



# ANNUAL FIXED MATCHES REPORT 2015

*#Stopmatchfixing*

# INTRODUCTION ABOUT FEDERBET

## A DIFFERENT MODEL OF REPORT in 2015

The chronicle of shocking news from recent weeks confirms that the phenomenon of match fixing has taken even more alarming dimensions. The Dirty Soccer investigations, the codename for the inquiry carried out by the Italian police that has seen fifty people placed behind the bars since May 19th, have revealed that Lega Pro, the third-tier football division of the Italian football league, has long been calculatedly manipulated by organized crime, and in particular by the so-called mafia.

Investigations also in Spain at Latvia, a ghost game in Portugal, threats to the Cypriot referee Marios Panayi, cases of match-fixing in the Preliminaries Europa League, Greece and Ukraine, involving the U19 and U21 championships all the way to the first division. The investigations have revealed leagues in many Balkan and South Europe countries where match-fixing was so endemic that the leagues had almost no sporting sense. The match-fixing virus has continued to spread throughout Europe and has even reached Sweden, which is considered the fourth least corrupt country in the world according to the Corruption Perception Index 2014 of Transparency International.

The Asian betting market, which is completely unregulated and which it would be impossible to establish any kind of control measures for, moves – albeit these are indicative figures – around 80 billion dollars every week. The number of matches that are open to betting on has increased exponentially in recent years, thus multiplying the opportunities for fraudsters to arrange match fixing. We observe huge and ridiculous betting figures being placed on lower-level games and on low- or no-media-attention games. It is also easy to see huge differences in the betting amounts being placed on regular matches and fixed matches from the same league (for instances on one match day, Ukraine U19 matches had total bets places on them ranging

from €15 to €200,000 and €500.000). Every week, the European betting houses remove en bloc matches from leagues like Albania, Cyprus, Malta, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Indonesia and Canada – the tenth least corrupt country in the world - because they clearly reflect signs of being fixed.

In 2015, Federbet decided to change its annual report on match fixing to instead focus on some cases that in our opinion deserved special attention because of their seriousness and at the same time that could be presented as a case study to emphasize the good practices that can help eradicate this insidious phenomenon.



# HOW TO UNDERSTAND **ODDS**

**1 X 2:** classic bet on the outcome of the game.

**HT/FT:** bet on the outcome at the end of the first half and at the end of full time.

**Over and Under:** total number of goals scored during the match.

**Over 2.5:** at least 3 goals scored in total; Over 3.5: at least 4 goals scored in total; etc.

**Under 2.5:** a maximum of 2 goals scored in total;

**Under 3.5:** a maximum of 3 goals scored in total; etc.

**Handicap:** a disadvantage attribution of the favourite team. Handicap - 1, the favourite team starts with a goal disadvantage. If the game ends in a 1-0 win for the favourite team, the final result is a draw (X) and not a home win (1) as in the classic bet.

**Combo:** Holding two contemporary bets, such as a home win (1) and a Handicap or Over and Under bet.

# COUNTRIES WHERE IS IMPOSSIBLE **TO BET**

**ALBANIA**  
**CYPRUS**  
**MALTA**  
**MONTENEGRO**  
**BULGARIA**  
**CANADA**  
**INDONESIA**



# Europa League:

## Suspicious matches in the preliminaries

As already highlighted in the 2014 Federbet report, the Europa League is the continental competition where most match-fixing attempts are registered. Once again, for another year, the match-fixing virus has affected the preliminary matches, especially involving teams from leagues where this illegal activity is more usual. However, UEFA and its warning services have not detected anything unusual in the betting movements on these matches.

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
03.07.2014	<b>Celik (MON) – Koper (SLO)</b>	0-5 (0-2 ; 0-3)	2 ; Handicap 2 ; Over
03.07.2014	<b>Aberdeen (SCO) – Daugava Riga (LAT)</b>	5-0 (1-0 ; 4-0)	Handicap 1 ; Over
10.07.2014	<b>Laci (ALB) – Velenje (SLO)</b>	1-1 (0-0 ; 1-1)	X ; Under
10.07.2014	<b>Ekranas (LIT) – Crusaders (NIR)</b>	1-2 (0-0 ; 1-2)	2
10.07.2014	<b>Flamurtari (ALB) – Bolnisi (GEO)</b>	1-2 (0-0 ; 1-2)	2
17.07.2014	<b>Laci (ALB) – Zorya (UKR)</b>	0-3 (0-1 ; 0-2)	Over

# Italy and Belgium: the virus again with no strong antibodies

The 2012 investigation by Cremona, Bari and Naples' police forces (Italy) exposed a world of match-fixing in Italy, involving a network of intermediaries stretching all the way to Singapore. Investigations and the media around the sport and political scandal stopped the illegal activity for several months, but the scandal kicked off again broadly once the alarm went off again in the 2013-2014 football season (see 2014 report).

