

European Union :

*Study on training of young sportsmen/women in Europe
Extension – Part I*

Home grown player rule

April 2008





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In this complementary study, we gathered, between February and April of 2008, with the assistance of the UEFA and the EPFL, from various European football associations, European professional football leagues and clubs, information regarding:

- the organisation of training centres and their funding (I)
- the nationality of players in European clubs and statistics about home-grown players (II).

We also used some data from the “Professional Football Players Observatory” (CIES / CERSOT) and its Annual review of the European football players’ labour market from 2007 and information from our main study relating to the training of young sportsmen and women in Europe collected between January and April, 2007.

I - DESCRIPTION OF TRAINING SYSTEMS

A Systems and structures

1) The role of national associations

The major actors regarding the training of athletes are national associations, sports clubs and other private structures. For each sport, they play various roles in the training of young talents. In football, clubs play a crucial role in most European countries. Except in some particular cases (private academies in Romania for example), there are not yet private entities on this « market », as opposed to individual sports like tennis.

Training systems in football are characterized by the level of direct actions from the national associations. They are in most of the cases in charge of the junior national teams and organize concentrations for the best players in junior teams for limited periods of time. However, some national associations play a more significant role. Two types of actions have to be pointed out: the organisation of national training centres and the organisation of regional training centres.

National training centres:

The existence of national training centres is a key factor in the organization of training in Europe. When this type of structure exists, the best young talents are generally gathered in a single place, often once they are more than 15 years old.

By gathering the best young talents, national associations make sure that their best athletes have access to high level training programmes, high quality medical care, education, etc.. They are also ensured that their players train in a competitive environment. At the same time, the



existence of national structures may be seen as a threat for clubs and local structures, which see the level of their training groups decrease as the best players leave them.

Regional training centres:

The existence of regional training centres depends on numerous factors, one of them being the countries' geography. In big countries, regional centres represent a key factor to allow very young athletes to stay as long as possible within their family environment, particularly for players aged between 12 and 15 years old.

Regional training centres also represent an alternative or a complementary solution to other systems such as clubs or national training centres.

We have identified 6 types of countries according to the importance of these centres.

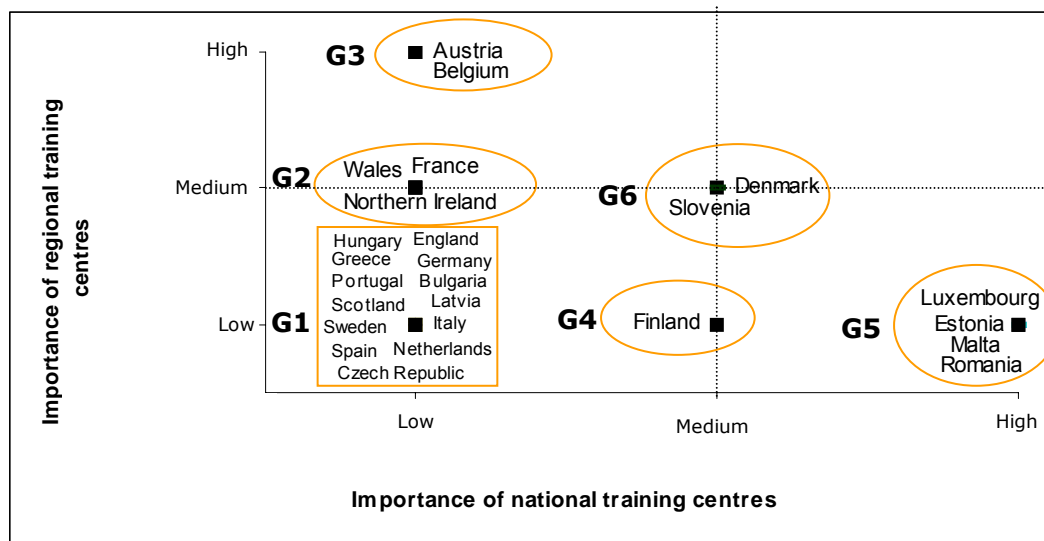


Fig 1. Typological ranking of countries regarding the importance of national and regional football training centres

Sources:

Study 2007 (Football Associations) : Estonia, France, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania.

Study 2008 (Football Associations) : Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Scotland, Slovenia, Sweden, Spain, Wales.

- Group G1:

In more than half of the European countries (14 out of 27), the action of national associations through national and regional training centres is limited (training camps). Clubs remain the main actors in the training of young players.



- Group G2:

France, Wales and Northern Ireland have set up regional training centres which deal with part of the training process:

- In France, the national association has set up “pre-training centres” (centres de pré-formation) for players aged 13-14,
- In Wales, during the season, best players’ academies are gathered into two regional training centres where they get training complementary to their academic training programme,
- Northern Ireland has set up 6 excellence centres for its best young players aged between 12 and 15.

- Group G3:

Regional training centres set up by national associations are very important in Austria, Belgium and Sweden:

- Austria runs 29 regional training centres for young players aged between 10 and 14 and 5 out of the 13 academies set up for the 15-19 years’ old are managed by the national association through its regional federations,
- Belgium has set up 8 elite academies for young players aged between 14 and 18 where the country’s best players (around 220 players) are brought together to train 12 hours a week.

- Group G4:

Finland has recently set up a programme for the U17 (under 17), which includes 7 weeks of training for the country’s best players at the national training centre.

- Group G5:

4 countries have set up programmes at a national level:

- Malta has set up a structure gathering the best players.
- Estonia runs the same kind of programme within the « Tallin » training centre for the players aged from 12 to 18.
- Luxemburg also brings together its best players aged from 12 to 18.
- The Romanian national football association manages its own national academy, gathering the best 20 players aged between 15 and 18.



- Group G6:

Two countries have developed a mixed system combining the role of clubs and a certain importance given to both national and regional training centres.

- The Danish national football association gives more importance than other countries to its selections, both at national (the best national players are brought together 30 days per year within two U15 teams and two U16 teams) and regional level (the best regional players are brought together 2 days a month and 5 days at the end of the season within 6 « talent centres »),
 - Slovenia brings together its best players 4 times a month within 9 regional training centres, and some of its best players aged between 15 and 18 are permanently grouped in the « Gymnazija Sisika ».
- The Danish national football association has also set up another type of direct action through its « ITU » system: the national association delegates coaches to the clubs which have more than 6 players selected for junior national teams (currently 7 clubs), in order to assist them for individual training sessions. The best players benefit from this action as well as the entire club which also benefits from the know-how of the coaches on a daily basis.

2) Books of specifications and labels for training structures

In some countries, training structures must comply with a certain number of quality criteria. Those quality criteria are generally described in a book of specifications.

Various actors are in charge of the setting up of these books of specifications. In some countries, several ministries (Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Education) and associations of different sports may define a general legal environment which includes books of specifications for training structures. In other cases, national associations decide by themselves to set up a book of specifications for their own training structures. When a law defines a book of specifications, the main goal of such provision is to protect minors and young athletes and to make sure that they can benefit from a good school environment while they are training. When the associations are at the origin of the book of specifications, the main goal is generally to improve the training framework and training programmes for high level athletes.

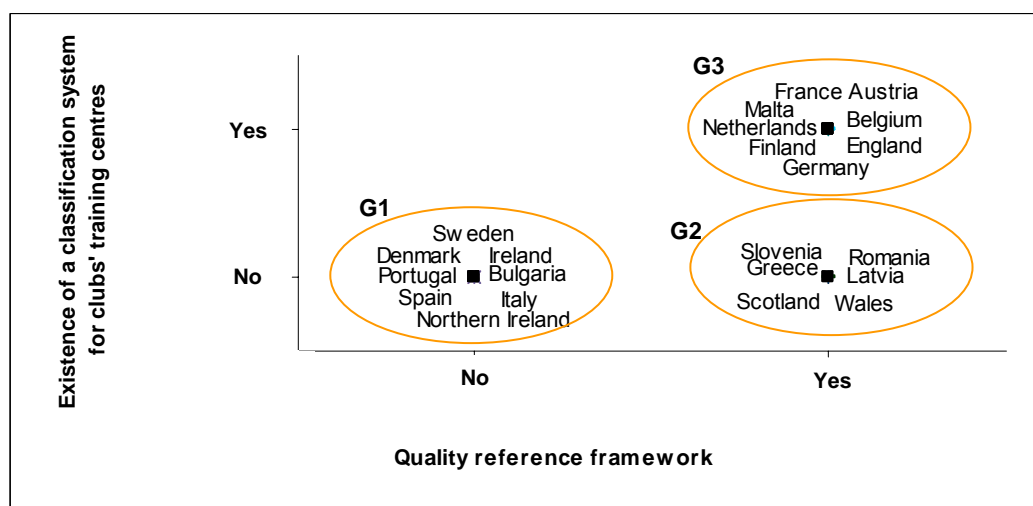
Books of specifications differ from one country to another. Most of the time, in countries where books of specifications exist, training structures must comply with a certain number of criteria



regarding their training facilities (number and quality of football fields for instance), their staff (number, diplomas), their relationships with local schools, or their medical and paramedical follow-up.

