*

Howard Wilkinson, English League Managers' Association (LMA) chairman and former technical director of the English FA, concludes: *"The continuous development and provision of education are critical to the improvement of all our lives. Once again, UEFA has demonstrated its huge commitment to those responsibilities. The revised convention is proof of this and once again raises the bar in terms of both standards and content."* ●



UEFA via Getty Images

Coach education remains a focal point for UEFA

The revised edition of the convention was given the green light by the UEFA Executive Committee at its meeting in Nyon in December, having previously been endorsed by both the UEFA Development and Technical Assistance Committee and the UEFA Jira Panel, which is responsible for monitoring and developing coach education activities as well as helping to implement the convention.

The content has been restructured in as simple and clear a manner as possible, with the result that the document is more user-friendly and easier to read and understand. The previous 2010 contract and directives have been brought together in a single document, with the aim of

STUDYING FOR SUCCESS

Over 1,300 coaches have participated in UEFA's Pro licence student exchange courses since their inauguration in 2011, and the results are being seen across the European game.

A range of different experience levels have been represented in the sessions in Nyon, Switzerland, from top players looking to pave the way for their next challenge in football, to long-standing coaches aiming to hone their skills. Underpinning all of the attendance is the mantra that education can bring success.

Ukrainian success

Serhiy Rebrov enjoyed a fantastic career as a player, plying his trade in England, Turkey and Russia as well as two stints with FC Dynamo Kyiv. There, he reached a UEFA Champions League semi-final in a team mentored by the visionary Valery Lobanovskiy and, at the time of writing, he sits on top of the Ukrainian premier league as head coach of the same club, having reached the quarter-finals of this season's UEFA Europa League.

"Of course it was very important," says Rebrov of his studies in Nyon and overall education in coaching. *"I'd say that it would be the case for any coach, especially as at that stage I was an assistant. It was very important to have the chance to listen to experts and gain a better understanding of our trade. I think every coach should focus on something that's outside their own model, also looking at others, because every coach probably encounters many different styles of play in their coaching work. You should be able to understand how you should tackle them. Of course, that comes not only from the courses in Nyon, but also the work experiences I've had, which were always very interesting for me."*

A culture of learning

As has become customary, UEFA hosts two courses in the spring in order to share knowledge with national associations. For the first such course in 2015, delegations came to UEFA headquarters from Wales, Turkey, Israel and Hungary for a four-day course run by four coach education specialists from UEFA's Jira Panel along with four UEFA technical instructors.

"The environment is key," said Osian Roberts, coach education director at the Football Association of Wales. *"So UEFA and the course tutors deserve congratulations for creating a team spirit and a culture of learning."*

The Welsh students included former internationals Craig Bellamy, Sol Campbell, Les Ferdinand and Patrick Vieira, as well as Tim



The first course in 2015 brought together representatives of the Hungarian, Israeli, Turkish and Welsh FAs

Sherwood and Garry Monk, currently coaching in England's Premier League.

"One part of my role is to hopefully enthuse others to follow in my footsteps," said Wales women's coach Jayne Ludlow of her attendance in April. *"We have a few female B licence coaches back home but I would like to see more. The standard of the women's game and its profile is increasing, and there have been people like me who have put themselves in these situations to develop their knowledge and understanding of the game, so they can stand toe to toe with a male coach."*

"It was a warm environment and a busy programme," said Yücel Ayar, head of coach education at the Turkish Football Federation. *"The contact with the other associations helped us assess our strengths and weaknesses and see what we can improve."* Pini Kainan, who captained the team of coaches from Israel, shared his view: *"We had extraordinary instructors who taught us new things,"* he said. *"And the dialogue with other countries made a huge contribution to our knowledge."*

The fourth season of courses was rounded off by a visit by students from Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain in May. The key for the coaches is to make sure that the learning process does not end there.

"Our aim is to put our country's football on a new footing," said Hungary's coach education director, László Szalai. *"To do that, we need a generation of open-minded coaches who are eager to learn. This course created a football family and an excellent atmosphere for learning."* ●

DIVERSE FOUNDATIONS

Just three months after the staging of the inaugural training sessions for participants, UEFA's innovative Captains of Change programme is already increasing diversity in football at grassroots level.

Lee Tavinder, referee manager and part of the football development team at the Irish Football Association (IFA), has staged the last of his three courses, one of which was in the picturesque setting of the Mid Ulster Sports Arena in Cookstown, Northern Ireland. There, members of the Portuguese community were encouraged to become active in football in Northern Ireland by attending a refereeing workshop, while a group of East Timorese enthusiasts enjoyed an introduction to futsal.

This is just one example of how UEFA's new diversity programme is reaping rewards across Europe.

Enjoyable involvement

"The group joining for the futsal attended the first workshop in Dungannon about four weeks ago," Lee explained. "It came about during a question and answer session at the end, when they told us that they had never had any formal coaching and were just really playing after school and college. We gave them a basic introduction and some formalised coaching, which is what they asked for. It's great to see the guys back."

Those players had struggled to find a structure for their football previously and the Captains of Change project provided a first chance for interaction between the group and the IFA.

Captains of Change primarily aims to foster the integration of recognised minority groups in football, particularly people marginalised on the grounds of ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation. In doing so, the aim is to create Captains of Change who will ultimately influence the culture of football organisations through the implementation of national and local initiatives. Judging by the smiles on the faces of participants in Cookstown, that process is already under way in Northern Ireland, even before this course has finished.

"Everything they do is great and I've been learning real skills here," said Juvito Gutierrez, after showing some neat touches on the indoor court during the session. *"We enjoy it, the pitches are great and I've never done things like these in my life. It's amazing."*

"It's the first time that we are all playing futsal," added Roy Setiawan, the senior member of the group. *"A lot of people from our community love playing football and this gives us a grassroots opportunity, where we can belong. We have nine teams [from the East Timorese community in Northern Ireland] and there are*

around 20 players in each so we have almost 200 footballers in the country and they have natural skill so it would be so positive to have them trained up. There is some real talent but they just need coaching. In some cases, understanding the Laws [of the Game] has been vital and that's why the first course has been very helpful: you must know the Laws of the Game to be a good football player."

The project spreads its wings

The fact that the East Timorese community were involved in a second session shows how quickly impetus has gathered behind Lee Tavinder's project, one of the pivotal points of which was the introductory pathway to refereeing. As well as futsal, there were coach education strands to the evening in Cookstown, which shows the impact of Lee having already motivated, encouraged and inspired people and, crucially, taken the initiative on matters of diversity in Northern Ireland through his involvement in the project.

"One of the things that has surprised me about the workshops is the impact that they've had," he said, as he prepared for the third and final session in Portadown. *"I approached*



it initially on a refereeing basis to give people knowledge of the Laws of the Game and to start bringing referees in from a more diverse background. What has actually happened organically is that different parts of the football association are now involved. We've had somebody delivering on futsal, on coaching and on coach education as well, so we can try and upscale the coaches. So this has become far more than just a refereeing programme: it's a full football programme and it's great to see the impact that it's having."