We all witnessed the institutions unwilling to fully face the issues and a further increase of the phenomenon in the 2014-2015 season in Italy in Lega Pro (the third-tier football division) and Serie B (the second-tier football division). In view of this situation, we decided to denounce a series of match-fixing cases to Busto Arsizio's police (near Milan) on 23 February 2015. The complaint, however, has not been taken seriously by the sports institutions responsible: 'They are just words that do not go anywhere', said the President of Lega Pro, Mario Macalli. However, these "words" were taken seriously by police in Busto Arsizio and were passed to Catanzaro, which was already investigating match-fixing cases in the third-tier and fourth-tier Italian football divisions, and now they are part of the "Dirty Soccer" operation made public on 19 May 2015. Another gesture showing the lack of credibility in the third-tier Italian football division is the fact that the bookmakers have decided not to allow betting in the last match days of the season.

In Belgium, we also witnessed a case of a returning to old practices. After years of relative calm, following research carried out in 2006 on a series of fixed matches in the 2004-2005 season, we have since found new cases of match-fixing of two matches involving Mons Football team and a friendly match between Laci and Ostenda (where the Belgian team was a victim of a match-fixing attempt organized by the Laci players).

## Match fixing cost:

### **Italy Serie B:**

**Turnover bet 20 millions/match**  
**4 millions for manipulation**

### **Italy Lega Pro:**

**turnover bet 5 millions/match**  
**1 millions for manipulation**

### **Belgium 2nd league:**

**turnover bet 10 millions/match**  
**2 millions for manipulation**



# Italy and Belgium:

## The virus is back

Fixed Matches in **Italy Serie B:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
16.11.2014	<b>Trapani – Catania</b>	2-2 (2-0 ; 0-2)	Over ; BTS (Both Teams Score)
24.04.2015	<b>Catania – Ternana</b>	2-0 (1-0)	1
11.04.2015	<b>Catania – Trapani</b>	4-1 (0-1)	HT/FT comb 1; Over 1, over,
16.05.2015	<b>Catania – Cittadella</b>	2-3 (1-1)	HT 1-1; FT 2

Fixed Matches in **Italy Lega Pro Cup:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
23.08.2014	<b>Ascoli – Ancona</b>	5-3 (3-1; 2-2)	Over
22.10.2014	<b>Monza – Albinoleffe</b>	1-1 (0-1; 1-0)	X2
18.04.2015	<b>Messina - Ischia Isola Verde</b>	1-1 (0-1)	HT 2; FT X

Fixed Matches in **Italy Lega Pro:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
06.09.2014	<b>Pavia – Pro Patria</b>	5-3 (3-0 ; 2-3)	Over
10.10.2014	<b>Como – Pro Patria</b>	4-3 (1-3 ; 3-0)	Over
11.01.2015	<b>Torres – Pro Patria</b>	4-0 (0-0; 4-0)	1 & Over
17.01.2015	<b>Pro Patria – Pavia</b>	2-3 (2-1; 0-2)	2 & Over
12.04.2015	<b>Vigor Lamezia – Paganese</b>	1-1 (1-0)	X

Fixed Matches in **Belgium Second Division:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
19.04.2015	<b>Mons - Dessel</b>	0 - 0	Handicap (-1,5) 2
25.04.2015	<b>Antwerp - Mons</b>	1 - 0	1

# Greece and Portugal: In times of crisis, to bet seems to be a solution

The budget cuts and the difficult national recession seem to have had a clear effect on match-fixing activity. Players going unpaid for months and societies on the verge of bankruptcy have created a breeding ground for the match-fixing virus. In Greece, the situation is critical and the league has lost almost all its credibility.