All the clubs participating to UEFA competitions must go through the UEFA Licensing process. UEFA's club licensing system is based on a series of defined quality standards, which must be fulfilled in order for a club to be admitted to any of the UEFA club competitions. It has been introduced during the 2004/2005 season. These minimum requirements cover the areas of sporting (coaching and youth development), infrastructure (safety and security, fields, players and officials, spectators and the media), human resources (presence of a general manager, a club secretary, a financial officer, a head of security and a head of youth development), administration, legal (club statutes, relationship with the Association of the club), financial matters (audited financial statements, no overdue payables from transfer activities or towards employees) and code of practices (child protection, supporter's charter, equity issues, community involvement and fair play).

In some countries, quality criteria are really high compared to those applicable in other Member States. Some national associations rank their training centres into different categories depending on the number of quality criteria they fulfil and/or sports performance.



Fig

2. Typological ranking of countries regarding the existence of a classification system and a quality reference framework

Sources:

Study 2007 (Football Associations): France, Belgium, Finland, Slovenia, Greece, Latvia, Romania.

Study 2008 (Football Associations): Sweden, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Northern Ireland, Germany, England, Belgium, Finland, Scotland, Wales.

Study 2008 (Football Leagues): Ireland, Bulgaria, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, England.

- Group G1:



One third of the European countries (8 out of 22 answers) do not have any book of specifications besides the UEFA Licensing System applicable to clubs involved in UEFA competitions. Clubs are free to organise their training programmes. In some cases, regional training centres run by the national association must comply with a book of specifications, set up by the national football association (for instance in Northern Ireland).

- Groups G2 and G3:

Two thirds of the European countries introduced books of specifications in the framework of a “licensing system”. In half of these countries (Group G3), a classification system is set up in parallel to the licensing system, defining a large number of quality criteria and different categories of clubs.

3) Young players’ contracts

The legal and contractual framework may have an important impact on the training organisation.

There are two kinds of aspects which may interfere on the clubs strategy:

- The existence of specific contracts for young players in training centres: depending on the countries, these contracts may more or less protect the players and be available at a more or less young age.
- The minimum age at which a player may sign his first professional contract in a football club.

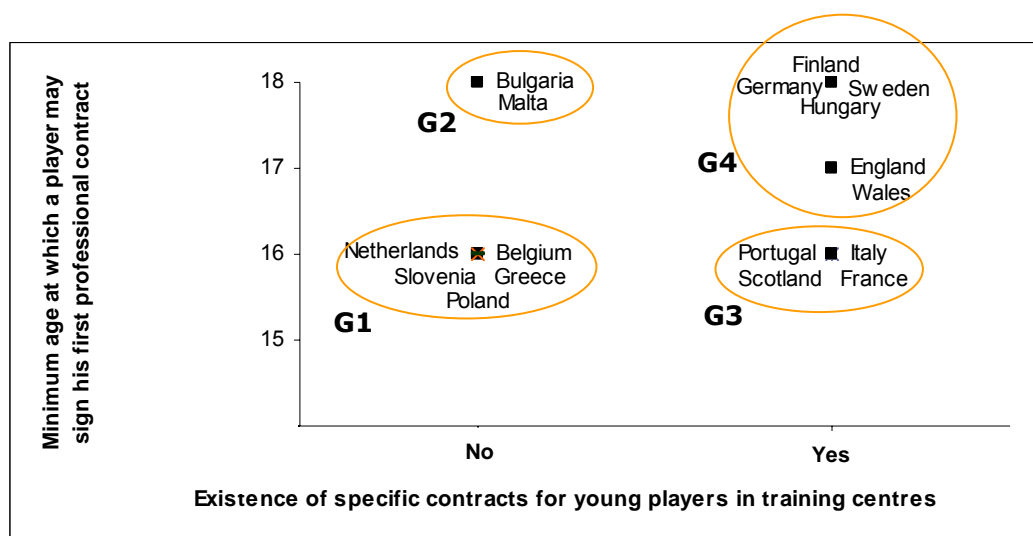


Fig 3. Typological ranking of countries regarding the minimum age at which a player may sign a professional contract and the existence of specific contracts for young players in training centres.



Sources:

Study 2007 (Football Associations): Slovenia, France, Hungary.

Study 2008 (Football Associations): Sweden, Portugal, Italy, Germany, England, Belgium, Finland, Scotland, Wales.

Study 2008 (Football Leagues): Ireland, Bulgaria, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Germany, England.

- Group G1:

Clubs from these countries do not sign specific contracts with young players in training centres. However, they are able to sign professional contracts with young players quite early (at the age of 16).

- Group G2:

Clubs from these countries do not sign specific contracts with young players in training centres and have to wait that players are 18 years' old to sign them as professional players. This practise can represent a threat for those clubs on the European football market.

- Group G3:

These countries run specific contracts for young football players. The best young players may sign professional contracts as from the age of 16.

- Group G4:

Clubs from these countries run specific contracts for their young players but they have to wait until the players reach the age of 17 or 18 to have them sign as professional players.

4) Shared training centres for young players

Football associations are already involved in shared training centres (through national and regional training centres). Some clubs are also involved in the share of training centres (or plan to do so).

There are different ways of sharing a training centre, which are mostly:

- to share facilities,
- to share staff,
- to share training sessions.



There are so far a very limited number of clubs that share training centres in Europe. However, we identified some really interesting examples in the Netherlands (a new status has been created for this kind of academies) and in Finland (some clubs like TPS or HJK are sharing their infrastructures).

In Netherlands, Heracles Almelo and FC Twente Enschede on the one hand, and AGOVV Apeldoorn and Vitesse Arnhem on the other hand are now training together young players from both clubs in order to improve conditions of training and to increase the level of the training group so that a higher percentage reaches the elite level. Fortuna Sittard, FCVVV, MVV Maastricht and Roda JC are creating a joint venture to train the best talents from the whole region of Limburg. In France, the Lille football club (LOSC) is actively working on such an opportunity.

Those clubs wish to improve the level of their training groups and to raise the percentage of trained players reaching their professional teams and finally to limit training costs and improve their return on investment.

Some other clubs in France, Portugal or in Finland declared to be interested in sharing training centres with other clubs in order to limit costs and offer a better quality training.



5) Protection of minors

The protection of minors is treated at different levels in the Member States of the European Union.

First, the general legal framework of each country relating to the protection of minors applies to young football players.

In some countries, the sports law may reinforce this legal framework. It is often more adapted to young athletes' environment.

Many national football associations have set up additional controls and check the background of the staff before allowing it to work at training centres (criminal bureau disclosure). This is the case in Denmark, England, Finland, Greece, Scotland and Wales for instance.

Clubs and associations can also set up ethical charters, usually signed by all members of the staff, by the players and/or the players' parents (Belgium, Scotland, Wales use such types of tools).

Further education of the staff on this topic and psychological support to players may also be provided by national associations and clubs (Austria, England...).

6) Development of non sporting skills

From a general point of view, school is mandatory for children until they are 15, 16 or 18, depending on the EU countries concerned. In a large majority of sports and countries, training structures abide by this legal framework. In football, for many countries, specific arrangements are possible for young elite athletes so that they may combine sports and academic studies before that age (sport schools, agreements between football training centres and local schools, etc.). There are very few cases of young football players who stop their studies before the legally required age (this happens more often in early maturity sports like tennis or swimming).

However, the situation is more delicate in some EU countries for young players who wish to follow their studies at high school or even at the university while training.

In football, young players can follow high school (generally between 16 and 19 years old) in many countries of the European Union. Most of the time, they can benefit from a decreased study time, possibilities of exemptions from lessons/classes, individual study programme (e.g.



spread one year of studies over two (or more) years), individual coaching for study (tutoring)/ assistance to catch up with lessons, distance learning, etc.

In some countries, those possibilities are part of the required quality criteria of the books of specifications (Austria, Belgium, England, Finland, France, Germany, Scotland, etc.). In other countries, each club runs its own programme to follow more or less the players' studies (for instance, all Spanish or Italian clubs do not have a specific manager dedicated to supervise young players' studies).

Some European training structures create their own schools to be more flexible to combine studies and sport training. For instance, 5 Hungarian clubs created a special youth education centre, called Youth Academy, where young players go to school and have training sessions every day in the afternoon.

In most of the European Union countries, the situation is very difficult for players who would like to follow university studies, despite possible specific arrangements. Only a few players are currently following university programmes and a few of them will be graduated.

Furthermore, it has to be noted that in order to help young non national players, clubs often organise specific individual lessons. They also provide them with specific language lessons (Finland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain...). However, at a time when sports and school standards become higher and higher (between 16 and 20 years old), having to learn a new language may sometimes be a problem for some young players. It has to be noted that some training structures also have the opportunity to sign partnerships with local international schools.

7) Staff of training centres

The staff of training centres may be very different from one European country to another, but also from one club to another inside one country, depending on the policy, the philosophy and the financial means of each professional club.

Training centres have at least one coach per team, but training centres which aspire to reach high standards tend to recruit several coaches by team and even specialise coaches to work with specific positions of players (goalkeepers / defenders / forwards).