Running parallel to the futsal session, the informative and interactive series of referee exercises took place with a recently formed football team from the Portuguese community, who relished the chance to learn the basic signals and Laws of the Game along with a diverse local group from Cookstown United Youth. They debated examples of incidents from the field before relocating to the indoor sports arena to try it for themselves as both referees and assistants.

"I have seen first-hand what a valuable tool refereeing can be to capture the interest of footballers who simply have a love of the game," Lee continued. "I have been very successful in advertising the rest of my project throughout the rest of football development and am considering a 'train the trainer' project that will improve the reach of the project and give me more flexibility as to where I deliver the workshops and to whom."

"It's a good opportunity to take a referee course and we are grateful," said Paulo Pires after enjoying producing a red card in his practical refereeing session. "This helps to take away some of the doubts that we had about football. It's certainly inspiring in a good sense, because we are a small group of players from the Portuguese community and this ends up motivating us for the future. I hope that this will help to create friendship and further unite the Portuguese here in Northern Ireland."

Diverse networking

UEFA's Captains of Change programme consists of three main pillars: four-person meetings, a training week and individual projects – the latter forming the backbone of the programme. Support and input for those projects are provided through the meetings, which involve the participant, a representative of the national association's senior management, a representative of UEFA and a member of the programme team. The networking aspect has gone further still, with Lee Tavinder in regular contact with fellow Captains of Change Henrik Lunde (Football Association of Norway) and Jennifer



Lee Tavinder, a Captain of Change

Malone (Scottish Football Association), meaning that each ripple of change in European football is becoming a wave.

Projects run by national association employees and UEFA partners will be presented later in the year and documented on www.UEFA.org, demonstrating that UEFA is committed to action to promote the values of respect and inclusion.

The impact on the refereeing fraternity in Northern Ireland – and the wider football family – is to be judged on legacy, but captains are starting to make a change across European football. Momentum is building! ●



WOMEN'S EURO 2017

On 20 April, the UEFA headquarters in Nyon hosted the Women's EURO 2017 qualifying round draw, producing the following groups:

- Group 1: Iceland, Scotland, Belarus, Slovenia, FYR Macedonia
- Group 2: Spain, Finland, Republic of Ireland, Portugal, Montenegro
- Group 3: France, Ukraine, Romania, Greece, Albania
- Group 4: Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Slovakia, Moldova
- Group 5: Germany, Russia, Hungary, Turkey, Croatia
- Group 6: Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, Georgia
- Group 7: England, Belgium, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia
- Group 8: Norway, Austria, Wales, Israel, Kazakhstan

The fixtures will take the form of home-and-away matches between 14 September 2015 and 20 September 2016. The group winners and the six best runners-up will qualify directly for the final round in the Netherlands in 2017. The remaining two runners-up will meet in a play-off to determine the 16th finalist, as the final round has been extended from 12 to 16 teams. ●

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Between 6 June and 5 July, 24 teams, including 8 from Europe, will be taking part in the FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada. The matches will take place in Edmonton, Moncton, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver and Winnipeg, in the following groups:

- Group A: Canada, China, New Zealand, Netherlands
- Group B: Germany, Ivory Coast, Norway, Thailand
- Group C: Japan, Switzerland, Cameroon, Ecuador
- Group D: USA, Australia, Sweden, Nigeria
- Group E: Brazil, South Korea, Spain, Costa Rica
- Group F: France, England, Colombia, Mexico

The group matches will take place between 6 and 17 June, the round of 16 matches from 20 to 23 June, the quarter-finals on 26 and 27 June, the semi-finals on 30 June and 1 July, the third-place play-off on 4 July, and the final on 5 July in Vancouver. ●

U-20 WORLD CUP

This year's U-20 World Cup will take place in New Zealand. Six teams will represent Europe, and they have been drawn into the following groups:

- Group A: New Zealand, Ukraine, USA, Myanmar
- Group B: Argentina, Panama, Ghana, Austria
- Group C: Qatar, Colombia, Portugal, Senegal
- Group D: Mexico, Mali, Uruguay, Serbia
- Group E: Nigeria, Brazil, North Korea, Hungary
- Group F: Germany, Fiji, Uzbekistan, Honduras

The group matches will take place from 30 May to 7 June, the round of 16 matches on 10 and 11 June, the quarter-finals on 14 June, the semi-finals on 17 June, and the third-place play-off and the final on 20 June. ●

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S U-19 CHAMPIONSHIP



The line-up for the 2014/15 European Women's Under-19 Championship final round in Israel from 15 to 27 July is now final. It comprises group winners Germany, England, Denmark, Spain, France and Sweden, best runner-up Norway, and Israel, who qualify automatically. The outcome of the final round draw on 20 May is available on www.UEFA.com. ●

FROM TOP PLAYERS TO TOP LEADERS

Former European football stars have praised the launch of the UEFA Executive Master for International Players (UEFA MIP), an educational programme aiming to equip specialists on the pitch with the tools to excel in the administrative management of the sport.

The course will give former top players – both male and female – the opportunity to enhance their skills in leadership and decision-making, in order to enrich football's future. It will be delivered by two world-class academic institutions: the Centre de Droit et d'Economie du Sport (CDES) at the University of Limoges (France) and the Birkbeck Sport Business Centre at the University of London. It has been developed in partnership with both FIFPro and the European Club Association (ECA).

"We need active participants in the [football] authorities as well as on the pitch", said Croatian Football Federation president Davor Šuker, himself a former UEFA Champions League winner. "When you finish your [playing] career, you need to develop further in order to create an understanding of what is required to be a president or employee within a sports association."



Davor Šuker

Further information on the course – including the official brochure – can be found on www.UEFA.org and www.uefamip.com, where the UEFA President, Michel Platini, expands on the value of constant evolution in the sport. *"Football is ever-evolving, something known all too well by those who have reached the highest levels on the field", he says. "Having been leaders on the pitch, we encourage you through this course to move forwards with your aims to become influential in your roles off it, to preserve the values of football and continue to be a part of bringing joy to fans across Europe and beyond."*

"When you stop playing, you must have some sort of preparation that allows you to start a new life," agrees former international Zbigniew Boniek, now president of the Polish Football Federation. "I think that if UEFA offers projects in order for players to follow new life paths, I can only applaud them for their efforts." ●

A UEFA FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING

The UEFA Foundation for Children was born of the desire of UEFA and the UEFA President, Michel Platini, to play a larger part in humanitarian projects by utilising football's popularity and power.