In Portugal, we discovered a ghost match that was never played between Freamunde and Ponferradina. It was supposed to be “played” on Monday, 4 August at 10 am in the Sao Joao de Ver football ground, 30 km south of Porto. On Sunday, Freamunde had played a match at Taça – Portugal, in the south of the country, but nobody seemed to suspect that this friendly match was programmed for the next day in the north. Ponferradina didn't know anything about it. More than several thousand euros were bet in this match, which had a final “ghost result” of 1–2. In reality, twenty-two boys of Sao Joao de Vera played the match and the stadium was rented by a few unknown organizers: the stadium staff forgot to register the name and amount of money for the loan of the ground.

After this case, there have been other fixed matches in the Portuguese second division and in some cases in the first league as well. Many of the bets came from the area of Naples and Reggio Calabria, a city where the “Ndrangheta mafia organization”, which has been accused of being protagonists the Italian match-fixing investigation by Dirty Soccer, has a solid presence.

## **Match fixing cost:**

**Greece 1st league:**  
**Turnover 20 millions**  
**4 millions for manipulation**

**Portugal 1st league:**  
**Turnover bet 30 millions/match**  
**3 millions for manipulation**

**Portugal 2nd league:**  
**turnover bet 10 millions/match**  
**2 millions for manipulation**



# Greece and Portugal:

## In times of crisis, the bet seems a solution

Fixed Matches in **Greece Super League:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
26.10.2014	<b>Paok - Veria</b>	4 - 1 (2-0 ; 2- 1)	Handicap 1, Over
09.11.2014	<b>Olympiakos - Panthrakikos</b>	5 - 1 (2-0 ; 3- 1)	Handicap 1, Over
14.12.2014	<b>Panathinaikos - Panthrakikos</b>	4 - 0 (1-0 ; 3 - 0)	Handicap 1, Over
17.01.2015	<b>Veria - OFI Creta</b>	4 - 1 (3 - 1; 1 - 0)	Handicap 1, Over

Fixed Matches in **Portugal Primeira Liga:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
09.05.2015	<b>Benfica - Penafiel</b>	4 - 0 (2-0)	Handicap -2 over 3.5

Fixed Matches in **Portugal Segunda Liga:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
03.12.2014	<b>Freamunde - Portimonense</b>	0-0 (0-0; 0-0)	2
25.01.2015	<b>Academico - Chaves</b>	1-1 (0-0)	On live over 1.5
11.04.2015	<b>Uniao - Ac. Viseu</b>	4-2 (3-0)	1 and over combo
26.04.2015	<b>Sporting Cp - Oriental</b>	4-3 (2-1)	1ht/ft 1/1 over combo
06.05.2015	<b>Covilha - Orienta</b>	7-1 (4-1)	1 over 3.5 combo
06.05.2015	<b>OrientaSporting CP B - Gima-raes B</b>	2-3 (2-2)	Over 2.5
06.05.2015	<b>Oliveirense - Portimonense</b>	2-4 (2-1)	Over 2.5
17.05.2015	<b>Feirense Club - Oriental Lisboa</b>	2-0 (1-0)	Over and handicap

Fixed Matches in **Portugal Taça da Liga:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
27.07.2014	<b>Sporting Covilha – Freamunde</b>	2-0 (1-0 ; 1-0)	1; Handicap 1; Over

# **Cyprus: the league is a rip-off, but the threats are real.**

Last December, Mario Panayi, an international Cypriot referee, went to the police to denounce cases of manipulations in the local league. He assured the authorities that he had recordings, documents and other evidence proving that members of the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) were involved in fixing matches, in particular those deciding which team would be relegated to the second division. The CFA reply called M. Panayi a “straw-man”. Some weeks later, his best friend’s car was mysteriously burned. Mario Panayi said: “They couldn’t attacked me, so they tried with my family”.

The situation in the Cypriot league is very difficult, and has become more complex, like in Greece and Portugal, due to pressures from the global economic crisis, which particularly hit these countries hard. When the European financial storm buckled the economy in recent years, many clubs were overwhelmed by the fallout from risky decisions made in better times.

As recently as 2014, according to research conducted by Cyprus’s players’ union, the collective debt of the clubs in the island’s top two divisions totalled roughly 60 million euros. Three years ago, 77 per cent of professional players in Cyprus said they were not paid on time; nothing we have seen lets us think that the situation is much better today. The risk of bankruptcy, no salary payments and, in the case of Cyprus, conflict of interests, are the perfect substrate for the development of match-fixing.

