



SWISS FOOTBALL STUDY

English version



WHAT KIND OF SUCCESS FOR SWISS FOOTBALL ?

Success in football is relative term. Some teams can be disappointed with second place, while others are happy to have avoided last position. The increase in economic disparities between championships and within leagues has only served to reinforce this phenomenon over the past thirty years.

In the European context, financially speaking, Swiss football ranks low in the pecking order. Thus, its success cannot be measured in terms of trophies won in international club competitions, but rather in its ability to train or add value to young talents which will attract the attention of major foreign teams.

This report shows that Swiss clubs are very adept at this game! With statistics at the ready, the study also illustrates how the Raffeisen Super League is a young and dynamic championship where winning teams have more club-trained players than the others. This finding clearly shows that training is the key to success for Swiss football.

The analyses presented in this report also allow us to have a clearer idea of different strategies adopted by clubs of the Raffeisen Super League in choosing their squads, as well as the trends observed over the last four seasons.

We wish you an enjoyable read!

Claudius Schäfer, CEO SFL

Raffaele Poli, head of CIES Football Observatory

METHODOLOGY

This report was elaborated by the CIES Football Observatory of the University of Neuchâtel. The data refer to the first part of the 2012/13 season, up until the 3rd December 2012. This date corresponds to the start of the winter break.

Footballers included in the analysis have participated in at least one championship match since the start of the season, or, if this was not the case, they have played matches in professional leagues during each of the two previous seasons.

For comparison purposes, the analysis of results achieved by Swiss teams in European club competitions do not include matches played during the 2012/13 season.

The data on players were sourced from the official website of the Swiss Football League. The CIES Football Observatory's database was also used with regard to the five major European championships.

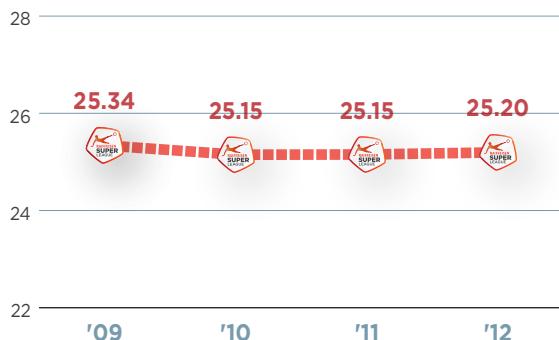
The definition of the statistical indicators used is to be found on the page where they are developed.

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 - Age
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AGE

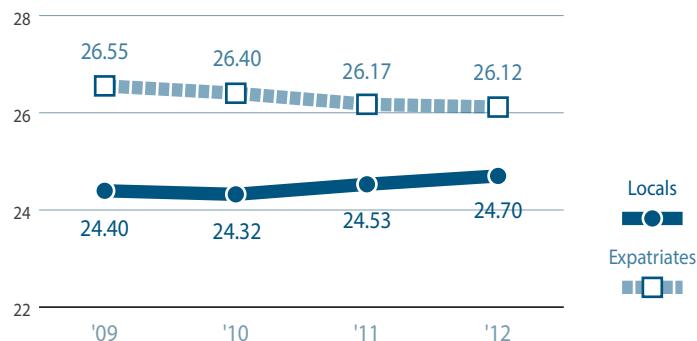
Average age¹ of players in the Raiffeisen Super League



Players in the Raiffeisen Super League are on average aged 25.2. This figure has been relatively stable since 2009. It is half a year lower than that measured at European level. This shows that **Swiss clubs are very keen to give a chance to young talents.**

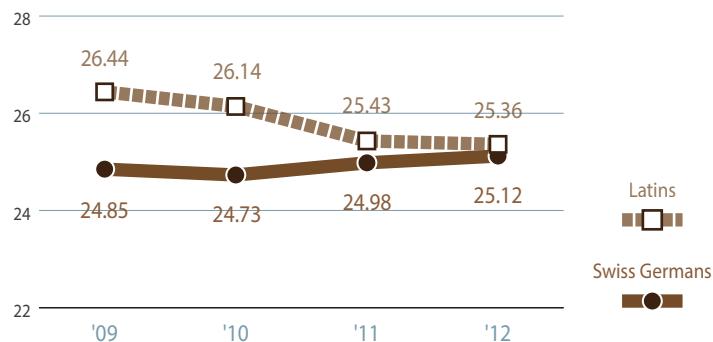
Local players are on average 1.5 years younger than expatriates. However, this gap is on the decrease. The slight increase in the average age of Swiss footballers is probably due to the fact that local teams have launched fewer players during the last couple of years.