UEFA, in partnership with recognised non-governmental organisations, has supported initiatives to help children for many years. The creation of the UEFA Foundation for Children marks a significant strategic change: from now on, UEFA will provide itself with the means to run more projects and thereby help more children in need. The foundation also enables UEFA to get involved in projects directly through an approach that favours listening to and taking into account the needs of those receiving help to determine the best solutions.

The foundation's board of trustees met for the first time on 23 March 2015 in Vienna, on the eve of the 39th Ordinary UEFA Congress. The board members come from the worlds of politics, football and charities. José Manuel Barroso, former president of the European Commission, was elected for a four-year term as chairman of the board. The trustees are: Sándor Csányi – Hungary (founder of the Csányi Foundation for Children), Norman Darmanin Demajo – Malta (founder of The Time2Think Organisation), Peter Gilliéron – Switzerland (president and chairman of UEFA's Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee), Margarita Louis-Dreyfus – France (president of the Louis-Dreyfus Foundation), Michel Platini – France (UEFA President), and Viviane Reding – Luxembourg (member of the European parliament).

During this inaugural meeting, the board of trustees decided what the foundation's first projects would be. The projects chosen were selected because they will help promote children's fundamental rights as recognised in international conventions, according to the principle that children are people in their own right, who have rights and can assert them.

UEFA has handed over two existing programmes to the foundation. They are the Zaatari project, based in the refugee camp of the same name, and the Just Play project, a programme to promote education and tackle childhood obesity in the Pacific Islands. These programmes are centred around access to sport and to football, whose values help to teach respect, fair play and solidarity and also help to raise awareness of issues relating to health, lifestyle and well-being.

During EURO 2016, the foundation will also co-finance two initiatives for children: an international solidarity tournament organised by Sport dans la Ville (Sport in the City) and a European schools tournament run by the national union of school sport (UNSS). The foundation, in collaboration with the host cities, will also enable more than 20,000 disadvantaged



Kids: Tonga

The Zaatari and Just Play projects are now in the hands of the UEFA Foundation for Children



UEFA Foundation

children to attend a EURO 2016 match, in an initiative entitled 20,000 Children's Smiles.

The UEFA Foundation for Children has decided to allocate its €1m annual solidarity fund for 2015 to a project designed to improve communication and education for autistic children in Europe. This project is organised by the International Foundation of Applied Disability Research (FIRAH). Using innovative methods, this programme will make it possible to improve the daily lives of autistic children and give hope to their families. The programme will also include research and development to improve existing materials and apps.

The UEFA Foundation for Children will also carry out specific initiatives during this season's club competition finals. It will invite 100 disadvantaged children to the UEFA Europa League final and another 20 to the UEFA Champions League final, making their dreams come true.

The UEFA Foundation for Children is an integral part of the football family and it encourages its member associations to support these social and humanitarian projects. ●

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS



The most coveted trophy in Austrian youth football

The Coca-Cola Cup competition, organised by the Austrian Football Association with the regional football associations and Coca-Cola, is the most prestigious in Austrian youth football. Now into its 11th season, the competition takes on a slightly different look this year, with the introduction of a separate Coca-Cola Girls' Cup for the country's top Under-15 girls' teams.

Up to early June, the girls and the country's best Under-12 boys' teams will be playing in nine regional tournaments to determine which go through to the final tournament at the FK Austria Wien academy on 20 and 21 June, where the title holders, SK Rapid Wien, and the hosts, FK Austria Wien, will be joined by the regional tournament winners and runners-up.

Austrian international and Coca-Cola Cup ambassador David Alaba will be on hand to



The winners of the 2014 Coca-Cola Cup

present the trophy to the winning team. Over the past ten years, more than 1,400 teams with over 21,000 players have shown off their skills to more than 100,000 spectators. David Alaba,

a huge fan of the Coca-Cola Cup, said: "Big competitions like this are very important for young players and a stepping stone towards a successful career."

● Carmen Redl



UEFA development tournaments in Baku



Azerbaijan's U16 girls celebrate winning the UEFA development tournament

From 10 to 19 April, UEFA development tournaments were held in Baku for U16 girls' and boys' teams. Teams from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Greece and Kazakhstan took part in the tournaments. The matches took place at the Dalga Stadium, built by the Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) in the Mardakan area of Baku, and at the Bayil Stadium in the area of the same name.

Azerbaijan won both tournaments (boys and girls) after a hard fight. Afterwards, Elkhon Mammadov, general secretary of the AFFA, said: "It's been a pleasure for us to hold two UEFA development tournaments in Baku over nine days in April for U16 girls and boys. We've seen some interesting matches. Such tournaments are very important for broadening the experience of teen players. Much to our delight, our teams won both tournaments. There was also a lot of fan interest. CNN, one of the most popular TV channels, filmed the matches and did a report. Generally, tournaments like this are extremely useful for increasing the popularity of the game."

● Firuz Abdulla



A historic year for football

Sarajevo hosted the AGM of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation, which rated the past year as the most successful in the history of the federation, thanks in the main to the performance of the Dragons at the World Cup. Another very significant achievement was that the federation finished the year in the black, making football perhaps the most successful sport in the country. The meeting was attended by UEFA's first vice-president, Şenes Erzik, who told the assembly: "I'm glad to be here again after two years. I've seen great progress, both on the field and beyond. I was in Brazil and followed your team. I was very happy to see the great strides they have made."

The president of the federation, Elvedin Begić, said: "We are living the dream of seeing our football progress," while Jasmin Baković, general secretary, referred to the historic achievements of the year gone by: "In the last year we have done the right thing. It is the story of lawful and transparent work. It is the story of a federation which was suspended and facing bankruptcy. Now we are in the black, and our national team has made its first appearance in the World Cup. We have special support from FIFA and UEFA, and the ship called the Bosnia

and Herzegovina Football Federation is steering towards a quiet harbour, or is already there."

At the meeting, the delegates voted overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal to reduce the premier league from the 2016/17 season. As a result, six clubs will drop out of the top flight at the end of the 2015/16 season, and the winners of the first division will qualify for the 2016/17 premier league, which will consist of 12 clubs.

Turning to activities on the field of play, following their 3-0 win in Andorra, the Dragons travelled to Vienna for a friendly against Austria (1-1), and now look forward with some optimism to their next EURO 2016 qualifier, against Israel on 12 June in Zenica. Meanwhile, the U21 team beat Turkey 2-1 in a friendly, and the U19s played two friendlies against Albania, winning both.

At U17 level, the fourth Josip Katalinski Skija memorial tournament was held in Sarajevo and won by the team from Belgrade, who beat the team from Montenegro 2-1 in the final. In the match for third place, the Bosnian U17s proved stronger than the team representing Sarajevo and East Sarajevo, beating them 2-1. In the semi-finals, the team from Belgrade beat the Bosnian U17s 5-2, and Montenegro beat Sarajevo and East Sarajevo 2-1.