# Sweden:

## Is only the football corrupted?

Sweden, the fourth least corrupt country in the world, is not a stranger of sports manipulation. We found fixed matches in the Sweden Allsvenskan, the First Division, with four matches played by Brommapojkarna. In addition, the Sweden Superatten, the Second Division also had four cases of match-fixing, all with Syrianska. This is a clear picture to demonstrate how match-fixing have found a fertile environment in Sweden. It is partly a result of the relevant Institutions being unwilling to change the situation.

### Match fixing cost:

**Sweden 1st league:**  
Turnover bet 40 - 50 millions/  
match

**3/4 millions for manipulation**

**Sweden 2nd league:**  
Turnover bet 20 millions  
**4 millions for manipulation**

#### Fixed Matches in **Sweden Allsvenskan:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
25.08.2014	<b>Brommapojkarna – Djurgarden</b>	0-4 (0-1; 0-3)	2 ; Handicap 2 ; Over
15.09.2014	<b>Norrkoping – Brommapojkarna</b>	3-1 (2-0 ; 1-1)	Handicap 1 ; Over
20.09.2014	<b>Brommapojkarna – Hacken</b>	1-5 (1-1 ; 0-4)	2 ; Over
24.09.2014	<b>Helsingborg – Brommapojkarna</b>	3-1 (1-1 ; 2-0)	Handicap 1 ; Over

#### Fixed Matches in **Sweden Superatten:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
25.08.2014	<b>Jonkopings – Syrianska</b>	4-0 (1-0 ; 3-0)	1 ; Handicap 1 ; Over
21.09.2014	<b>Hammarby – Syrianska</b>	6-0 (2-0 ; 4-0)	1 ; Handicap 1 ; Over
24.09.2014	<b>Syrianska – Assyriska</b>	0-2 (0-1 ; 0-1)	2
06.10.2014	<b>Syrianska – Sundsvall</b>	1-2 (1-0 ; 0-2)	2 ; Over

# Ukraine:

## From the young to the first division

We are witnessing an increase in match-fixing cases in all the leagues in the country, from matches involving young players to those in the first division. The case of Ukraine demonstrates how the manipulation culture starts in the Under 19 and Under 21 leagues and after time starts to affect the higher leagues, where more money is needed for the fix. In the U19 league, we discovered abysmal differences between the no fixed matches played over €15 bets, and a fixed one involving over €200000 in bets, and even some up to half a million euros.

### Match fixing cost:

**Ukraine 1st league:**  
**Turnover 10 millions**  
**2 millions for manipulation**

**Ukraine U19 - U21 leagues:**  
**Turnover 15-100 euro for cleans match, 200.000/500.000€ for fixed matches.**  
**200.000/500.000€ for manipulation**

### Fixed Matches in **Ukraine U19 and U21 leagues:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
06.12.2015	Ilychieviets Mariupol U19 - Metalurh Zaporhyia U19	2 - 3	2; Over 3.5
04.04.2015	Volyn Lutsk U21 - Zorya Lugansk U21	3 - 2	1 and Over
29.05.2015	Hoverla Uzhhorod U21- Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk U21	0 - 8 (0-4)	Handicap 2 over 3,5

### Fixed Matches in **Vyshcha Liha:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
17.05.2015	Olimpic Donetsk - Metalist Kharkiv	2 - 1 (1-0)	Over
24.05.2015	Methalist kharkiv - Illichivets Mariupol	3 - 1 (1-1)	Over
29.05.2015	Dynamo Kiev II - Hirnyk Kryvyi Rih	2 - 2 (0-1)	On live X and over 3,5
30.05.2015	Illichivets Mariupol - Olimpik Donetsk	4 - 1 (1-0)	Over 2.5 and 1
30.05.2015	Dynamo Kiev - Metalurg Zaporizhia	2 - 2 (1-0)	Over 3

### Fixed Matches in **Persha Liha:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
29.05.2015	Dynamo Kiev II - Hirnyk Kryvyi Rih	2 - 2 (0-1)	On live X and over 3,5

# New tendency in some countries

Fixed Matches in **Romania Liga II:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
02.05.2015	Braila - Gloria Buzau	3-2 (1-1; 2-1)	1; Over 2.5
30.05.2015	Gloria Buzau - Sc Rapid Suceava	3-1 (1-1)	Over 3.5 and 1

Fixed Matches in **Slovenian Prvaliga:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
10.05.2015	Nk Krka - Rudar Velenje	2-0 (1-0 ; 1-0)	1; Over 2
30.05.2015	Gorica - Zavrce fixed	4-0 (4-0)	Over 3; handicap
30.05.2015	Olimpija Ljubljana - Domzale	0-2 (0-1)	2