Average age of local² and expatriate³ players



While Swiss German clubs remain on average younger than Latin teams, the gap in 2012 is much lower than in 2009. The replacement of Neuchâtel Xamax and Bellinzona by Servette and Lausanne has strongly contributed to the decrease in the age of Latin clubs in the Raiffeisen Super League.

Average age of players in Latin and Swiss German clubs



¹ Age on the first of October of each season

² Player who grew up in Switzerland

³ Player who grew up in foreign countries

Average age of the 11 most fielded players / substitutes

11 MOST USED			SUBSTITUTES		
1.	FC Sion	28.7	1.	FC Zürich	25.5
2.	FC St-Gall	28.1	2.	FC Thun	25.1
3.	FC Lausanne-Sport	27.6	3.	Servette FC	25.1
4.	FC Thun	27.5	4.	FC St-Gall	24.8
5.	BSC Young Boys	27.4	5.	FC Luzern	24.5
6.	FC Luzern	27.1	6.	FC Basel 1893	23.9
7.	Servette FC	26.1	7.	BSC Young Boys	23.9
8.	FC Basel 1893	26.1	8.	FC Sion	23.5
9.	FC Zürich	24.3	9.	Grasshopper Zürich	23.4
10.	Grasshopper Zürich	23.9	10.	FC Lausanne-Sport	22.7

Zurich-based clubs are by far those fielding the most players under the age of 21. The **11 most fielded players at Grasshoppers are on average aged only 23.9**, almost five years less than at FC Sion (28.7). However, substitutes of the Valais club are among the youngest in the Raiffeisen Super League. The age gap between the 11 most employed footballers and other squad members is close to five years.

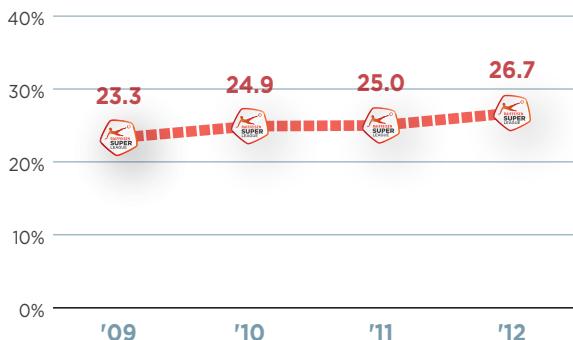
FC Zürich is the only Raiffeisen Super League club where the 11 most utilised players are on average younger than substitutes. At squad level, the team regrouping the most seasoned footballers is FC St-Gall. However, their average age remains quite low (26.2 years).

% of minutes of U21 players



TRAINING

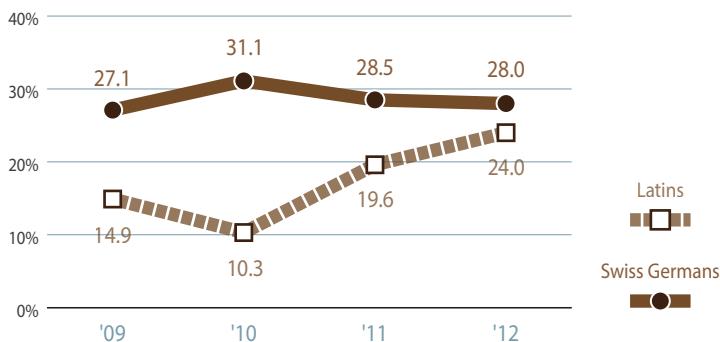
% of club-trained players¹ in the Raiffeisen Super League



% of club-trained players: top 3 vs other clubs



% of club-trained players: Latin vs Swiss German clubs



The proportion of players who have been for at least three seasons with their employer club between the ages of 15 and 21 has increased for the third successive season. Today, more than one-quarter of squads are made up of club-trained footballers.

Since 2009, the three best ranked teams employ on average a greater percentage of club-trained players than their rivals. Within the Swiss context, **investments in youth training undoubtedly contribute to success.** The less performing teams seems also to have understood it.

While half of goalkeepers and one third of midfielders are club-trained, this percentage is lower than 20% for forwards, and between 10 and 15% for defenders. This suggests that Swiss teams struggle to train competitive players in these positions (see also page 8).