Regarding medical and paramedical follow-up, training centres may benefit from their own staff and structure or share staff with the professional team. Some books of specifications set forth minimum conditions. There exist a lot of differences at both levels of countries and clubs. Indeed, some clubs only involve one medical staff per team when other clubs involve a medical practitioner, a physiotherapist, a podologist, a psychologist, etc.

For instance, in England, Premier League clubs have an average of 32 employees in their football academies, including 18 coaches.

8) Players

The number of players in training centres differs from one European Union country to another. It depends on the number of training centres in the country and on the philosophy of each country regarding sports training. Some countries traditionally incorporate a lot of players in their training centres (the average in Spain for instance is more than 100 players aged between 15 and 18 per training centre). Some other countries prefer not to gather as many players in order to concentrate the best talents (this is current trend in France).

From a general point of view, we observed that there are few non national players in European training centres. In the countries where the football business is less developed, nearly 100% of the players in the training centres are national players (in Latvia for instance). In the richest championships and clubs, the percentage of foreign players (EU and non EU) tends to be more important.



Football club	Country	% of the players between 15 and 18 years old		
		Non national	European	Non European
Aston Villa	England	50,0%	50,0%	0,0%
Manchester City	England	45,2%	45,2%	0,0%
Manchester United	England	31,7%	31,7%	0,0%
Blackburn Rovers	England	27,0%	21,6%	5,4%
Reading	England	25,6%	20,5%	5,1%
Drogheda United FC	Ireland	22,2%	14,8%	7,4%
Arsenal	England	21,6%	21,6%	0,0%
Bolton Wanderers	England	20,0%	8,0%	12,0%
FK Austria Wien	Austria	18,5%	18,5%	0,0%
PSV Eindhoven	Netherlands	17,9%	17,9%	0,0%
Penafiel	Portugal	14,3%	14,3%	0,0%
Derby County	England	12,9%	12,9%	0,0%
Le Mans UC 72	France	11,5%	2,9%	8,6%
PSG	France	8,3%	8,3%	0,0%
FC Honka	Finland	7,7%	7,7%	0,0%
Maritimo Madeira	Portugal	6,9%	0,0%	6,9%
Boavista	Portugal	6,7%	0,0%	6,7%
Toulouse FC	France	6,4%	2,1%	4,3%
Sporting Braga	Portugal	6,0%	0,0%	6,0%
Vitoria SC Guimaraes	Portugal	5,7%	0,0%	5,7%
Brøndby	Denmark	5,0%	5,0%	0,0%
Lille OSC	France	5,0%	5,0%	0,0%
Sunderland	England	4,9%	4,9%	0,0%
Wigan Athletic	England	4,2%	4,2%	0,0%
Sporting Portugal	Portugal	3,4%	0,8%	2,5%
Gondomar	Portugal	3,2%	0,0%	3,2%
TPS	Finland	2,7%	0,0%	2,7%
Middlesbrough	England	2,6%	2,6%	0,0%
Freamunde	Portugal	1,8%	0,0%	1,8%
Coimbra	Portugal	1,7%	0,0%	1,7%
Lokomotiv Sofia	Bulgaria	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Esjberg	Denmark	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Midtjylland	Denmark	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
HJK	Finland	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
MyPA	Finland	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Sporting Lokeren	Belgium	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
KRC Genk	Belgium	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
SV Zulte Waregem	Belgium	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
ZAGŁĘBIE LUBIN S.S.A.	Poland	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Tempere United	Finland	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%

Fig. 4. Percentage of non national players aged 15-18 years old in some European Union clubs training centres.

Source: Study 2008, clubs questionnaires.

The definition of non national, European and non European players may vary from one EU Member State to another. Please refer to Chapter I parts B and C of Part II of our complementary study.



B Funding

1) European Leagues expenses relating to the training of young players

The quality and performance of the training of young players depend on several factors: the organisation of training, the clubs tradition and culture for the training of young players, the level of young talents when they enter the system... But today, the training of young players is also highly dependent on the financial investment of the club towards its youth department. Money is one of the keys for the players to be offered quality facilities, highly qualified staff, strong school support and other services, quality medical support... and for the staff to be able to attract talented young players to the training centre.

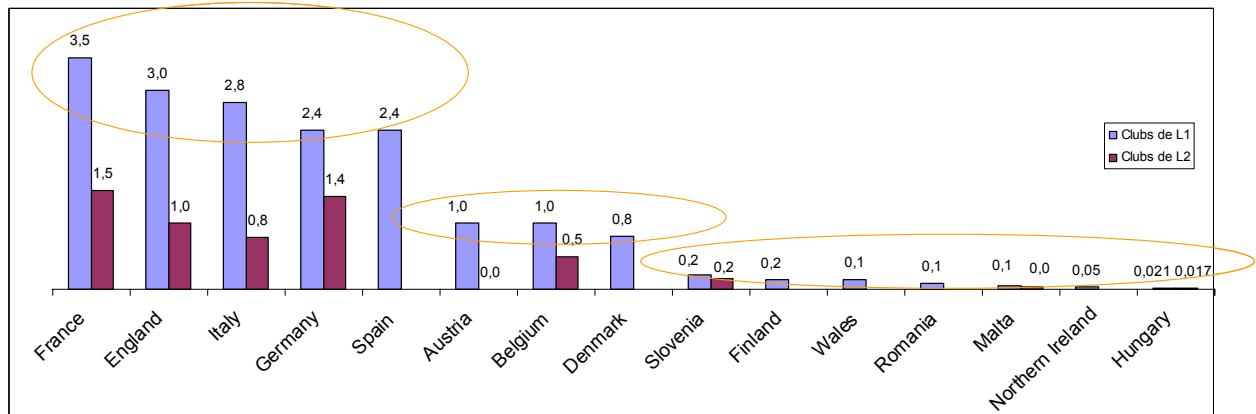
Through our complementary study, we noticed that the level of investment in training centres strongly depends on the global financial means of the clubs. The five leagues which generate the most important revenues in Europe are comfortably leading rankings in terms of average investment in training centres (around 2,5 to 3,5 million euros of annual budget for their average training centre). Nevertheless, the level of investment in the training of young players also depends on the strategic choices of the clubs and on the clubs tradition for youth development programmes. The level of investment in the French training centres is a good example. French clubs are the ones which spend the most important sums of money in the training of young players in Europe, while they rank 5 in terms of turnover of professional clubs.

Second level clubs from the big European countries invest, in average, comparable amounts to first level clubs from smaller countries like Austria, Belgium or Denmark.

In countries where the football business is not developed, clubs do not invest much in the training of young players (less than 200,000 euros for the average club).



Fig. 5. Average football training centres budget of European Union professional clubs in first and second divisions (in million Euros).
Source: Study 2008, clubs' questionnaires.



2) Big differences existing within a particular country

Just like there are big differences at the European level, they can be very different levels of investment within a given professional league. Here again, the gap between clubs is partly linked to the global budget of each club, but not only, as some clubs choose to invest more than others in the training of young players.

If we consider the answers of the clubs, we can observe that, in England, a club like Arsenal invests around 4 times more in the training of young players than a club like Derby County.

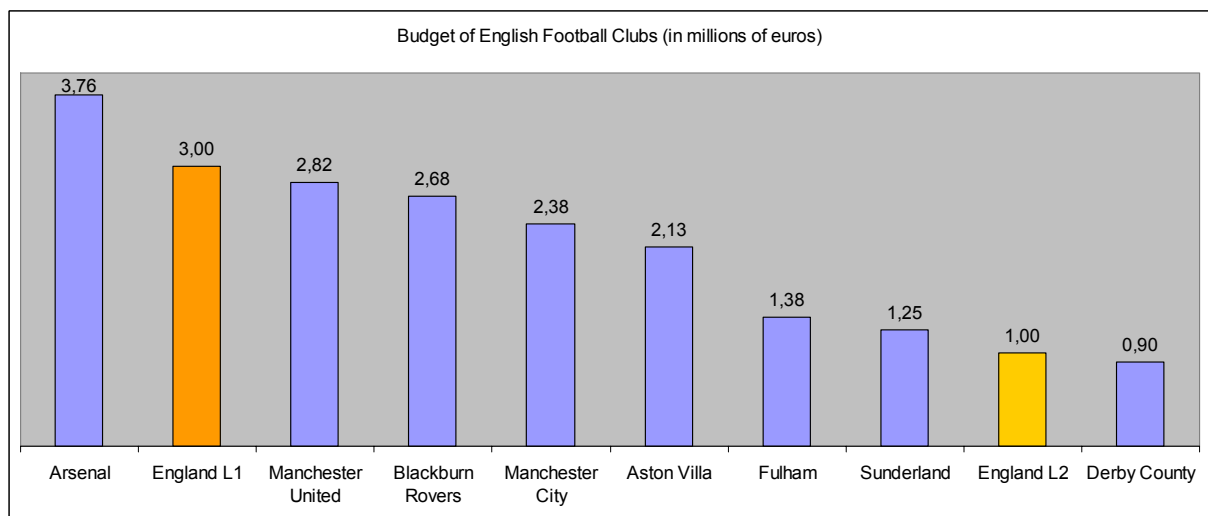


Fig. 6 Budget of English football clubs training centres (in million Euros).