Fixed Matches in **Hungary Soproni Liga:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
29.05.2015	Pecsi MFC - Nyiregyhaza Spartacus FC	2-1 (0-0)	Over 2

Fixed Matches in **Croatia 1. HNL:**

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
03.11.2014	Lok.Zagreb – Istra 1961	4-2 (1-2 ; 3-0)	HT/FT 2/1

# New tendency in some countries

Fixed Matches in ***Friendly matches:***

DATE	TEAMS	FINAL RESULT	SPECIALITY
04.08.2015	<b>Freamunde (PT) – Ponferradina (ES)</b>	-	* Ghost Match
16.09.2014	<b>Freamunde (PT) – Peterborough (ENG)</b>	2-4 (0-3 ; 2-1)	2 ; Over
19.09.2014	<b>Freamunde (PT) – Blackburn (ENG)</b>	0-1 (0-0 ; 1-1)	2
23.07.2014	<b>Palermo (IT) – Jurmala (LAT)</b>	6-0 (3-0 ; 3-0)	Handicap 1 ; Over
11.01.2015	<b>Skenderbeu (ALB) - Oostende (BEL)</b>	0 - 4 (0-2)	On live handicap 2 ov 3.5
19.01.2015	<b>Stuttgart (GER) - Laci (ALB)</b>	5-0 (2-0 ; 3-0)	Over 3.5
31.01.2015	<b>Fk Senica (SLK) - Opava (CZE)</b>	4-2 (2-1 ; 2-1)	1 ; Over 3,5
09.02.2015	<b>Rostov (RUS) - Ulisses Fc (ARM)</b>	4-0 (1-0 ; 3-0 )	Over 3.5



# Big steps in the fight against Match-fixing

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As these examples demonstrate, the match-fixing virus continues to plague sport in Europe, particularly the favourite sport, football. However, there are also examples of good practices of things done in the last year in order to fight against the problem in Europe.

- **Police investigations in Italy, Spain, France and Latvia**
- **Total prevention in Lithuania basketball and improvements in Latvian football**
- **Politics and Institutions**



## **Police investigations**

### **Italy, Spain, France and Latvia**

#### **2014 ---**

In the last year, the police of Italy (regarding the third and fourth divisions), Spain (the first division), France (the second division) and Latvia (a Europa League match between Aberdeen and Daugava) has driven different investigations forward on cases of match-fixing, yielding some interesting results. All these actions are very important and they help to stop the virus, albeit the problem is that the stop is often - as in Italy - only temporary for a few months.

The Spanish case though is different from the Italian one, because Spanish sports institutions, particularly the LFP, have decided to openly combat the phenomenon, performing a protocol for prevention and absolutely collaborating with police and prosecutors. In Italy, the Federation, the sports leagues and justice organizations have had a much softer deal with the lack of effective mechanisms in place for prevention, and by minimizing any complaint and granting very limited penalties to sport athletes, coaches and managers considered guilty by the ordinary courts.



## Total Prevention in Lithuanian Basketball

### Improving in Latvian football 2014 ---

On 16 April 2015, the Lithuanian basketball league decided to cancel the match between Nevezis and Mazeikiai B because they were called about the abnormal movements of betting. This is the first case of implementation of such a radical and effective decision to fight against match-fixing attempts.

16.04.2015     **Nevezis - Mazeikiai**     fixed on 2 and stopped before the start.

LFP (Spain) and the Parliament of Latvia, one of the most sportingly corrupt countries in Europe, have begun a path that aims to clean football from match-fixing. The collaboration is possible thanks to the collaboration with Federbet. This season, after eight weeks, we found only one fixed match, last year there was one or two every week.

18.04.2015     **Skonto Fc - Fb Gulbene**     5-0 (1-0 ; 4-0)     Handicap 2; Over 3,5





## **Politics and Institutions**

### **European Parliament Intergroup creation**

#### **2014 - 2019**

The newly-created EU Sport Intergroup in the European Parliament has, as one of its objectives, the fight against sports manipulation. The phenomenon of match-fixing, a problem with a transnational dimension, needs a European frame of contrast: a common definition of the crime of sports manipulation (absent in many EU countries), common minimum penalties, exchange of information, and action to prevent it and to train young players to not fall victim to it.



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