¹ Players who have been for at least three seasons in their employer club between the ages of 15 and 21

% of club-trained players per team

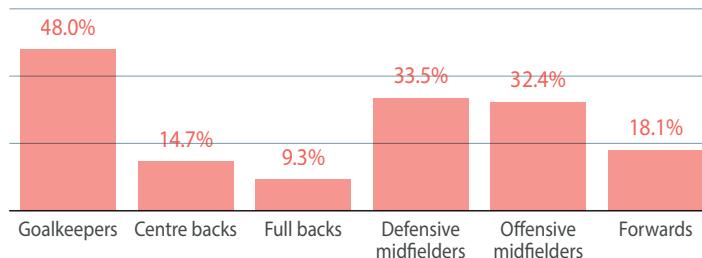
IN THE SQUAD			ON THE PITCH		
1.	FC Basel 1893	40.7%	1.	Grasshopper Zürich	43.0%
2.	FC Zürich	37.0%	2.	FC Zürich	39.5%
3.	Grasshopper Zürich	36.4%	3.	FC Basel 1893	37.2%
4.	FC Luzern	36.0%	4.	Servette FC	24.1%
5.	FC Thun	29.2%	5.	FC Luzern	22.7%
6.	Servette FC	28.0%	6.	FC Thun	20.8%
7.	FC Lausanne-Sport	26.1%	7.	BSC Young Boys	15.7%
8.	FC St-Gall	20.8%	8.	FC Lausanne-Sport	14.8%
9.	BSC Young Boys	14.8%	9.	FC St-Gall	12.5%
10.	FC Sion	12.5%	10.	FC Sion	11.4%

Club-trained footballers have played more than 40% of minutes played by Grasshopper team members. This percentage is greater than the Swiss average also for the two other clubs having won league titles since 2004: Basel and Zurich.

Along with Grasshopper, the **three teams that are currently fielding the most club-trained footballers have won the 12 last league titles!** This shows to what extent training is a key success factor in Switzerland.

In all teams, club-trained footballers have played at least 10% of minutes. From this perspective, the obligation to have at least eight home-grown footballers out of 25 squad members seems to have had a positive impact.

% of minutes of club-trained players, by position



Clubs that trained the most players in the Raiffeisen Super League

1.	FC Basel 1893	16	(10) ¹	11.	FC Sion	6	(3)
2.	FC Zürich	15	(9)		FC Winterthur	6	(-)
3.	Servette FC	13	(10)	13.	FC Wil	5	(-)
4.	FC Thun	11	(6)	14.	FC Aarau	4	(-)
	Grasshopper Zürich	11	(8)	15.	Etoile Carouge FC	3	(-)
6.	FC Lausanne-Sport	10	(6)		FC Concordia Basel	3	(-)
7.	BSC Young Boys	8	(2)		FC Lugano	3	(-)
	FC Luzern	8	(8)		FC Solothurn	3	(-)
	FC St-Gall	8	(4)		Sporting CP (POR)	3	(-)
10.	Neuchâtel Xamax FC	7	(-)		<i>No training club</i>		21

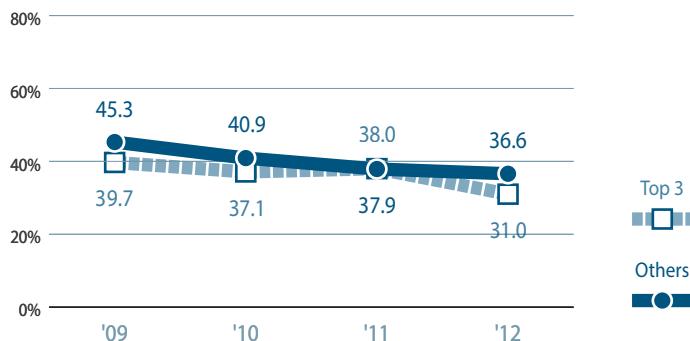
¹(-) Players still in the club

EXPATRIATES

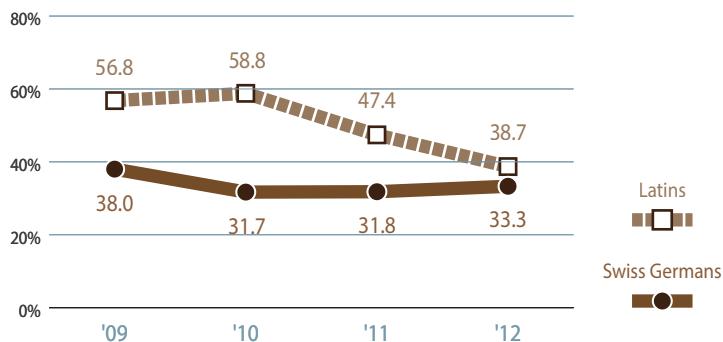
% of expatriate players¹ in the Raiffeisen Super League



