

Match operations

In the past, efforts have been made to increase the capacity to respond quickly to any safety and security issue in UEFA competitions. UEFA security officers are present in the match operations centre and are deployed to high-risk matches across Europe every week. The UEFA stadium and security unit has created an incident desk that collects incident information, performs research and analysis of cases and issues monthly incident digests that are sent to all UEFA security officers. The UEFA security officers and UEFA stadium inspectors receive regular updates and professional training in annual seminars organised by the unit in the House of Football in Nyon.

Supporting improvement of stadium infrastructures

UEFA initiated a comprehensive programme to support the development and management of the UEFA EURO 2012 host venues in Poland and Ukraine. Shortly after the tournament was awarded in 2007, the unit set up a team of internationally acclaimed experts on stadium construction and management to assist the two host countries and their national football associations with the design and construction of the UEFA EURO 2012 stadia. For this purpose, an innovative stadium monitoring methodology was initiated based on review meetings, stadium inspections, risk analysis and standard reports.

Support to hosts of UEFA finals and tournaments

The unit actively supports the organisers of UEFA club competition finals and UEFA final tournaments in developing the required safety and security concepts and its implementation during these events. Experts on stadium and event safety and security undertake several site visits. During the events, UEFA security officers and/or stadium specialists are on site to provide advice and assistance in safety and security issues. The unit assesses and reviews all these support activities as part of their quality assurance.

Task forces and advisory work

Incidents in UEFA competitions require a rapid and decisive response by both public and football authorities. There is no room for violence, anti-social behaviour, racism or other incidents that undermine safety and security in European football. UEFA, the European Union and the Council of Europe are committed to direct and immediate support to countries and national associations aiming to improve stadium standards and safety and security in their competitions. The European partners are now offering wide-ranging multi-agency expert assistance at the request of national associations and national and local authorities.

Integrated education and training programmes

To reach the widest possible audience with the message of safety, security and service, UEFA has invested heavily in education and training initiatives. Since 2006 when the UEFA Stadium and Security Education Programme (SSEP) was started, the unit has developed a full range of learning tools that are now part of an integrated training programme for both public and football authorities. Since 2010, the integrated programme has been delivered to both club/stadium safety managers and police forces

in various countries; a new departure within Europe. Workshops were delivered to stadium managers and police commanders from all UEFA EURO 2012 host cities. In addition, over 100 police representatives from 20 countries received intense five-day training, and workshops are scheduled for several countries. In 2011, the unit also funded a complete stewarding training package with modules and trainer manual ready for delivery in any country with only limited local customisation.

The delivery of these training events is supported by a distance learning platform called the Safety and Security Expert Tool (SSET). Launched at the annual UEFA/EU Conference in 2010, this joint project by UEFA, the European Union and the Council of Europe is a reference tool for all involved in football. It provides a multimedia database with videos, documents, presentation and pictures on as many as 130 different expert topics. It also features over 100 incident cases to learn from. All clubs and police representatives that play in UEFA competitions are allowed access to SSET.

These integrated programmes and stewarding modules aim to increase awareness of safety and security, to transfer knowledge and hands-on expertise, and promote the exchange of good practices. These initiatives also help less experienced clubs, authorities and police to quickly access the best guidance available while it supports more experienced clubs to update their own practices.