● Fuad Kravac



The AGM looked back at a very successful year

Celebrating International Romani Day

Under the sponsorship of the Croatian Football Federation (HNS), International Romani Day was celebrated in Croatia on 8 April under the motto 'Football united against violence, racism, discrimination and poverty'.

The HNS is the main partner of the International Romani Union, which promotes education and sports opportunities for Roma people and raises awareness of the discrimination, racism and segregation of Roma people that still exist in society.

The HNS president, Davor Šuker, was on hand to support the celebrations in Croatia. He donated footballs to the Romani team and called on the public to join in the fight against racism: "We will never get tired of helping. We want to have football camps in smaller communities and raise awareness of the problems and suffering of Roma people. That is our responsibility towards our Romani friends."



Davor Šuker at International Romani Day

I wish them the best of luck in gaining the support they need. They deserve to live with dignity in Croatia."

Toti Dedić, president of the International Romani Union, said: "It is an honour to send a joint message with the Croatian Football Federation and its president, Davor Šuker, who was among the first to come to support us on this day. We thank him, and we send a message of peace, tolerance and respect. We have to work on these issues in the future, to have fans respect players from foreign countries, and of different races and nationalities."

In other news, at the HNS annual meeting in Zagreb, Ivica Grnja, Ivica Perković and Ante Ivković received the 'Trofej podmlatka', the highest HNS award, for their youth team work.

In his address to the delegates, the HNS president stressed the need to continue to put up a strong fight against racism and violence. He also mentioned several HNS accomplishments:

"The excellent results of our national clubs and successful leadership. Croatia remains a respectable football force. With help from FIFA and UEFA, the HNS collected almost 10 million kuna to help the victims of the floods in Slavonia. We were selected as the hosts of the European Under-17 Championship final round in 2017, hosted the AEFCA [Alliance of European Football Coaches' Associations] Congress, and were recognised by UEFA for our work on digital platforms. Our technical director, Romeo Jozak, also visited every Croatian county to make an analysis that served as groundwork for a strategy we started building at Plitvice Lakes, where we gathered all the key stakeholders in Croatian football."

● Tomislav Pacak

Iceland come out top in the Faroes

The Faroe Islands hosted two youth development tournaments in April. In both tournaments, Iceland came out on top. The boys' and girls' UEFA U16 development tournaments were played in Torshavn, the capital of the Faroe Islands. The participating teams were Iceland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Faroe Islands in both tournaments.

The boys' tournament was played first and was an evenly matched competition. However, in the end Iceland came out on top with seven points. They won their first two matches, against Wales and Northern Ireland, by narrow margins, and drew their final match, against the Faroe Islands, 1-1. In the penalty shoot-out to decide the winners, the Faroe Islands won 3-2, thanks mainly to three consecutive saves by goalkeeper Bárður á Reynatrøð. The final standings in the boys' tournament were Iceland 7 points, Wales 6 points, Faroe Islands 4 points and Northern Ireland 1 point.

In the girls' tournament, Iceland were by far the strongest team. They beat Wales 3-1, Northern Ireland 7-0 and, in their final game, thrashed the local girls from the Faroes 10-0. Iceland therefore finished on a maximum of nine points. Wales came second with 5 points, Northern Ireland third with 3 points, and the Faroe Islands fourth with 1 point.

The tournaments were a great success, but while the weather was good for the boys' tournament, the conditions were not great for the girls.

● Terji Nielsen



Faroe Islands v Northern Ireland

A lasting legacy

With EURO 2016 in mind and as part of its efforts to support and strengthen French football clubs, the French Football Federation (FFF) has invited the amateur football world to submit projects for its Horizon Bleu 2016 programme for 2014-16 period.

The aim of this initiative is to ensure that EURO 2016 is a true celebration that leaves a lasting legacy for the future of French football. Horizon Bleu 2016 is, in fact, a continuation of the amateur football assistance fund which the FFF has been running since 2002. It comes with a significant budget, with €37 million available for distribution during the two seasons



concerned (2014/15 and 2015/16). Projects have to fall into one of the following three areas:

- Infrastructure: improving facilities, player transport and playing conditions.
- Training: developing the skills of all coaches through appropriate training.
- Events: encouraging all stakeholders in amateur football to organise activities on the theme of EURO 2016.

Thanks to this programme, the FFF has already been able to help fund numerous club projects, such as the renovation of clubhouses, the construction of beach soccer and five-a-side pitches and the purchase of team vehicles.

● Laura Goutry

A dream come true

For the first time, the national women's team of Georgia have made it through to the main qualifying group stage for Women's EURO 2017 in the Netherlands after a successful preliminary round for the Tamaz Kostava's team. "We've been waiting for this moment for three years. We weren't so successful in the Women's World Cup qualifiers and so pinned our hopes on this tournament. Now we're thrilled to have made it," said player Tako Tatuashvili.

The national women's team finished top of their preliminary round group, ahead of Malta, the Faroe Islands and Andorra.

On 20 April, at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, the draw was made for the main qualifying group stage, as a result of which Georgia find themselves in Group 6 with Italy, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and Northern Ireland.

Tamaz Kostava's team have quite a hefty challenge ahead of them and have a special



A successful EURO preliminary round for the women's national team

training plan in place for the purpose. "I'm so glad we're through but we've got some hard work to do. We're up against some serious opponents and we must be well prepared for that challenge. Our goal is to build a good team and give it our best shot. It will be a good experience for our players," said the head coach. Georgia is proud to have a capable team with good prospects.

● Eka Eloshvili



Integrity programme launched

Match-fixing is a global problem for sport in general and can happen for both sporting and financial reasons. With the increased awareness and interest in Gibraltarian football, both internationally and in our domestic leagues, Gibraltar is not immune to this and could potentially become a prime target for fixers, given their history and track record of targeting vulnerable and emerging players and competitions. The Gibraltar FA has established a partnership with Sportradar Security Services, which is the world's leading supplier of monitoring, prevention and education solutions to sports federations, leagues and clubs all over the world. Sportradar, on behalf of UEFA, actively monitors the activities of the top two leagues and primary cup competitions in the countries of all 54 UEFA member associations.

Over the course of a week, Sportradar will deliver workshops to all top division clubs

and match officials about the dangers and consequences of match-fixing. It is important to note that players are not the only ones who can be targeted. Match officials and coaches can also be vulnerable and find themselves entrapped in the illegal web of match-fixers. Players will be made aware of their responsibilities and of betting rules and regulations, as well as being advised on the consequences (including criminal) of getting involved in match-fixing and, importantly, taken through the process of what they need to do should they be approached by a fixer.

After the workshops, players and officials will be required to complete an e-learning tutorial using a case study involving a former footballer. The Gibraltar FA is committed to education and raising awareness of the dangers of match-fixing, and having a partner like Sportradar on board emphasises that commitment to curbing and preventing this global problem.