% of expatriate players: top 3 vs others



% of expatriate players: Latin vs Swiss German clubs



Since 2009, the percentage of expatriate players in the Raiffeisen Super League went down by almost 10%. It is one of the biggest decreases in Europe. Today, expatriates account for only 35% of squad members.

The quality of the training system set up pushes Swiss clubs to select local players instead of imported ones. While Latin teams still gather a relatively higher percentage of expatriate footballers than Swiss German clubs, the difference is not as marked as in the past.

Expatriates still represent a majority of players among centre backs and forwards. This confirms the need for stronger training programmes in these positions (see also page 6).

¹ Players who grew up in foreign countries

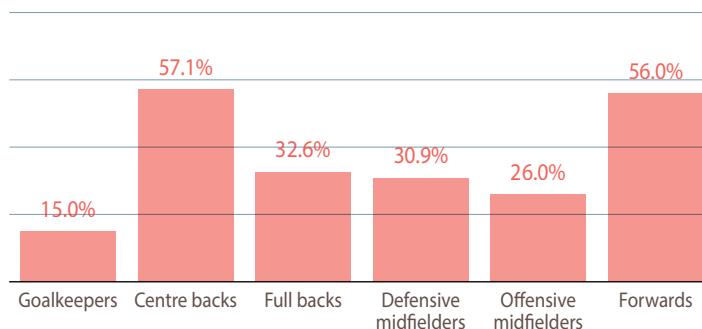
Percentage of expatriate players

IN THE SQUAD			ON THE PITCH		
1.	FC Sion	54.5%	1.	FC Sion	66.4%
2.	BSC Young Boys	50.0%	2.	FC Lausanne-Sport	57.7%
3.	FC Lausanne-Sport	47.6%	3.	FC St-Gall	50.4%
4.	FC St-Gall	42.9%	4.	BSC Young Boys	42.6%
5.	FC Basel 1893	37.5%	5.	FC Basel 1893	40.6%
6.	FC Zürich	33.3%	6.	FC Luzern	31.8%
7.	FC Luzern	30.4%	7.	Servette FC	27.6%
8.	Servette FC	28.0%	8.	FC Thun	26.3%
9.	FC Thun	26.1%	9.	FC Zürich	21.4%
10.	Grasshopper Zürich	15.0%	10.	Grasshopper Zürich	9.4%

The percentage of minutes played by expatriate footballers greatly varies according to team. While they play 60 minutes out of 90 at FC Sion, **imported players only play on average nine minutes per game at Grasshopper.**

As for FC Sion, another club from Romandie (FC Lausanne-Sport) and a Swiss German team (FC St-Gall) field a majority of expatriates. The percentage of minutes played by expatriate footballers is also over 40% at FC Basel and Young Boys,