Source: Study 2008, clubs questionnaires (budgets do not always include players' wages and costs for players aged between 18 and 21 years).



In France, a club like Lille O.S.C. invests around 5 times more in the training of young players than clubs like Guingamp or Chateauroux, which still invest much more than most of European clubs.

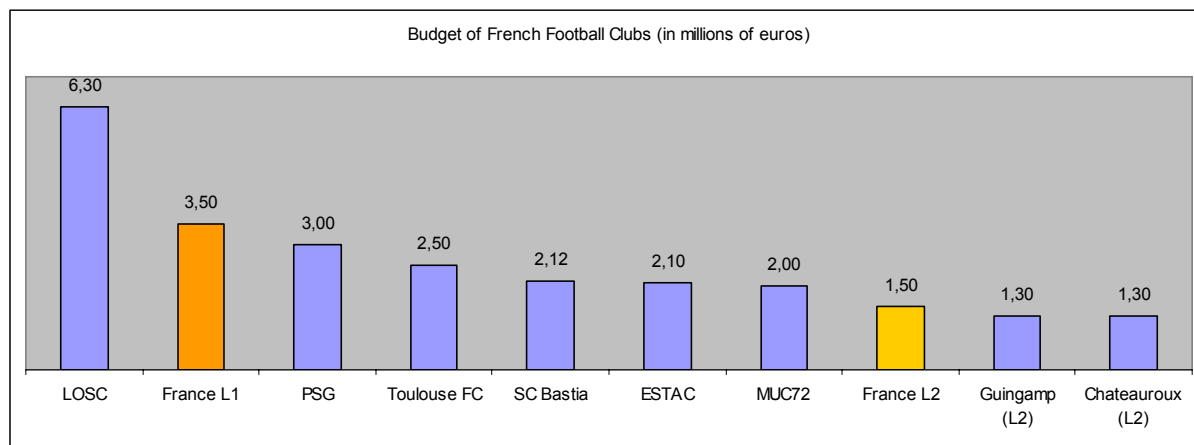


Fig. 7. Budget of French football clubs training centres (in million Euros).

Source: Study 2008, clubs questionnaires (budgets do not always include players' wages and costs for players aged between 18 and 21 years).

In Portugal, a club which strongly believes in the training of young players, like Sporting Lisbon, also invests much more money in the training of young talents than a small second division club.

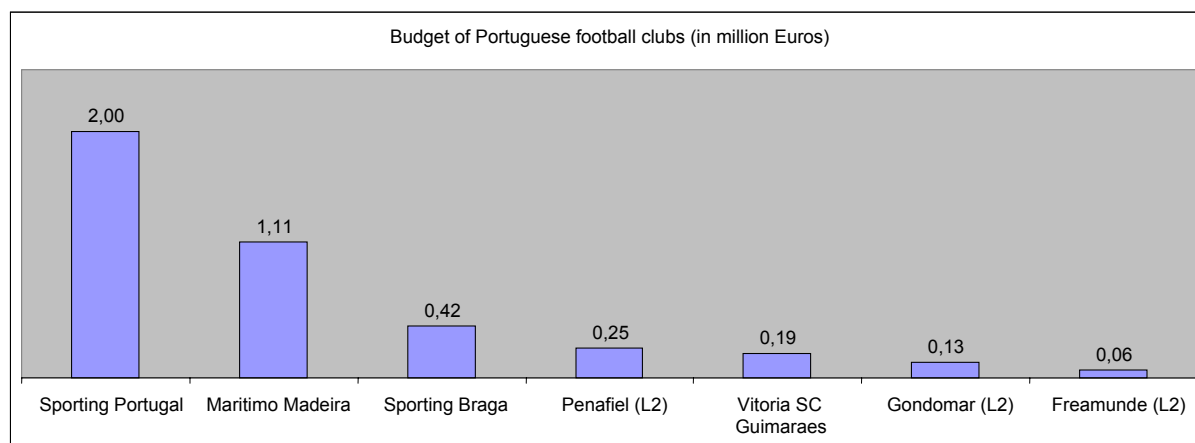


Fig. 8. Budget of Portuguese football clubs training centres (in million Euros).

Source: Study 2008, clubs questionnaires (budgets do not always include players' wages and costs for players aged between 18 and 21 years).



II Analysis of professional clubs' rosters

A Importance of national players

1) Importance of national players in European leagues

Since the Bosman case, the percentage of national players in European leagues decreased significantly.

The importance of national players remains nevertheless very high in clubs of second division (around 80% of national players for the countries we studied, except for the Portuguese second level which includes more foreigners) and of first level leagues with limited revenues such as in Finland.

There is thereafter a group of leagues which feature around 60 to 70% of national players. Those are mostly first division leagues, with some strengths in order to attract foreign players.

The third group leagues have around 50% of national players in their clubs' rosters.

The leagues of this group are either very attractive (example of the English Premier League) or traditionally strongly connected with some foreign areas (case of Portugal).

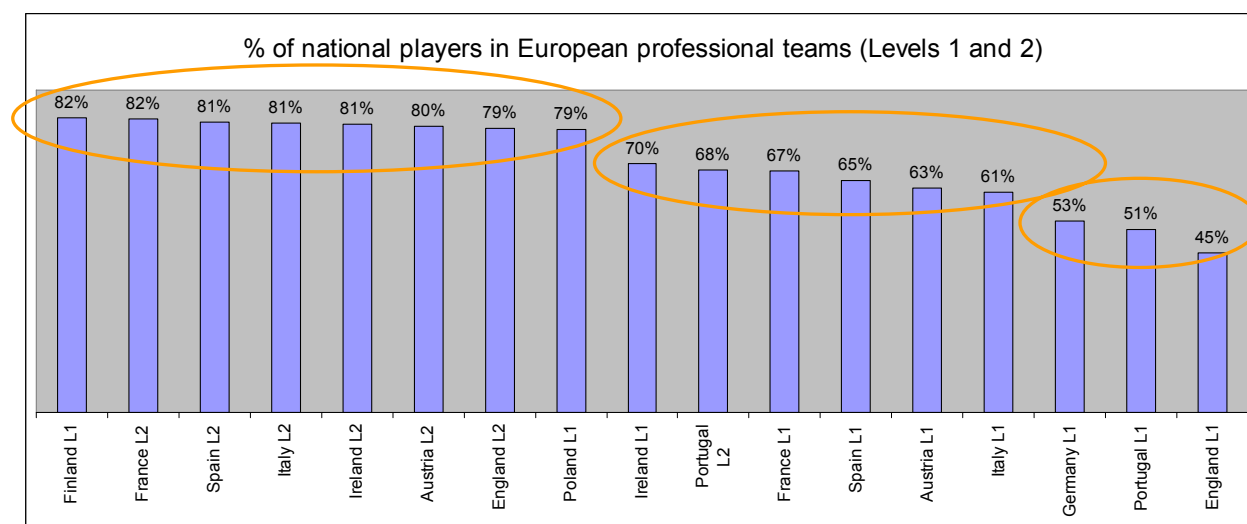


Fig. 9. Percentage of national players in European professional leagues (level 1 and 2)

Sources:

Study 2008 (Football leagues questionnaires): Finland, France Spain, Italy, Ireland, Austria, England FL, England FAPL, Portugal, Germany.

NB : England Football leagues regroup 3 divisions (from level 2 to level 4).

The definition of non national, European and non European players may vary from one EU Member State to another. Please refer to Chapter I parts B and C of Part II of our complementary study.



There are also some very strong differences from one club to another as shown hereafter in the English and Portuguese examples. The percentage of national players depends on each club's sport strategy (regarding the training of young players and recruitment networks).

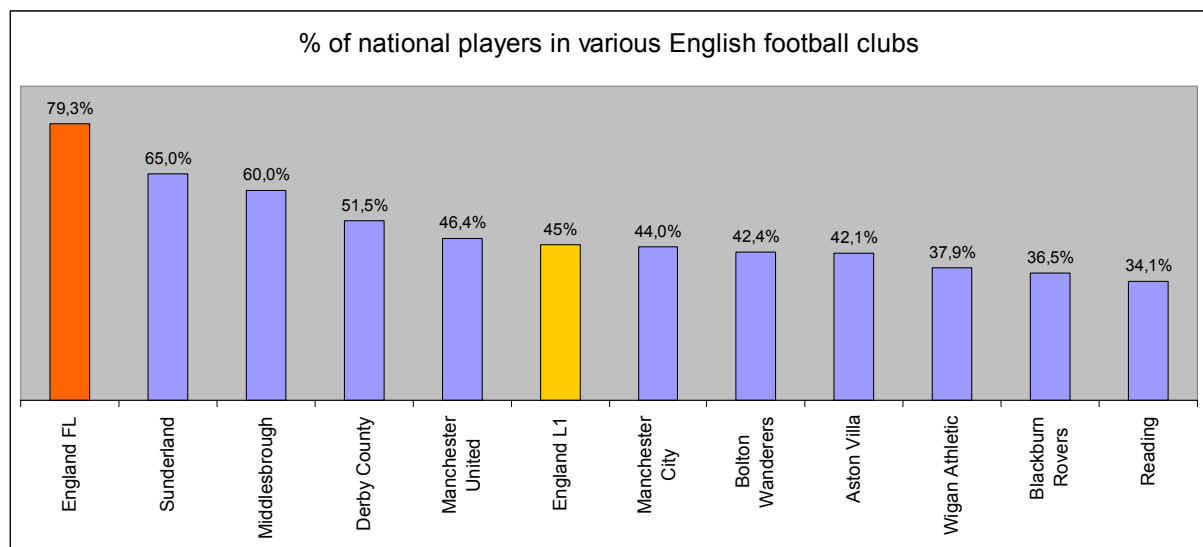


Fig. 10. Percentage of national players in various English clubs

Sources:

Study 2008 : Clubs questionnaires

NB : England Football leagues regroup 3 divisions (from level 2 to level 4).