● Steven Gonzalez



The Gibraltar FA and Sportradar have joined up to fight match-fixing



Fan card: a useful tool for over 175,000 supporters

Despite protests from some groups of ultras, more and more Hungarian football fans are receiving fan cards, most of them admitting by now that the introduction of the card system is for their own benefit. The aim of introducing the card system is to ease and speed up the ticket purchasing process in Hungary, where all supporters must give personal data ahead of games. At the same time, it can be helpful in maintaining the relationship between a team and its fans.

The number of fan cards issued so far is over 175,000, of which 50,000 are Ferencváros cards and over 30,000 are issued by the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ). Data obtained in relation to national team matches



Fan cards

shows that fans have got used to using these cards. For example, for the European

Championship qualifier against Greece, tickets were sold out a week before the match. Some 60% of ticket purchasers used the option of buying their tickets online with a discount, which meant that, by using their cards, the whole process lasted only around two minutes per purchase.

The MLSZ's aim – led by the federation's president, Sándor Csányi – is to introduce even more discounts in the future. One of the first partners in the scheme is MOL Hungary, which operates the largest network of petrol stations in the country. Recently, the company announced the offer of another card to go with all fan cards, which can be used to obtain a discount on fuel.

● Márton Dinnyés



Fighting hooliganism is still a priority

Following the recent incidents that have marred Italian football, the board of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) have discussed how to increase action against hooliganism and violence. "The government must protect football from violence by using deterrents and severe punishments," said the FIGC president, Carlo Tavecchio, who called for the memorandum of cooperation with the ministry of home affairs to be improved. He said: "There is evidence that the measures which are currently being used to control this phenomenon, such as turnstiles, fan cards, CCTV and bans, to name just a few, have not been enough to stop this serious problem around and inside our stadiums. At the same time, as Italy's football governing body, we must also invest in a cultural improvement in this country because football reflects a number of tensions that exist

in society. It must be made clear that football is the injured party and that it cannot stop these barbarians alone: they are not fans, they are just criminals who must be sanctioned under penal law, which must be applied strictly."



Carlo Tavecchio, president of the FIGC

As the board has called on clubs themselves to take on the responsibility of fighting this phenomenon, it has established a working group to research and implement new regulations to govern the relationship that players and officials have with fans. "Our aim is to prevent a repeat of the incidents that are not yet covered by the sport disciplinary code," said the FIGC president, referring to what happened in Rome and Bergamo, where players were forced to apologise to angry fans. "Any club that shows any sign of weakness towards such supporters must be strongly reprimanded: there's no space for compromises or pacts when public order is threatened by violence or dishonesty," he said. In terms of social responsibility, the FIGC will be holding talks with the ministry of education to promote programmes that aim to increase students' and families' civic values.

● Diego Antenzio

New national stadium by 2017

In March the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) published its plans for a new football stadium in the country's capital, Riga. The idea is to reconstruct the existing football ground on Krišjāņa Barona Street and transform it into a modern sports complex suitable for international games of the national teams of all ages and international games involving local football clubs. The sports complex will also be accessible for other sports and to local schoolchildren. In addition, it will be the new home of the LFF and the museum of football.

The reconstruction process is scheduled to be finished by 2017. The funds for the project will be provided by the LFF, with help from UEFA. At the LFF AGM in March, the plans were presented to the members of the federation, who expressed their support. It will certainly be a busy summer of construction and social engagement planning.

Before that, 20 May will be a significant date in the calendar of Latvian football, because that



Unveiling the plans for the new stadium

is the day when FK Jelgava and FK Ventspils will decide who will be crowned the new holders of the Latvian Cup. The final of the Latvian Cup traditionally marks the time of the year when all

local football competitions in Latvia are in full bloom. A football summer full of colourful events therefore seems more than likely.

● Toms Ārmanis

Women's national team make their debut



Liechtenstein's first women's national team

Liechtenstein has finally made it onto the European women's football map, 81 years after the Liechtenstein Football Association (LFV) was founded. From 6 to 9 April the LFV's women's Under-16 team took part in a UEFA development tournament in Montenegro alongside Luxembourg, FYR Macedonia and the hosts. The LFV team proved themselves worthy representatives of the national colours. Although they failed to secure a first victory in any of their three matches, they exceeded expectations by scoring at least one goal in each match.

The tournament was a great experience for the 18 young players from Liechtenstein, who will certainly never forget being part of the first women's team to represent their country on the international stage. Meanwhile, for the LFV, it is a real sign of the association's commitment to the promotion and further development of women's football in Liechtenstein.

● Anton Banzer

Football for pre-school children

So far, more than 13,000 children have taken part in the Lithuanian Football Federation's long-term grassroots project Futboliukas, the aim of which is to get pre-school children interested in football. From February to April, 32 different pre-schools all over the country participated in this year's event.

Futboliukas is a simple variant of football played indoors with just three players on a team. According to the project director, Vaidotas Rastenis, every season brings something new and reveals different benefits and advantages of the project: "For example, one kindergarten created five playing areas in the same hall, so five matches could take place at once. Another participating pre-school establishment organised three different

football exercises at the same time. It's a good way to organise different activities in a small area or many activities with a large group of children."

The project is now into its eighth season and is expanding year on year. This year football clubs from the top two divisions got involved, with many players visiting schools and kindergartens.

With so many pre-school facilities wanting to take part, the federation needs to make sure that everyone has a chance to get involved, in accordance with its selection criteria.

To thank them for taking part and to encourage them further in their football activities, each participating school or kindergarten receives a set of flexible football goals and foam footballs.

● Vaiva Zizaitė



Cultivating a love of football from a very young age



Ljubinko Drulović new head coach

Ljubinko Drulović, former player with FC Porto, SL Benfica and the Yugoslavia national team, has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract with the Football Federation of FYR Macedonia (FFM) to serve as its head coach.

The decision to appoint him was based on the profile drawn up by the federation. His plan and vision for football in FYR Macedonia, his knowledge and understanding of the country's football, his experience and accomplishments as a coach, his public image, his character and his desire to take up the position all contributed to the federation selecting Drulović, who was named coach of the year in Serbia in 2013.

"I have the honour and the responsibility of being the new head coach of the Macedonian national team. I am very grateful to the president of the Football Federation of [FYR] Macedonia and its executive board for choosing me for this position. Everyone who knows me knows that I will do my best to fulfil their expectations, and I will try to prove that I can bring about positive change in Macedonian football. I promise that together with my staff we will put our best efforts into the national A team. There are five more matches in this qualifying campaign and that is a big challenge for us. Nobody can

guarantee success, but we can promise to do our best to achieve it," he said after his appointment.