% of minutes played by expatriates, by position

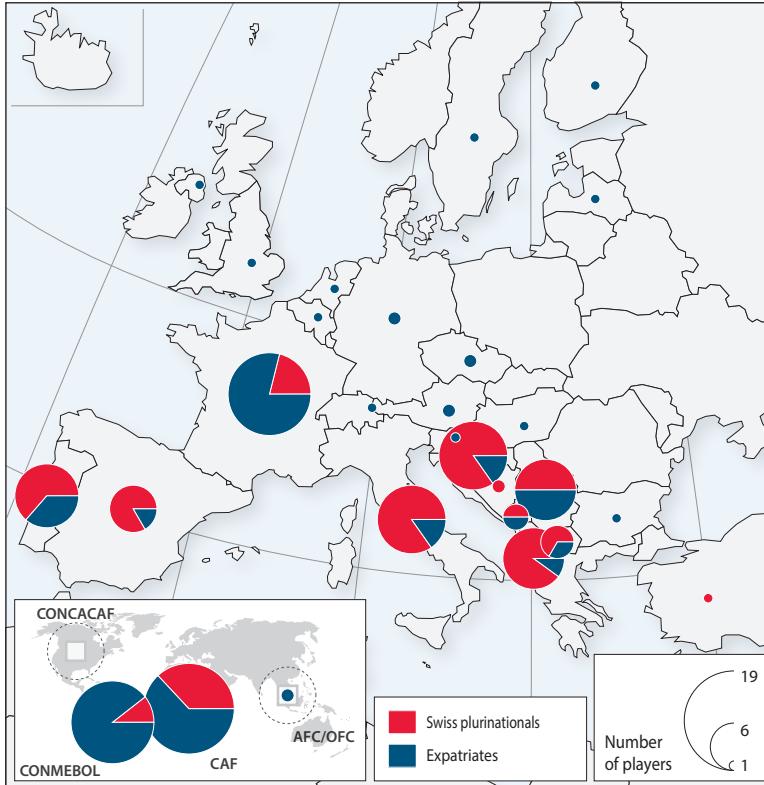


During the current season, there is no statistical correlation between the rate of expatriates and points per match. This confirms that international recruitment is not a key success factor within the Swiss context.

Minutes played according to the origin of expatriates

1.	France	11'534	11.	Latvia	1'620
2.	Brazil	6'298	12.	The Netherlands	1'620
3.	Ivory Coast	4'009	13.	Sweden	1'496
4.	Argentina	3'936	14.	Gambia	1'396
5.	Portugal	2'908	15.	Morocco	1'370
6.	Germany	2'751	16.	Belgium	1'347
7.	Serbia	2'662	17.	Hungary	1'305
8.	Tunisia	2'482	18.	Italy	1'239
9.	Croatia	2'295	19.	Bulgaria	1'087
10.	Austria	1'641	20.	England	1'086

Origin of expatriates and dual nationals

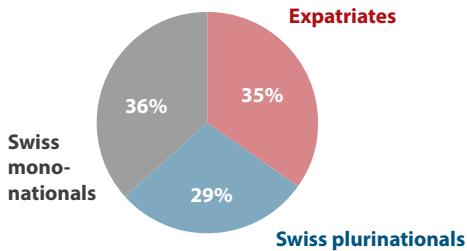


Footballers in the Raiffeisen Super League are split quite evenly between three categories from the point of view of origin: players having migrated to Switzerland for football-related reasons (expatriates), players with a migration background who grew up in Switzerland (Swiss plurinationals), and players without migration background (Swiss mononationals).

This finding shows that **Swiss football is a melting pot activity, right up to the highest level of competition.** From this perspective, football has a great potential for social inclusion,

On the whole, more than 50 nationalities are represented among the 248 players in the Raiffeisen Super League included in the analysis.

Origin of players in the Raiffeisen Super League



Origin of expatriates in the big-5, 1st semester 2012/13

Number of players, Top 20		Number compared to population*	
1. Brazil	120	1. Uruguay	9.17
2. Argentina	98	2. Switzerland	4.25
3. France	91	3. Serbia	4.08
4. Spain	37	4. Denmark	3.40
5. The Netherlands	36	5. Portugal	3.22
6. Switzerland	34	6. Argentina	2.40
7. Portugal	34	7. Belgium	2.16
8. Uruguay	31	8. The Netherlands	2.15
9. Serbia	29	9. Czech Republic	2.10
10. Belgium	24	10. Austria	2.00
11. Chili	22	11. Sweden	2.00
12. Czech Republic	22	12. France	1.43
13. Germany	21	13. Senegal	1.37
14. Colombia	19	14. Chili	1.26
15. Denmark	19	15. Spain	0.80
16. Sweden	19	16. Ivory Coast	0.77
17. Senegal	18	17. Cameroon	0.72
18. Austria	17	18. Brazil	0.62
19. Ivory Coast	16	19. Colombia	0.40
20. Republic of Ireland	16	20. Germany	0.26

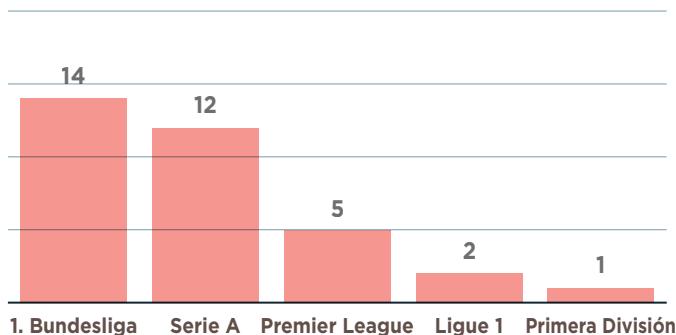
* Per million of inhabitants
(source: PRB 2012)