The definition of non national, European and non European players may vary from one EU Member State to another. Please refer to Chapter I parts B and C of Part II of our complementary study.

In England, for the 2007/08 season, a club like Sunderland has a percentage of national players nearly two times higher (65%) than a club like Reading (34%).

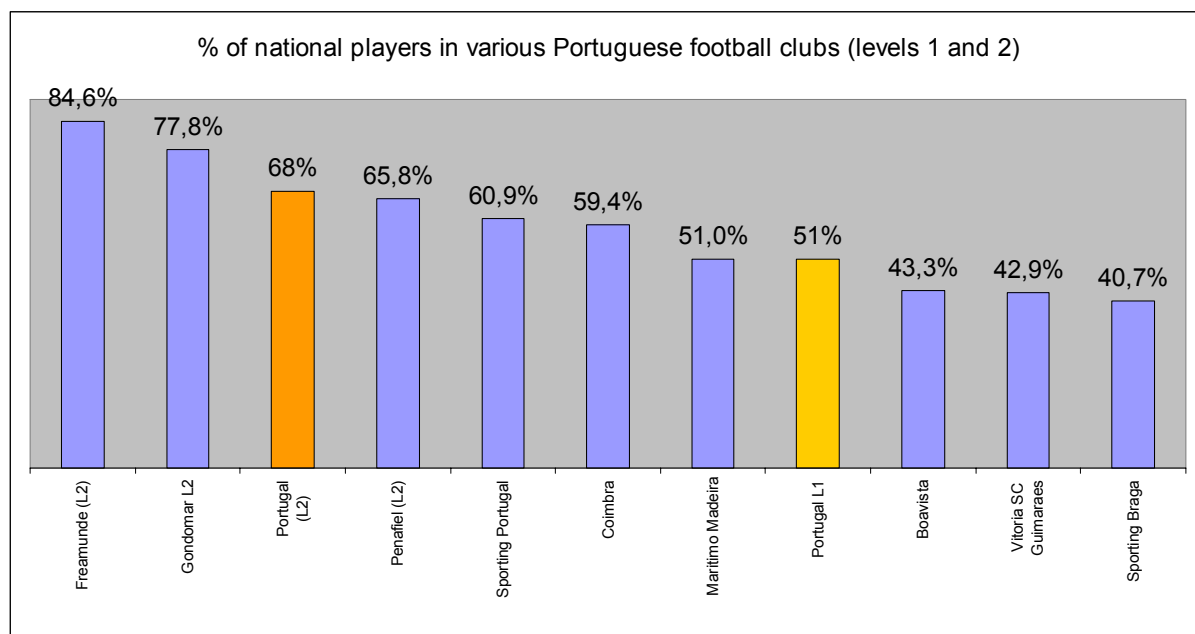


Fig. 11. Percentage of national players in various Portuguese clubs

Sources:

Study 2008 : Clubs questionnaires

The definition of non national, European and non European players may vary from one EU Member State to another. Please refer to Chapter I parts B and C of Part II of our complementary study.

In Portugal, still for the 2007/08 season, a club like Sporting Lisbon has a percentage of national players 50% higher (61%) than a club like Braga (41%).



B Typologies of leagues based on the nationality of players

1) First level leagues

Beside the percentage of national players in the clubs rosters, it may also be interesting to study the origin of non national players to identify typologies of leagues.

A first group includes 4 out of the 5 big European leagues in terms of turnover. First level leagues in England, Germany, Italy and Spain feature a high percentage of non national players (from 35% for the Spanish Liga to 55% for the English Premier League) and a majority of European players among non national players (from 65% for the Serie A to 74% for the Liga and the Premier League).

A second group features leagues with rather limited revenues, which involve a very large majority of national players on the one hand and a very large majority of non European players among non national players on the other hand (examples : Finland, Bulgaria).

Certain leagues do not belong to one of these two groups. Portugal, for example, involves a high percentage of non national players who are mainly non European (including many players from Brazil). France also involves a high percentage of non European players among its non national players, partly because of its historical relations with African countries.

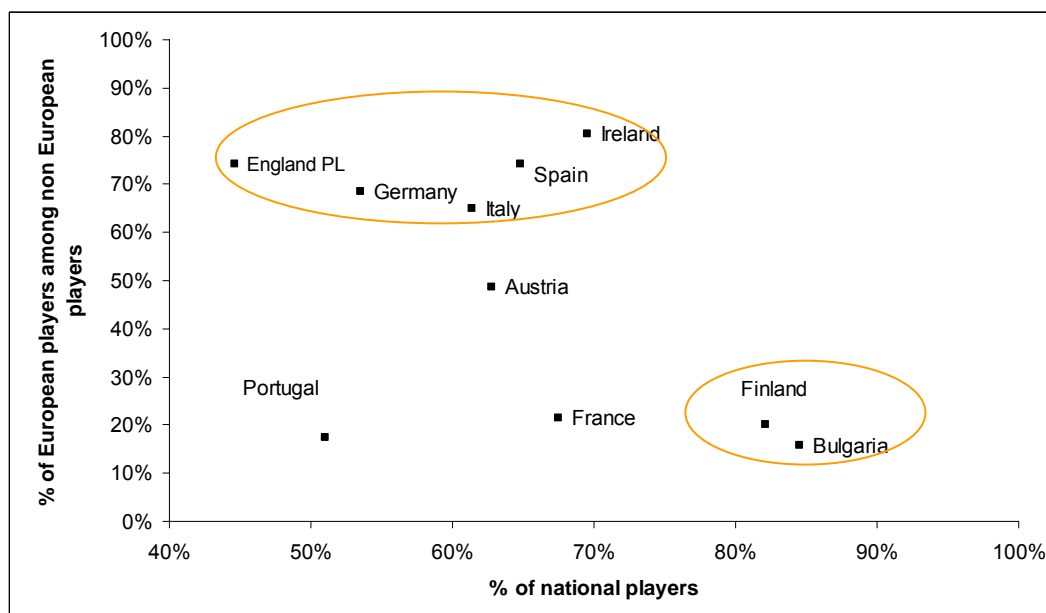


Fig. 12. Typological ranking of countries regarding the percentage of national players in professional first teams rosters and the percentage of European players among non European players (level 1)

Sources: Study 2008 (Football leagues questionnaires): Portugal, France, Finland, Bulgaria, Austria, Italy, Spain, Germany, England Premier League, Ireland. **The definition of non national, European and non European players may vary from one EU Member State to another. Please refer to Chapter I parts B and C of Part II of our complementary study.**



2) Second level leagues

Most of the second level leagues, as previously seen, mainly depend on national players (between 79 and 82% for England, Italy, Spain and France).

The origin of non national players, just like for first level leagues, can be used to distinguish those who mostly rely on European players (England, Italy, Spain) from those who mostly rely on non European players (Austria, France).

Just like for first level football, Portugal is a quite specific country with a very high percentage of non national players and a very large majority of non European players among them.

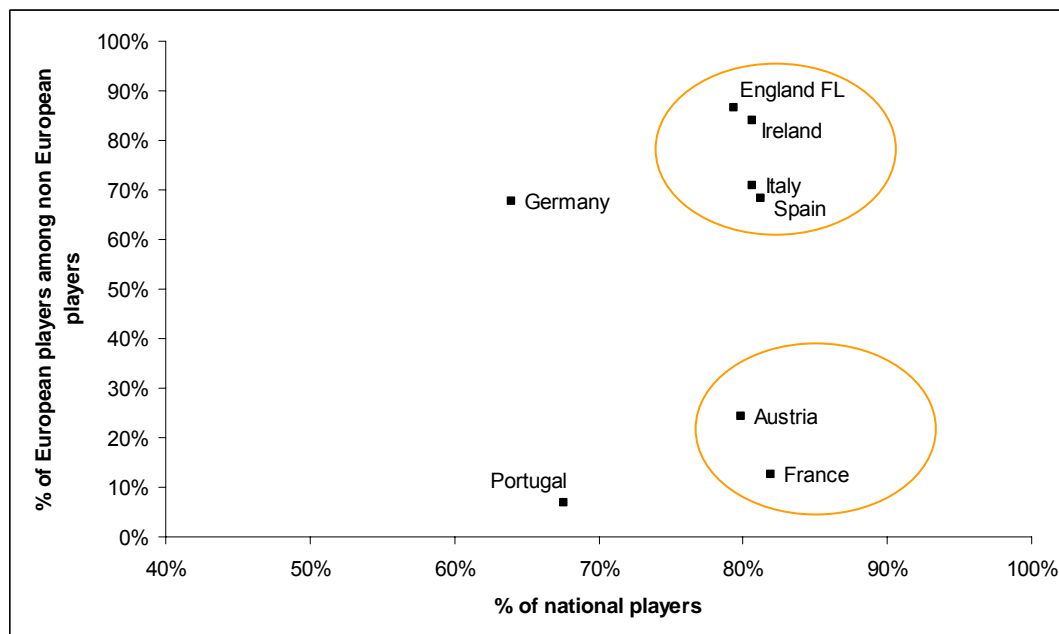


Fig. 13. Typological ranking of countries regarding the percentage of national players in professional first teams rosters and the percentage of European players among non European players (level 2)

Sources :

Study 2008 (Football leagues questionnaires): Portugal, France, Austria, Spain, Italy, Germany, Ireland, England Football leagues

NB : England Football leagues regroup 3 divisions (from level 2 to level 4).