In his native Serbia, Drulović played for FK Zlatar, FK Sloga Požega, FK Sloboda Užice, FK Rad and FK Partizan, and in Portugal he played for Gil Vicente FC, FC Porto, SL Benfica and FC Penafiel. He is one of the few players to have contributed to each of Porto's five consecutive league titles in the 1990s, four domestic cup titles and five Super Cup titles.

At international level, he played 38 matches for the Yugoslavian national team and scored three goals. After retiring as a player, he started his coaching career at GD Tourizense in Portugal (2006/07), from where he moved to FK Banat Zrenjanin in Serbia (2008) and NK Drava Ptuj in Slovenia (2008/09). He was also head coach of the Serbian Under-19 team that won the European Under-19 Championship in Lithuania in 2013. In February 2014 he became caretaker national coach of the Serbian national A team, taking charge for four matches. Under his leadership the team won two matches, drew one and lost one.

The FFM believes in his skills and capabilities, that his character, his professionalism and his professional coaching experience will raise the standards of its national team and that he will be the coach who, in cooperation with his



Ljubinko Drulović, head coach

technical staff, makes the best choice of players. The FFM believes that he will take this job very seriously and will create a solid team where the individual players will work as a team and achieve great success. For its part, the federation will give him the support he needs and provide him with the right working conditions for achieving success in the next qualifying matches.

"If we work together as a team, then we will have hope, and later success and great results will come. We need to be united, not only as a team, but as a nation that supports the national team. I am certain that the fans haven't given up on the national team, and we will be happy if they give us the support we need at the matches," the new head coach said at the official press conference announcing his appointment.

● Aleksandra Pejkovska



UEFA diploma for Maltese referees

Following their participation in UEFA's CORE (Centre of Refereeing Excellence) programme, elite referee Philip Farrugia and national assistant referees Ryan Aquilina and Rick Heckenlaible were each awarded a UEFA diploma. These three match officials were the fifth trio from Malta to take part in the UEFA programme since it was approved at a UEFA Executive Committee meeting held in Malta in January 2010, with a view to providing intensive development courses for promising young referees from all UEFA member associations.

The latest Maltese trio to take part in CORE completed the ten-day introductory session in



From left to right: Ryan Aquilina, Philip Farrugia and Rick Heckenlaible

October last year, followed by a seven-day consolidation course at the end of March this year. One of the highlights of the consolidation course, held at the Colovray sports centre in Nyon, Switzerland, was a local match between UGS Genève and Sarraz Eclépens.

The CORE Diploma in Refereeing was awarded after the match officials had been assessed in several areas, including their fitness, technical performance, attitude, organisation and fluency in English. A notable improvement by the three Maltese in these sectors was achieved between the introductory and the consolidation courses. The success of the CORE programme underlines the Malta FA refereeing department's commitment and continuous efforts to support the development of Maltese referees and assistant referees.

Credit for the progress of the island's match officials in domestic and international matches is very much due to UEFA's initiative in conducting such refereeing programmes.

● Alex Vella



Moldova return in style

Moldova made a spectacular start to their Women's EURO 2017 campaign by finishing top of preliminary round Group 1 and thus going through to the main qualifying group stage.

Heading into the last day of action in Moldova, all four teams were level on three points. But while Latvia and Lithuania drew 1-1, Moldova overcame Luxembourg 3-0 to clinch first place, having not played a fixture for eight and a half years before this mini-tournament. In the last match Claudia Chiper scored in the 13th and 86th minutes, followed by a Ludmila Andone clincher to spark Moldovan celebrations.

Having been in abeyance since the Women's World Cup qualifiers in 2006, Moldova returned to the competitive scene by beating Lithuania 2-0. They then lost 1-0 against Latvia, who had gone down 4-3 against Luxembourg, who were themselves subsequently defeated 2-0 by Lithuania.

"We are very happy to have won this mini-tournament but it will be harder in the next matches. I am confident about my players, and there are some young players who can help us in the future. We have time to improve our game for the qualifying group stage matches and we will do our best to not disappoint our supporters," said Alina Stețencu, head coach of the national women's team.

The national team got off to an excellent start in their Women's EURO 2017 campaign

In the qualifying group stage Moldova will compete home and away between September 2015 and September 2016 in eight matches, against Sweden, Denmark, Poland and Slovakia.

● Press office



Great performances

A triumphant Northern Ireland Under-19 learning difficulty squad recently returned from Wales having won the home nations championships for the first time in nine years. The boys



The triumphant Northern Ireland Under-19 learning difficulty squad

Continuing the fight against match-fixing

On 21 April, the headquarters of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF) were the venue for a seminar entitled Clean Football organised by the integrity department of the federation in close cooperation with UEFA. It was the first event ever to be organised by the FRF on the subject of match-fixing, or rigging football games in order to gain illegal profits from sports betting.



The Clean Football seminar

Among those participating in the seminar were representatives of all Romanian law enforcement agencies (justice ministry, general inspectorate of police, national anti-corruption body, national tax administration agency, etc.), other relevant ministries such as the ministry for youth and sport, the Olympic and sports committee, and bodies such as the association of Romanian bookmakers and the association of amateur and non-amateur footballers (the players' union, which has a representative on the FRF's executive committee).

The main aim of the seminar was to increase the level of awareness and knowledge of the Romanian authorities with regard to this issue which, for many years, has infiltrated sport.

gave three great performances in the tournament to secure maximum points with wins against the Republic of Ireland (2-1), Scotland (1-0) and Wales (3-0). The games were played in Newport at the excellent facilities at Dragons Park and Newport County Stadium.

Team manager and Irish FA disability football development manager Alan Crooks was keen to praise the young squad: *"All six games in the competition were tight so it is very pleasing to get that 100% record and come out on top. We stayed patient in all three games and played some great football on our way to deservedly securing the championships for the first time. We have had some good players over the years but I feel this time we had a good squad, a good team spirit and a winning mentality. All 17 players played their part and in many ways it was a perfect competition."*

● Sueann Harrison

The seminar also had an international component since, in order to explain the importance of waging a permanent fight against match-fixing, the FRF had invited Andreas Holzer, head of the Austrian organised crime bureau, and Karl Dhont, a UEFA ethics and disciplinary inspector and an expert in betting. *"All investigations with regard to match-fixing should be a case for the prosecutors, because UEFA and the national associations do not have the necessary capability to carry out such investigations. We simply don't have the technical means that prosecutors have. On the other hand, UEFA cooperates with Europol and with all the other national authorities in order to stop this scourge of fixed matches,"* Karl Dhont explained.

Andreas Holzer presented all the details of a match-fixing case which he investigated two years ago in Austria and he also explained how the Austrian police was organised to fight corruption in sport with success. Called the RINAS operation, the investigation conducted by Andreas Holzer resulted in eight convictions amounting to a total of 35 years in prison. *"During our investigations we discovered fixed matches on which people had bet between €300,000 and €500,000 on a single match. If you added up all these amounts, the final figure would certainly come to millions of euros. We're talking about huge amounts! In Austria we have a special division whose task is to fight corruption in sport. We also have policemen and prosecutors who are specially trained in this area,"* said Andreas Holzer at the press conference which took place right after the seminar.