Despite its size, Switzerland is the sixth biggest exporting country to the big-5 European leagues. Only Uruguay has a greater density of players in the major championships per million of inhabitants. **With the same population as Brazil and an equal number of players per million of inhabitants, there would be 827 Swiss players in the big-5!**

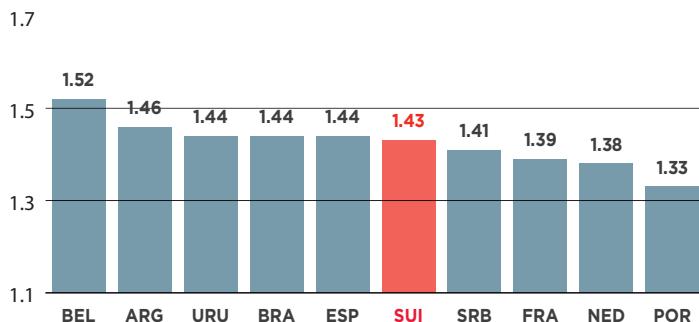
These figures show the outstanding health of Swiss football and the great ability to develop talents. Swiss players are particularly numerous in Germany and Italy (26 out of 34, 76%).

The presence of Swiss players in youth academies of English clubs prefigures an increase in their number in the Premier League, even though an early departure to foreign clubs proves often to be detrimental to future career prospects.

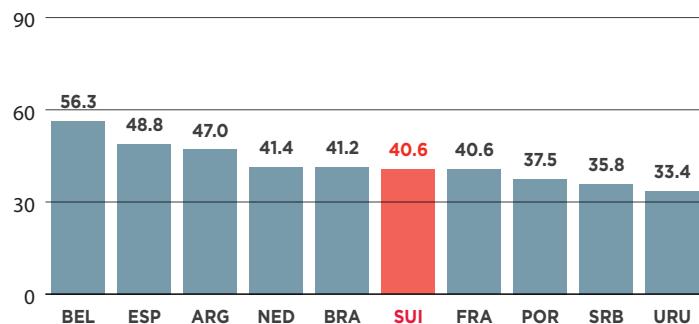
Distribution of Swiss expatriates in the big-5



Points per match per origin of expatriates¹



Average minutes on the pitch per origin of expatriates¹



Most used Swiss expatriates (minutes per match)*

1. Diego Benaglio (VfL Wolfsburg)	90.0 min.
2. Timm Klose (1. FC Nürnberg)	90.0 min.
3. Jonathan Rossini (Sampdoria UC)	89.5 min.
4. Mario Eggimann (Hannover 96)	89.1 min.
5. Ivan Rakitić (Sevilla FC)	78.4 min.
6. Michel Morganella (Palermo US)	77.9 min.
7. Steve Von Bergen (Palermo US)	75.9 min.
8. Pirmin Schwegler (Eintracht Frankfurt)	72.4 min.
9. Gökhan Inler (SSC Napoli)	71.0 min.
10. Valon Behrami (SSC Napoli)	67.5 min.

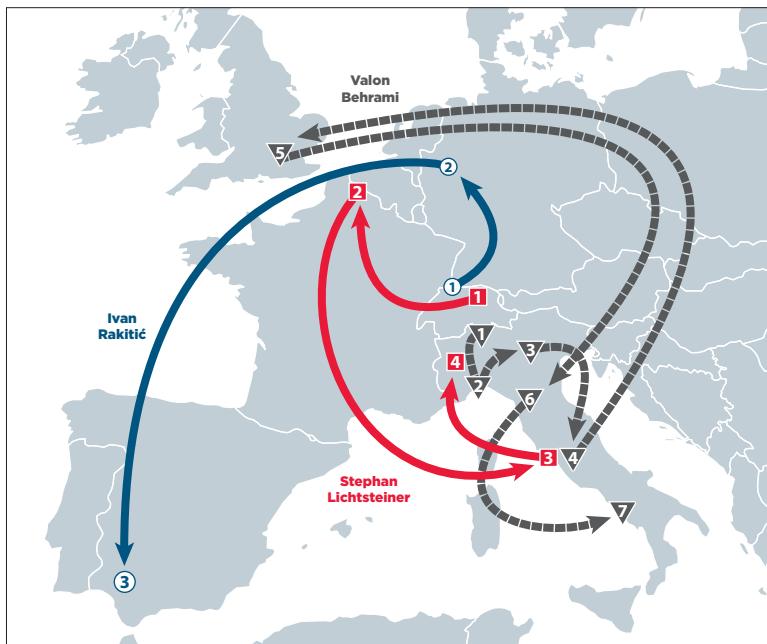
Swiss players are not only numerous in the major European championships, they also tend to play for well ranked teams. Among the ten most represented foreign nationalities, only the employer clubs of Belgian players have obtained a significantly higher number of points per match than teams with Swiss footballers.