The definition of non national, European and non European players may vary from one EU Member State to another. Please refer to Chapter I parts B and C of Part II of our complementary study.



C Statistics regarding home grown players

1) Global home grown players (i.e club trained or national association trained)

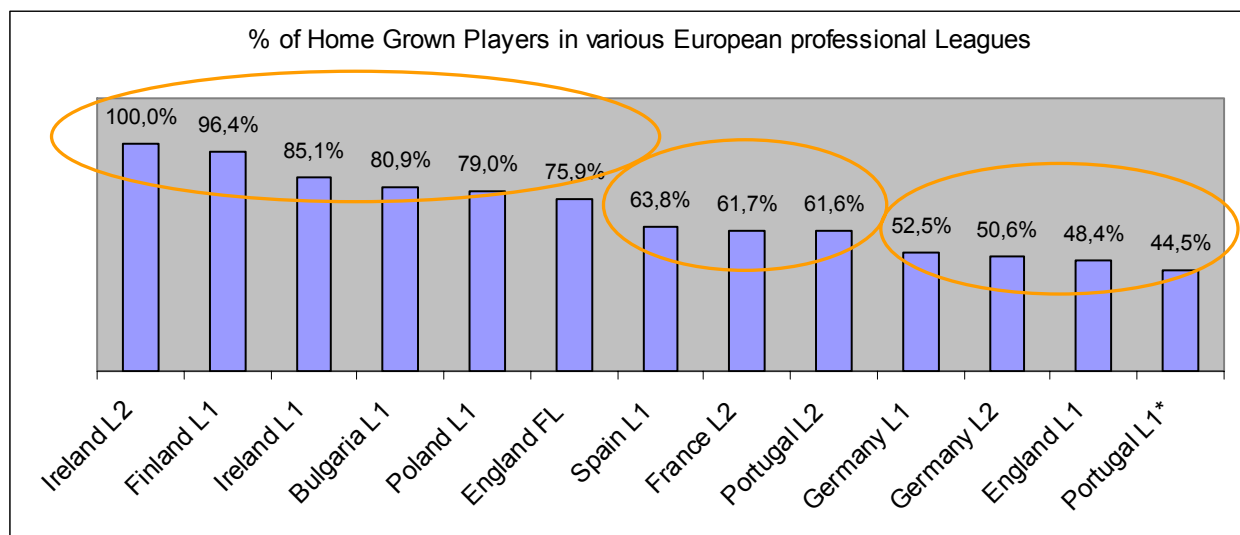
For this analysis, we used the data sent by the various professional leagues and national associations. These data refer to the 2007/2008 season.

First of all, we have to point out that the percentage of home grown players in the different countries is above 44% for this season.

We identified three main categories of championship in the European Union:

- Championships which involve more than three quarters of home grown players in their clubs rosters,
- Championships which involve from 60 to 65% of home grown players,
- Championships which involve around 50% of home grown players.

We have to mention that statistics usually take into account the whole professional rosters. As a consequence, these statistics can integrate some very young professional players who are not really part of the first team (this is the case of England for instance where Premier League



declares that the average roster involves 44 professional players).

Fig. 14. Percentage of Home Grown Players in various European professional football leagues

Sources :

Study 2008 (Football leagues questionnaires): Ireland, Finland, Bulgaria, England, Spain, France, Portugal, Germany.

NB : England Football leagues regroup 3 divisions (from level 2 to level 4). Italy didn't provide us the % of home grown players in Serie A.



We may also notice also that there can be huge differences in the rates of home grown players from one club to another in the same championship.

In England, for the 2007/08 season, some clubs like Arsenal or Manchester United had a percentage of Home Grown Players 2.5 times higher than a club like Bolton (partly thanks to the young home grown players who are not always part of the first team).

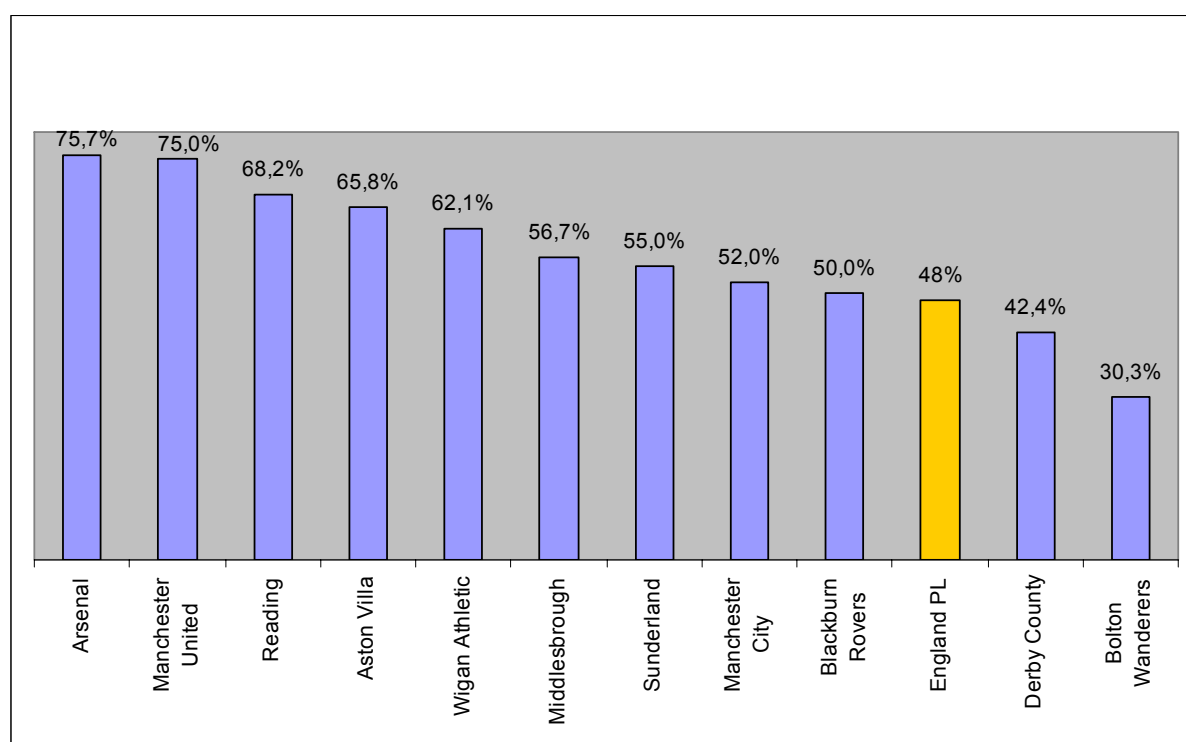


Fig. 15. Percentage of Home Grown Players in various Premier League clubs

Sources :

Study 2008 (Football clubs questionnaires)

Study 2008 (Football leagues questionnaires) : England Premier League



In Portugal, there are also big differences. For instance, for the 2007/08 season, Sporting Portugal had a home grown players percentage 2.7 times higher than Sporting Braga.

