

- Association founded 1921
- Affiliated to FIFA in 1922/92



Flag



Association emblem



World map



Football in Latvia

In recent years, football has boomed in popularity in Latvia. However, football is still behind basketball and ice hockey in the nation's list of favourite sports. The national football league has three divisions, each with eight teams, while each team is obliged to have a youth structure in place for at least two age groups. There are youth competitions for all ages between U-10 and U-18. Futsal is extremely popular (18 teams in two leagues), whereas women's football has been slower to catch on. Latvia has not «exported» many players. Andrejs Stolcers (Fulham) and Marians Pahars (Southampton) are the most famous players to have earned a transfer to a European league. In recent years, the Latvian FA has laid used artificial turf pitches in each region of the country in an attempt to improve the grassroots.

The first Goal Project

The new artificial turf pitch in Riga's Daugava Stadium was opened in October 2003. Poor weather conditions and problems with laying the foundations led to major delays in the completion of the project, which was fully financed by the Goal Programme. The pitch can be found in the Daugava Sports Park, which is also home to the national stadium and the national association headquarters. All activities can now be coordinated and implemented from one central location. This new facility will mainly be used by youth national teams (five age groups), women's teams, and the youth teams of various clubs and regions. The new pitch also extends the outdoor training season by a number of months.



Financing of Goal project

Project

Artificial pitch in Riga

Project approved

29 October 2001

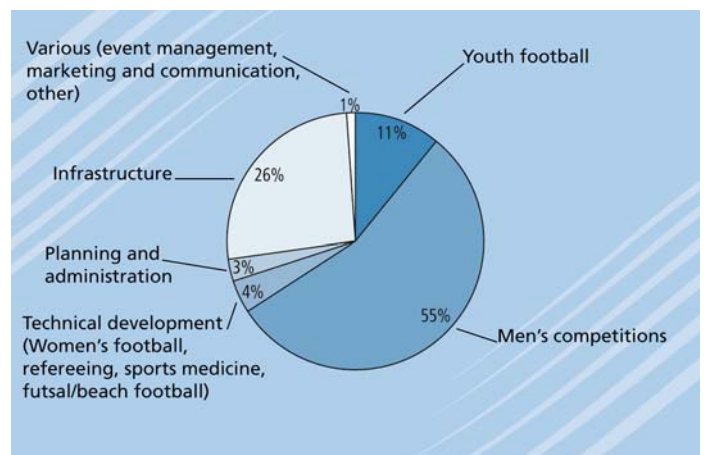
Status

Opened on 31 October 2003

Financed by

Goal	USD	400,000
Local Government	Land	
Total cost	USD	400,000

Use of FAP funds



- Association founded 1921
- Affiliated to FIFA in 1922/92



Flag



Association emblem



World map



Football in Latvia

In recent years, football has boomed in popularity in Latvia. However, football is still behind basketball and ice hockey in the nation's list of favourite sports. The national football league has three divisions, each with eight teams, while each team is obliged to have a youth structure in place for at least two age groups. There are youth competitions for all ages between U-10 and U-18. Futsal is extremely popular (18 teams in two leagues), whereas women's football has been slower to catch on. Latvia has not «exported» many players. Andrejs Stolcers (Fulham) and Marians Pahars (Southampton) are the most famous players to have earned a transfer to a European league. In recent years, the Latvian FA has laid used artificial turf pitches in each region of the country in an attempt to improve the grassroots.

Second Goal project

The second *Goal* project accorded to the Latvian Football Federation (LFF) will be beneficial to the LFF itself and its officials. Despite being located in the Daugava sport park, which is also home to Riga's central sports stadium, the LFF's existing headquarters no longer meet the requirements of a modern football administration. It was for this very reason that, on 15 March 2006, the *Goal* Bureau endorsed a proposed project to build new headquarters with modern, functional facilities that will help to improve the coordination and development of football across the nation.

Financing of Goal project

Project

Association headquarters in Riga

Project approved on

15 March 2006

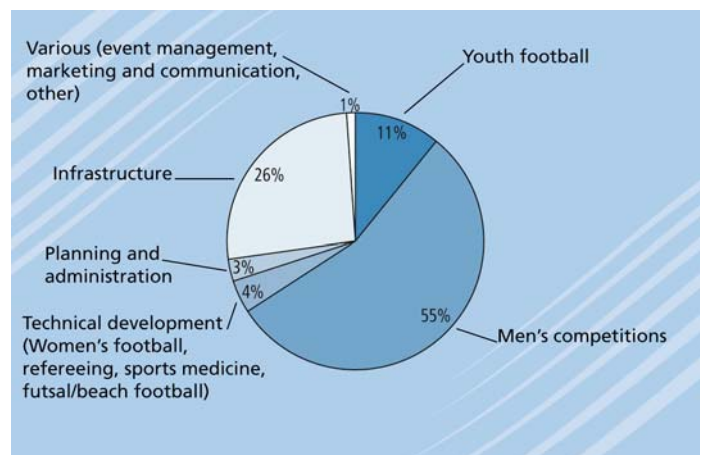
Status

Implementation

Financed by

Goal	USD	400,000
Total cost	USD	400,000

Use of FAP funds



Football education and courses

	No of courses until 1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
FUTURO III regional courses																					
Refereeing (men and women)																					
Coaching (men)																					
Coaching (women)																					
Administration and management																					
Football medicine																					
Seminars																					
Women's football																					
Futsal																					
Com-Unity																	●				
MA Seminars																					
MA courses																					
Administration																					
Refereeing (men and women)																					
Coaching (men and women)															●						
Youth																			●		
Futsal																					
Olympic solidarity coaching courses				●																	
Development courses and academies (1975 - 1990)	0									□											
FUTURO I-II courses for all football branches																					

●: Course host country □: Course participant in another country

Women's football

When, in 1995, today's FIFA President said "The future of football is feminine", it was more than mere lip service. It reflected a strong belief in the huge potential that women's football has to develop. Ever since, FIFA has given targeted support for the efforts of associations who offer women the same opportunities to develop as male players. Launched in 1998, FIFA's Financial Assistance Programme (FAP) introduced a requirement in 2004 for the associations and confederations to invest at least 4% of their FAP funding into women's football. This threshold was increased to 10% in 2005. On top of this commitment, FIFA also promotes the women's game in more general ways by directly financing women's matches and organising competitions and symposiums. Thanks to its development programmes, FIFA is also playing an active role in the training of administrators, coaches, referees and sports doctors.



Does an organised women's football set-up exist?	yes
If so, since when?	1991
From which age on, players are registered?	8
Women's teams (open or over 16 years)	14
Women's teams (below 16 years, youth)	49
National competition (or women's league)	yes
Regional competitions	yes
University competitions	yes
School competitions	yes
Futsal competitions	no
National "A" team	yes
National youth teams: age categories	U-17, U-19



Pictures: The Latvian U-19 women's national team