



# News

## from member associations

ball, so we had to find a way to select the best, and then to prepare them for UEFA competitions. As a result, we organised this camp, where young players trained with our best coaches. We also invited guest coaches from neighbouring countries. This format has proved successful and we will therefore continue with this practice," said Ahmet Pasalic, director of all Bosnia and Herzegovina national teams.

The youngest age category, the Under-15s, were invited to the camp too, and a similar camp was organised for the girls in Igalo (Monte Negro). All head coaches, Nikola Nikic (Under-19s), Velimir Stojnic (Under-17s), Dusko Petrovic (Under-15s), and Namik Nuhbegovic (girls) were well pleased with the efforts put in by their players during the camp.

This is further proof that the organisation of national youth leagues is a good idea, but with fewer leagues than the four that are staged in Bosnia and Herzegovina at present.

The camp was also successful thanks to the contribution of former famous players of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Drago Smajlovic, Josip Katalinski and Danijel Pirc. Additional camps will be organised in summer, as well as before the start of qualifying tournaments. The FF BHZ is going to be hosting a qualifying tournament in the European Under-19 Championship in the autumn, involving Bulgaria, Croatia and Iceland, alongside the host nation. The Under-17s will be playing their qualifying tournament in Finland, against the hosts, Greece and Slovakia.

On the last day of January, the executive committee of the federation met in Sarajevo and, in accordance with the presidential rotation system, Iljo Dominkovic takes over as FF BHZ president for the next 16 months.

Fuad Krvavac

## BELGIUM



### Tool to improve youth coaching

At the end of January, the Belgian FA (URBSFA) launched the Dexia Foot Pass, which is designed to analyse and, if necessary, improve the quality of youth coaching.

This new tool is different insofar as it is not limited to youth coaching in professional clubs. It also applies to amateur clubs.

The main aim of the project is to improve the quality of coaching. The objective of the Dexia Foot Pass is simple: *"To constantly stimulate the promotion of home-grown players by offering them high-quality coaching and to systematically increase the use of home-grown players in order ultimately to produce successful club sides, a talented national team and a higher standard of play in Belgian football in general."*



In order to improve the quality of youth coaching, it is necessary to work at grassroots level.

– Clubs and their youth team coaches are the first target group. The whole strategy is based on PASS (Professional Academy Support System), which is subdivided into four parts: an assessment system, a quality manual with practical examples, a "youth coordinator" management course and a certification system with quality labels.

– Young players form the second target group. A system has been developed for them, based on a new training concept (Dribble & Double Pass Game), which develops players' technique and intelligence.

– Finally, the parents of young players are the third target group of the Dexia Foot Pass, which offers them permanent assistance, including general and specific advice.

– Following the disaster in South-East Asia, the URBSFA has decided to donate 25,000 euros to the SOS Children's Villages organisation. It has also asked all its affiliated members, clubs, players, referees and supporters to show their support by giving money to this FIFA-sponsored organisation.

– A minute's silence was also held at all matches played in Belgium during the weekends of 8 and 15 January in order to pay a final tribute to the thousands of victims.

François Vantomme

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



### Youth Camp in Medugorje

The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FF BHZ) used the winter break to organise a football camp for all the youth categories. Potential candidates for the Under-19 and Under-17 teams participated in the camp, held at the Cyrclle international sports centre in Medugorje, near Mostar, in January.

The first camp of its kind was organised ten years ago, right after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Makarska (Croatia).

The camps used to be held only a short while before the qualifying tournaments for the European youth championships, which is why they did not produce good results.

*"We were not satisfied with the results of the youth teams, considering they are the future of Bosnian foot-*



The Under-17 team of Bosnia and Herzegovina.