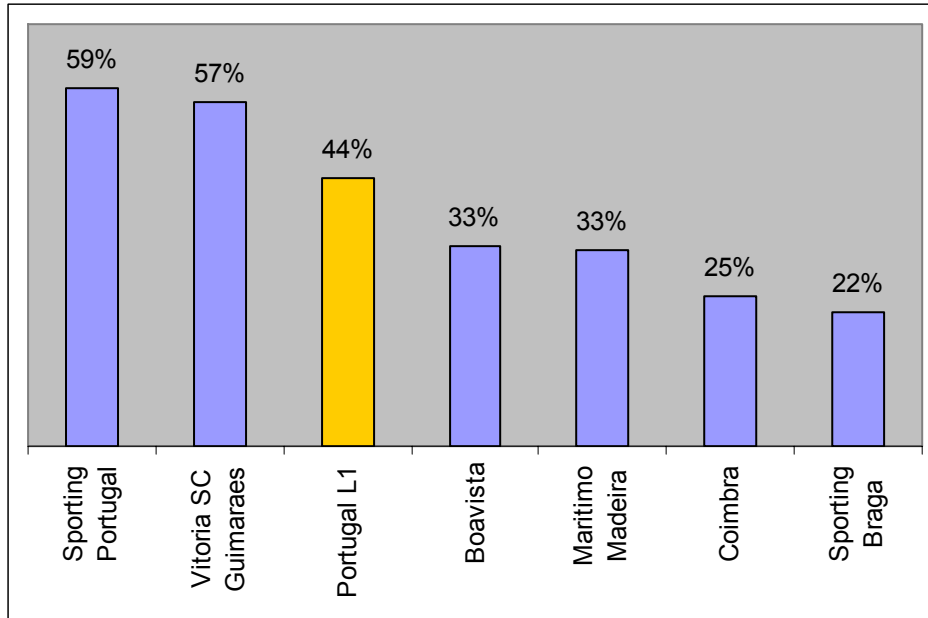


Fig. 16. Percentage of Home Grown Players in various Portuguese clubs

Sources :

Study 2008 (Football clubs questionnaires)

Study 2008 (Football leagues questionnaires) : Portugal



2) Home grown players – Club trained only

For this analysis, we used the data from the 2007 « Professional Football Players Observatory » issued by the CIES and the SERSOT. This data refer to the 2006/2007 season and was available for German, English, Spanish, English and French first level championships.

We can also point out that since the beginning of the 90's, the number of club-trained players in the Top 5 countries has clearly decreased. In 1990, there were between 6 and 7 club-trained players in clubs from Top 5 leagues. This average declined between 4 and 4,5 players in the recent years mainly because of the Bosman case (1995). The Top 5 leagues, which concentrate the main economic resources, have attracted and are still attracting the best players in their clubs. As a consequence, some clubs of those Top 5 leagues now prefer recruiting national and non national players rather than training their own players. The competition becomes now harder and harder for club-trained players in the clubs of Top 5 countries.

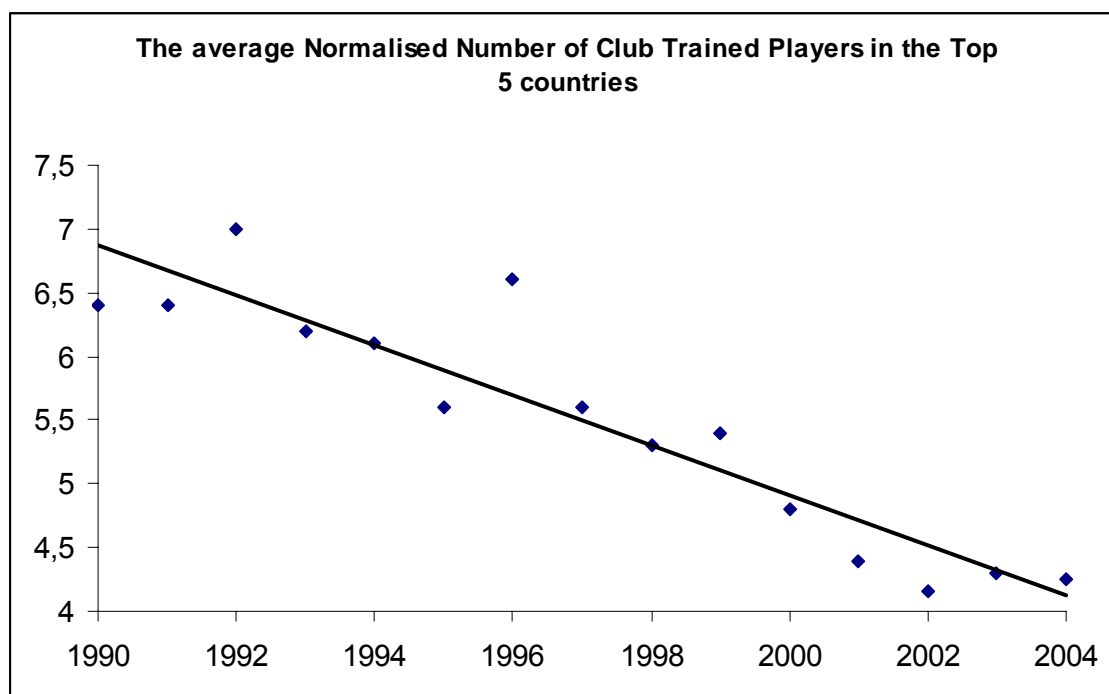


Fig. 17. Percentage of Home Grown Players (club trained) in various leagues

Source: UEFA 2005



The percentage of club trained players ranges from 15% in Italian Serie A to 33% in the French Ligue 1.

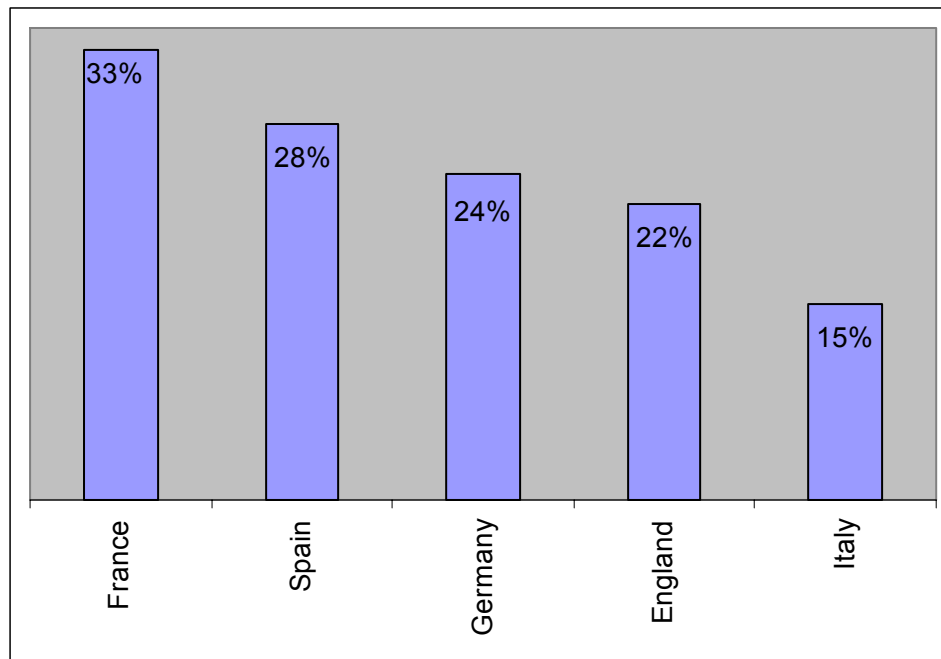


Fig. 18. Percentage of Home Grown Players (club trained) in various leagues

Source: CIES and SERSOT, 2007 « Professional Football Players Observatory »



In the French Ligue 1, for the 2006/2007 season, 5 clubs registered more than 50% club-trained players.

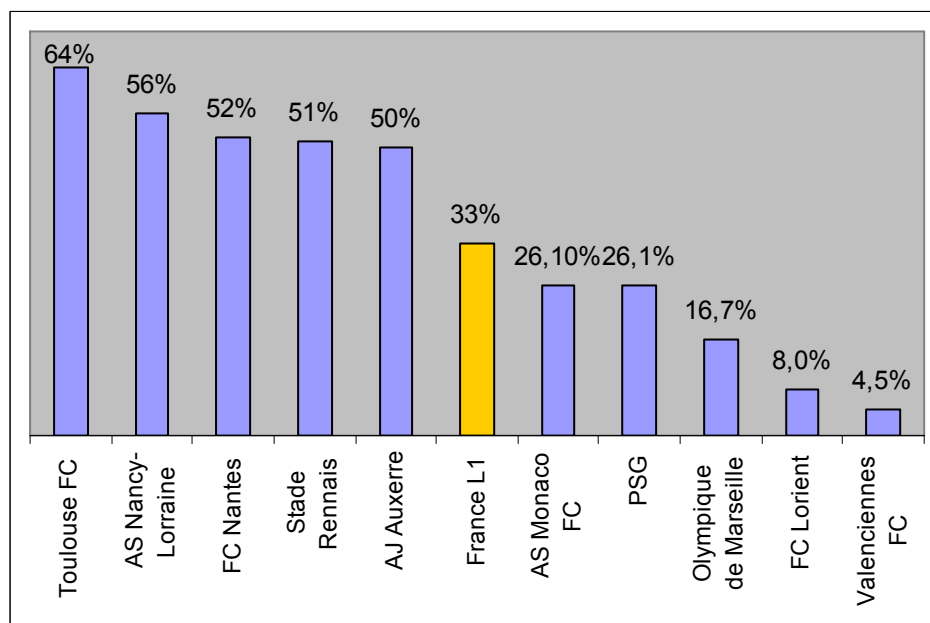


Fig. 19. Percentage of Home Grown Players (club-trained) in clubs of the French Ligue 1

Source: CIES and SERSOT, 2007 « Professional Football Players Observatory



In the Spanish Liga, for the season 2006/2007, there are huge disparities between clubs regarding the percentage of club-trained players. Five clubs had more than 40% club-trained players on their roster, while 3 clubs had less than 4% club-trained players.