With regard to the average presence on the pitch, **Swiss expatriates compete with their counterparts from the best performing nations.** With 40.6 minutes per match on average, they play almost as much as Brazilians, and more than Portuguese and Uruguayans.

These figures show that many Swiss players are key players in their respective teams.

¹ until 3 December 2012

Upward career paths of big-5 league Swiss players



More and more Swiss players are under contract with top-flight clubs. **The career path of Stephan Lichtsteiner is a perfect showcase of this trend.** After 79 championship matches in three seasons at GC, he played for Lille and Lazio before being recruited for 10 million euro by Juventus, where he was recently crowned Italian champion.

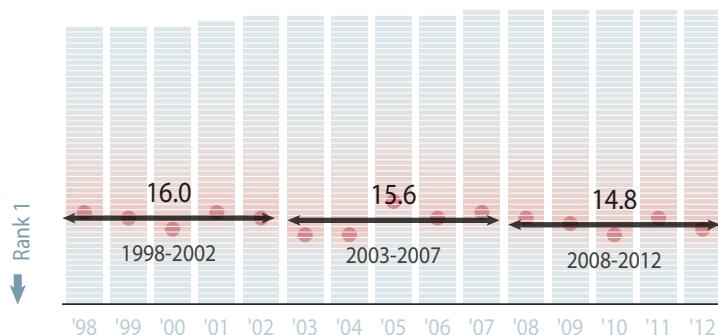
Valon Behrami also played for Lazio before to be signed for 6.5 million by West Ham. After having come back to Italy, together with Gökhan Inler and Blerim Dzemaili, he contributes greatly to the outstanding results of Napoli. The latter team has spent 8 million to recruit him.

While having chosen to represent Croatia, Ivan Rakitić is also considered as a Swiss expatriate insofar as he grew up and was trained in Switzerland. He is currently one of the most played footballers in the Spanish side FC Sevilla.

Player	Position	Age
	Full back	28 years
	Defensive midfielder	27 years
	Offensive midfielder	24 ans

Player	Clubs (Career Path)
Stephan Lichtsteiner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grasshoppers (2001-2005) Lille OSC (2005-2008) SS Lazio (2008-2011) Juventus FC (since 2011)
Valon Behrami	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> FC Lugano (2002-2003) FC Genoa 1893 (2003-2004) Hellas Verona FC (2004-2005) SS Lazio (2005-2008) West Ham United (2008-2011) AC Fiorentina (2011-2012) SSC Napoli (since 2012)
Ivan Rakitić	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> FC Basel 1893 (2005-2007) FC Schalke 04 (2007-2011) Sevilla FC (since 2011)

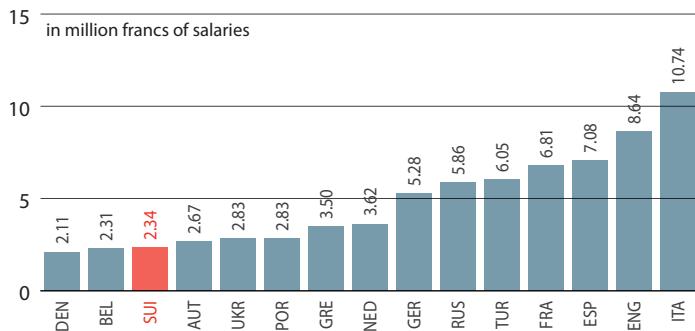
Average rank of Switzerland in the UEFA ranking (1998-2012)