This seminar took place two weeks after the FRF had launched its first ever system for reporting corruption. The system consists of an online platform, www.fotbalcurat.frf.ro, where players, coaches and referees who play or work in the first three Romanian leagues can report – anonymously if they wish – any incidents of corruption and match-fixing in Romanian football of which they become aware.

● Paul Zaharia

Clubs unite to launch Alzheimer's support project

Former Scotland coach Craig Brown helped launch a Football Memories project geared at supporting people living with Alzheimer's disease through their local football clubs. A total of 13 senior clubs have offered to take part in the UEFA-funded programme, based on their existing links to the Football Memories project or local dementia groups within the community. Aberdeen, Falkirk, Heart of Midlothian, Hibernian, Inverness Caledonian Thistle, Kilmarnock, Livingston, Partick Thistle, Queens Park, Rangers, Ross County, St Johnstone and St Mirren are all taking part in the programme, which will run from April 2015 until March 2016.

Craig Brown was joined by participating club representatives to launch the initiative at the Scottish Football Museum. The project will enable people living with dementia to discuss past football events and reminisce in an environment in which they are comfortable. The clubs will host monthly meetings lasting 90 minutes and provide 'half-time refreshments' for all participants. The clubs and participants will also be invited to attend an end-of-season day at Hampden Park.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. The term dementia describes a set of symptoms which can include loss of memory, mood change and problems with communication and reasoning. In Scotland there are currently over 90,000 people living with Alzheimer's disease, with over 95% of sufferers over the age of 65.

The project will aim to offer help through a series of support networks linked to senior clubs across Scotland. It will allow the participants to continue to engage with their local community and seek peer and professional support.

Craig Brown said: *"I am proud to have been invited to help launch what is an excellent initiative and one that shows the importance of Scottish football's rich history in helping those who suffer from Alzheimer's. Football Memories has had a positive impact on people's lives already and extending the project to clubs will only help in widening its impact across communities."*

Stewart Regan, Scottish FA chief executive, said: *"This project will really benefit people living with dementia in Scotland and help bring them closer to their community through football. It's pleasing to see 13 of our senior clubs get behind this fantastic project and I would like to thank them for their support."*

For more information on the Football Memories project and how it supports Alzheimer Scotland, visit www.footballmemoriesleague.co.uk.

● David Childs



Launching the Football Memories project



Encouragement for Čišovský

Before the start of the international friendly match between Slovakia and the Czech Republic that took place in Zilina on 31 March, the players of both teams held up a large banner reading "Čišo fight! We are thinking of you, you can do it!" and bearing a portrait of Marián Čišovský, who is suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which causes muscle atrophy and can lead to complete paralysis.

This gesture of compassion and solidarity was at least as important as the performances of both teams and the final result. The crowd responded with applause and gave their encouragement to the sick football player.

Čišovský could see that everybody was thinking of him. He responded via a text message saying "It was wonderful!", which he sent to one of the editors of a Slovak daily newspaper. The last time Čišovský played for the national team was last year.

"He's a football player, he loves the game, but, unfortunately, he can't be here with us. We must help him the best we can," said Ondrej Duda, one of the youngest members of the Slovak national team.

Thirty-five-year-old Čišovský continues to be a player with Viktoria Plzeň and is fighting the disease. The father of three has lost weight but does not avoid football stadiums; he still works out in the gym and has massages. His contract

with Viktoria continues, although it is obvious he will never play again. He is not giving up, despite the muscle atrophy and obvious fatigue.

Responding to the support shown by the Viktoria fans, who themselves displayed a giant portrait and the words "Čišo, fight!" during the match between Viktoria and Brno, the player wrote on the club's web page: "I want to thank everybody. I was moved and happy. To those who keep their fingers crossed – thank you very much. I will fight."

"If we qualify for UEFA EURO 2016 in France, he will be one of the people we dedicate our qualification to," said Martin Škrtel, captain of the Slovak national team.

● Peter Šurin



Intensive coach education

The Swiss Football Association has been a provider of high-level coach education for many years. Indeed, around 20 years ago, it became one of the first member associations permitted by UEFA to run UEFA Pro diploma courses and to award UEFA coaching licences. Numerous prominent football coaches have obtained their licence following a Swiss FA course, with Germany's World Cup-winning coach Joachim Löw a prime example.

This year, the association has already awarded UEFA Pro licences to numerous coaches, including Martin Schmidt, coach of German Bundesliga side 1. FSV Mainz 05, at whose club the course participants were able to carry out their week-long foreign placement. As well as Martin Schmidt and former Swiss internationals Sven Christ, Thomas Häberli and Giorgio Contini, licences were presented to Patrick Winkler, Massimo Ceccaroni, Sascha Stauch, Roger Prinszen, Axel Thoma and Hendrik Regtop by the Swiss FA's general secretary, Alex

Miescher, and director of education, Yves Débonnaire.

In a short speech, Yves Débonnaire gave a very positive assessment of the most recent UEFA Pro diploma course, while Alex Miescher congratulated those present on successfully completing it. He thanked the coaches for their high level of commitment and their love of football, which they demonstrated by completing this very demanding course. "Anyone who likes both people and football will be able to overcome the difficulties they face as a coach," he said. ● Pierre Benoit



Women's U18s put up a good show



The winning team at the UEFA development tournament in Lithuania

The Ukrainian women's Under-18 team finished top in the recent UEFA development tournament held in Lithuania, winning all three of their matches (3-0 against the hosts, 2-1 versus Latvia, and 4-0 against the Faroe Islands) to put them at the top of the table on a maximum of nine points. The Faroe Islands finished in second place, with Lithuania and Latvia third and fourth respectively. Ukrainian striker Sofiya Ruban was the top goalscorer of the tournament with five goals.

Nataliya Zinchenko, coach of the Ukrainian women's Under-18 team, was pleased with the progress her team had made: "I liked the fact that the team created many opportunities in front of goal. Even though not all of them were converted, we achieved the desired result. You need to score one more goal than the opposition, which we did. The girls are getting used to playing one or two touches. We are going in the right direction." ● Yuri Maznychenko



Together Stronger campaign shortlisted for top marketing award

The Wales national football team is one of the oldest in the world. Since 1876 Wales has produced a steady stream of world class players. From Billy Meredith in 1900, thought of as one of the first true superstars of the game, to Gareth Bale over 100 years later.

'Gorau Chwarae Cyd Chwarae' (The best play is team play) was added to the Wales badge in 1951. Since then, every great Welsh player has worn this message of unity on their chest: Charles, Toshack, Rush and Bale, to name but a few. But the motto is not just about the biggest names and most famous players.