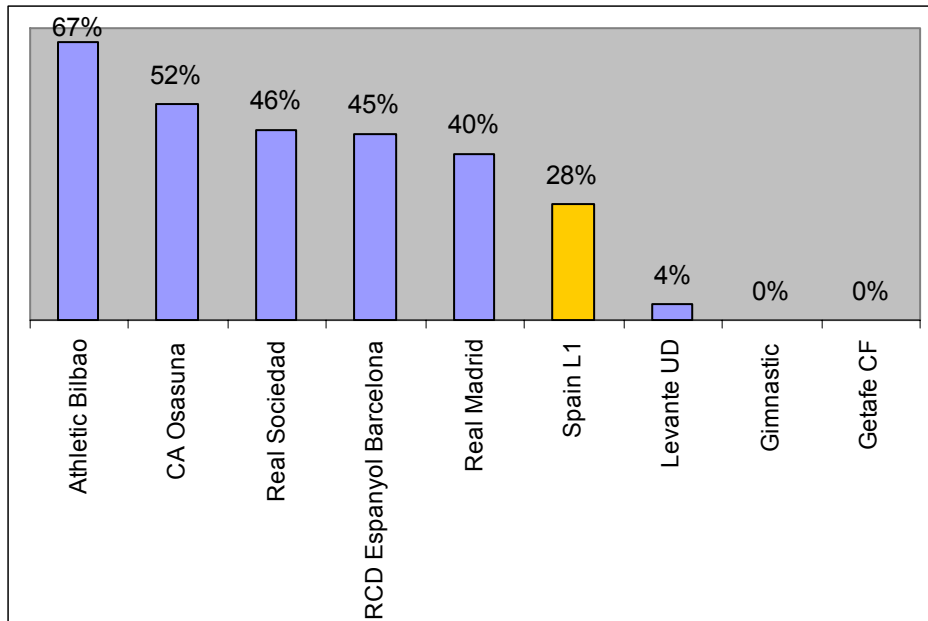


Fig. 20. Percentage of Home Grown Players (club trained) in clubs of the Spanish Liga

Source: CIES and SERSOT, 2007 « Professional Football Players Observatory



In the German 1.Bundesliga, for the season 2006/2007, there are also huge disparities between clubs regarding the percentage of club-trained players. Five clubs had more than 33% club-trained players on their professional roster, while one club (VFL Bochum) had less than 4% club-trained players.

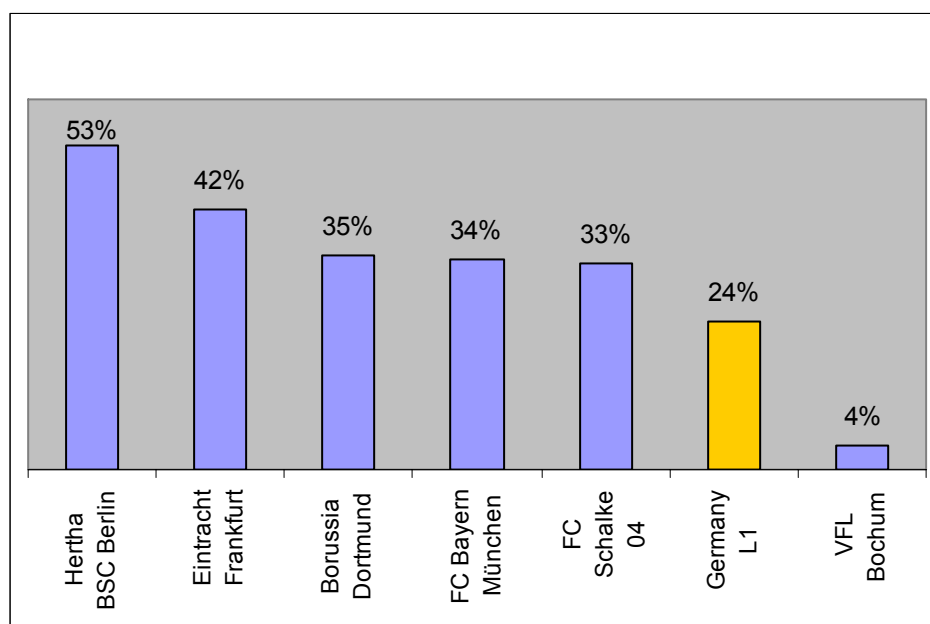


Fig. 21. Percentage of Home Grown Players (club trained) in clubs of the German 1.Bundesliga

Source: CIES and SERSOT, 2007 « Professional Football Players Observatory



In the English Premier League, for the season 2006/2007, 5 clubs had more than 36% club-trained players on their professional roster, while one club (Reading FC) had only 4% club-trained players.

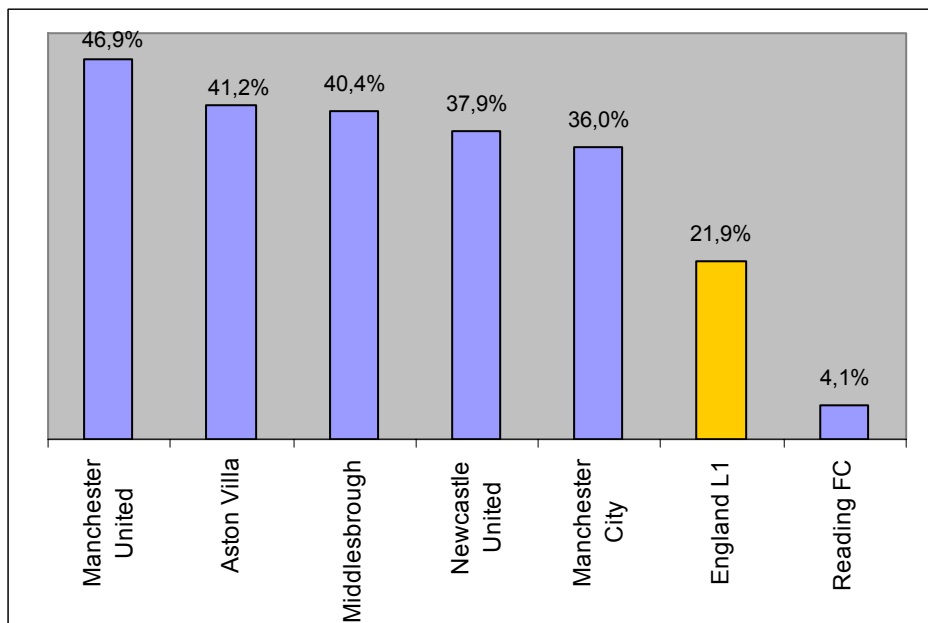


Fig. 22. Percentage of Home Grown Players (club trained) in clubs of the English Premier League 1

Source: CIES and SERSOT, 2007 « Professional Football Players Observatory



In the Italian Serie A, for the season 2006/2007, five clubs had between 27% and 37% club-trained players on their professional roster, while 5 clubs had less than 4% club-trained players.

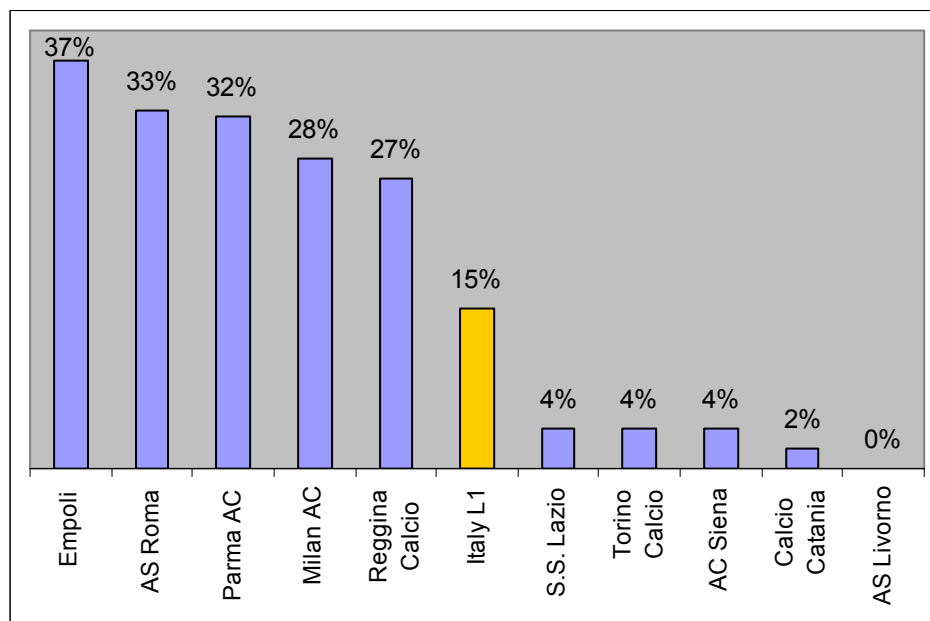


Fig. 23. Percentage of Home Grown Players (club trained) in clubs of the Italian Serie A

Source: CIES and SERSOT, 2007 « Professional Football Players Observatory