Ranking of countries according to UEFA coefficient 2012

1. England	84.410	11. Turkey	34.050
2. Spain	84.186	12. Belgium	32.400
3. Germany	75.186	13. Denmark	27.525
4. Italy	59.981	14. Switzerland	26.800
5. Portugal	55.346	15. Austria	26.325
6. France	54.178	16. Cyprus	25.499
7. Russia	47.832	17. Israel	22.000
8. The Netherlands	45.515	18. Scotland	21.141
9. Ukraine	45.133	19. Czech Republic	20.350
10. Greece	37.100	20. Poland	19.916

Average cost of UEFA point for the 15 best ranked nations

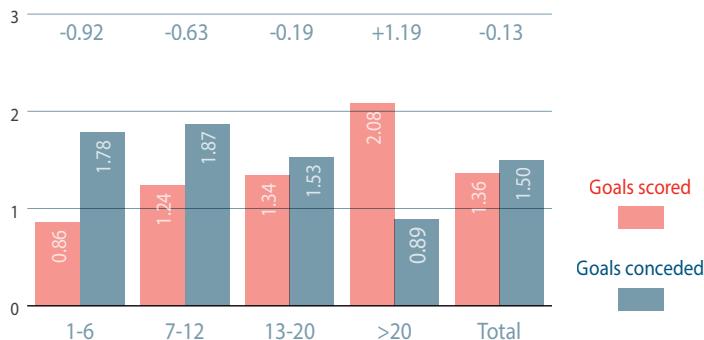


Swiss team results in European club competitions have slightly improved during the last 15 years. The average position of Switzerland in the UEFA ranking was never as high as during the 2008-2012 period.

The current fourteenth place is more than honorable with regard to the means at the disposal of Swiss clubs. The latter spend on average 2.34 million francs in salaries to obtain a point in the UEFA coefficient. Among the 15 best ranked countries, only Belgian and Danish teams have a better ratio.

At the opposite end of the table, **an Italian team spend on average almost five times more than a Swiss club** to obtain a point in the UEFA coefficient.

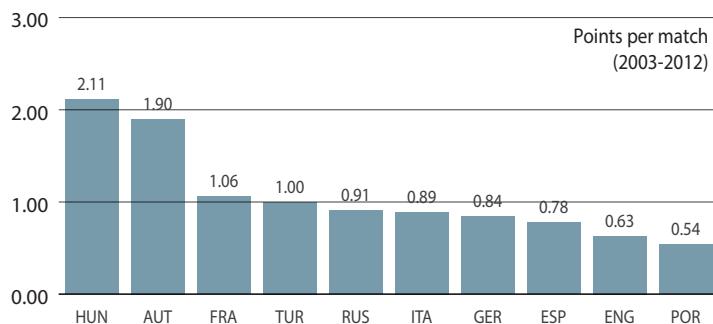
Goal average according to opponent rank (2003-2012)



Since 2003, the average goals of Swiss teams in European club competitions is globally negative (-0.13 goals per match). The ratio is only positive against teams currently ranked beyond the twentieth place in the UEFA ranking.

The worst results of Swiss teams are against Portuguese clubs (0.54 points per match on average), even more than against English and Spanish teams. Conversely, the best results are against Hungarian and Austrian clubs.

Swiss club results against most frequent opponents



From 2003 to 2012, FC Basel and Young Boys are the only teams that have obtained a greater number of wins than losses in European club competitions. Without the matches for which they have been handed a 3-0 forfeit defeat, this would have been the case also for FC Sion.

Swiss club results in European competitions (2003-2012)

Clubs	Win	Draw	Loss	Played
1. FC Basel 1893	42	18	30	90
2. FC Zürich	13	8	19	40
3. BSC Young Boys	14	10	10	34
4. Grasshopper Club Zürich	7	5	12	24
5. FC Thun	6	5	7	18
6. FC Lausanne-Sport	2	5	5	12
7. FC Sion	3	4	5	12
Other clubs	5	1	10	16
Total	92	56	98	246

The first Swiss Football Study is a joint venture between the Swiss Football League and the Football Observatory of the International Center for Sports Studies (CIES). It analyses the composition of Swiss Super League teams from 2009 to 2012 in terms of age, origin and training clubs. The report also highlights the presence and performance of Swiss players in big-5 league teams and analyses the results achieved by Swiss teams in European club competitions since 2003.

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