In February 2014 the Football Association of Wales (FAW) launched its Together. Stronger campaign, breathing life into the motto that players and fans alike have worn on their chests since 1951. The campaign is about bringing players, fans and the Welsh public together in support of the qualifying campaign for EURO 2016. Through striking visuals, creative, memorable and engaging activations and educating players about their role in galvanising

a nation, the campaign has proved a tremendous success, and has been shortlisted for the prestigious BT Sport Industry Awards.

The campaign has truly revolutionised the perception of the FAW and Welsh football among players, fans and stakeholders. Within 12 months of its launch, the FAW had achieved record-breaking attendances, grown digital reach by many hundreds of per cent and built positive relationships with a diminishing audience who – in their own words – felt increasingly disenfranchised by the team they were supporting.

Crucially, the campaign has had a huge impact on attendances. The first home qualifier of the campaign sold out at 31,000 fans, the largest attendance ever at the Cardiff City Stadium. The next home qualifier, against Belgium, will set a new record, having sold out before tickets went on general sale, driving supporter club memberships and season ticket sales. The success of the campaign and the award nomination recognise the power of building successful relationships with all our stakeholders and the importance of player-fan interaction. Because together we are stronger.

● Rob Dowling



The Together Stronger campaign

BIRTHDAYS

Dušan Savić (Serbia, 1 June)
 Ekaterina Fedyshina (Russia, 1 June)
 Ferenc Székely (Hungary, 2 June)
 Ivaylo Ivkov (Bulgaria, 3 June)
 Radek Lobo (Czech Republic, 3 June)
 Klara Bjartmarz (Iceland, 3 June)
 John Ward (Republic of Ireland, 4 June)
 Yauheni Tratsiuk (Belarus, 4 June)
 Jean-Samuel Leuba (Switzerland, 4 June)
 Ludovico Micallef (Malta, 5 June)
 Jaap Uilenberg (Netherlands, 5 June)
 Maksimas Bechterevas (Lithuania, 5 June)
 Michael Joseph Hyland (Republic of Ireland, 6 June)
Theo Zwanziger (Germany, 6 June) 70th
 Lars-Åke Bjørck (Sweden, 7 June)
 Michel Sablon (Belgium, 7 June)
 Sandor Berzi (Hungary, 7 June)
 Onofre Costa (Portugal, 7 June)
 Johannes Scholtz (Netherlands, 8 June)
 Jesper Møller Christensen (Denmark, 9 June)
 Antoine Portelli (Malta, 9 June)
 Petri Antero Jakonen (Finland, 9 June)
 Jonathan Ford (Wales, 9 June)
 Monica Jorge (Portugal, 9 June)
 Hans Bangerter (Switzerland, 10 June)
Andrew Shaw (England, 10 June) 60th
 Eleni Kiriou (Greece, 10 June)
 Kyros Georgiou (Cyprus, 11 June)
 Thórir Hakonarson (Iceland, 11 June)
 Zoran Dimić (Serbia, 11 June)
 José Luis López Serrano (Spain, 12 June)
 Alain Courtois (Belgium, 12 June)
Jørn West Larsen (Denmark, 12 June) 60th
 Iwona Malek-Wybraniec (Poland, 12 June)
 Haris Gvozden (Bosnia-Herzegovina, 12 June)
 Roland Coquard (France, 13 June)
 Targo Kaldoja (Estonia, 13 June)
 Galina Doneva (Bulgaria, 14 June)
 Nuno Castro (Portugal, 14 June)
 Viacheslav Koloskov (Russia, 15 June)
 Miguel Galan Torres (Spain, 15 June)
 Meir Liber (Israel, 17 June)
 Michael Joseph Maessen (Netherlands, 17 June)
Matthias Voigt (Liechtenstein, 17 June) 60th
 Paolo Rondelli (San Marino, 17 June)
 Anne Rei (Estonia, 17 June)
 Philippe Piat (France, 18 June)

Hannelore Ratzeburg (Germany, 18 June)
 Amit Klein (Israel, 18 June)
 Ivan Novak (Croatia, 18 June)
 Eduard Prodani (Albania, 18 June)
 Elkhan Mammadov (Azerbaijan, 18 June)
 Tobias Wolf (Germany, 19 June)
 Maria Mifsud (Malta, 20 June)
Michel Platini (France, 21 June) 60th
 Peter Peters (Germany, 21 June)
Zoran Cvrk (Croatia, 21 June) 50th
 Tomasz Mikulski (Poland, 21 June)
 Paulius Malzinskas (Lithuania, 21 June)
 Ilja Kaenzig (Switzerland, 21 June)
 Keith Stuart Hackett (England, 22 June)
 Ante Kulušić (Croatia, 22 June)
 Zvi Rosen (Israel, 23 June)
 Vladimir Antonov (Moldova, 23 June)
Georg Pangl (Austria, 23 June) 50th
 Jean-Jacques Schonckert (Luxembourg, 24 June)
 Renatus Temmink (Netherlands, 24 June)
 Jouni Hyytiä (Finland, 24 June)
 Arturs Gaidels (Latvia, 24 June)
 Christian Schmölzer (Austria, 25 June)
 Foppe de Haan (Netherlands, 26 June)

Barry W. Bright (England, 27 June)
 Eyjolfur Olafsson (Iceland, 27 June)
Ruud Dokter (Republic of Ireland, 27 June) 60th
 José Venancio López Hierro (Spain, 27 June)
 Wim Koevermans (Belgium, 28 June)
Ivan Borissov Lekov (Bulgaria, 29 June) 60th
 Wolfgang Sowa (Austria, 29 June)
 Ginta Pece (Latvia, 29 June)
 Peter J. van Zunderd (Netherlands, 30 June)

NOTICES

- On 30 March, Hugo Quaderer succeeded Matthias Voigt as president of the Liechtenstein Football Federation.
- The Football Association of Iceland has appointed Klara Bjartmarz as acting general secretary, taking over from Thorir Hákonarson.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

1 June, Nyon
 Club Licensing Committee

9 June, Katerini, Greece
 2014/15 European Under-19 Championship: final round draw

10 June, Nyon
 2015/16 European Futsal Championship: play-off draw

22 June, Nyon
 2015/16 UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League: draws for the first and second qualifying rounds

25 June, Nyon
 2015/16 UEFA Women's Champions League: qualifying round draw

29/30 June, Prague
 Executive Committee

Competitions

30 May–20 June, New Zealand
 FIFA U-20 World Cup

6 June, Berlin
 UEFA Champions League: final

6 June–5 July, Canada
 FIFA Women's World Cup

17–30 June, Czech Republic
 European Under-21 Championship: final round

22 June–4 July, Iceland
 European Women's Under-17 Championship: final round

26 June–4 July, Republic of Ireland
 UEFA Regions' Cup: final round



NO TO RACISM



RESPECT