

Investing in Local Training of Players

Key messages

- UEFA has identified a number of trends that threaten to damage the long-term interests of our sport. These problems arise from a lack of investment in local training of young players.
- In summary, the main problems are:
 1. lack of investment in player training
 2. reduction in competitive balance
 3. hoarding of players
 4. weakening of national teams
 5. erosion of local identity.
- In Europe, we are not investing enough in the development of new talent. Instead, there is a tendency to look for quick and easy solutions: to buy players rather than train them ourselves.
- UEFA has therefore drafted new proposals to promote the training of local talent. We believe our proposals would help safeguard the future of our sport.
- **The basis of our proposed solution is to introduce a sporting rule according to which clubs would need to include a minimum number of players in their squad that are locally trained (independent of their nationality), and there would be a limit on the size of the squad.**
- This is not about rolling back the Bosman ruling, and it is not about limiting the number of foreign players. UEFA recognises and accepts the rule of EU law.
- Our proposals would encourage more and better training, obliging clubs to invest in producing at least some of their own players.
- “Training” requires a clear definition, which UEFA is examining, but it will probably involve something like three years’ continuous training at a club (or an association) between the ages of 15 and 21 (or 18).
- We believe our proposals would contribute to a better future for new, young talent, and would help to level the playing-field at a time when financial power threatens to become too great a factor in sporting success.
- Above all, we believe these proposals would benefit all parts of football across the whole of Europe.
- In summary, this project is about:
 - Helping to create a level playing field
 - Encouraging and improving local training of players
 - Defending national team football
 - The complex legal picture in European football
 - Consulting all stakeholders
 - Defending sporting values

This project is **not** about:

- Quotas
- Foreigners
- Nationality
- reversing Bosman or reversing the 3+2