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UEFA | ECA



WHO'S WHO

EDITION - 2025



ACADEMY

SPORTING DIRECTOR
PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The SDP is the ultimate programme for any sporting director looking to enhance their skills to meet today's global football challenges.

The SDP is designed to equip sporting directors with the practical skills, strategic insights and leadership qualities necessary to excel in modern football management. Developed by UEFA and ECA, this programme is designed for those at the pinnacle of the game, embodying a commitment to excellence and the highest standards of professional development.

Combining three immersive face-to-face seminars at UEFA headquarters and top European football clubs and two online masterclasses, this programme covers every aspect of running a successful football operation, from squad planning to recruitment and high-stakes decision-making.

The programme invites participants not only to learn about and discuss the latest trends, but also to anticipate future challenges.

Participants will engage in both group and individual assignments and receive tailored feedback to ensure growth and long-term development in their roles. The structure and content of the programme will ensure that participants enhance their understanding of sporting strategy within the context of club management, have access to a range of different resources and become part of an expanding network of international graduates - all of which will contribute to their personal and professional development.



35  NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

29 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES

35  REPRESENTED CLUBS

PARTICIPANTS



**Gal
Alberman**



17.04.1983

Maccabi Haifa F.C.
Sporting Director

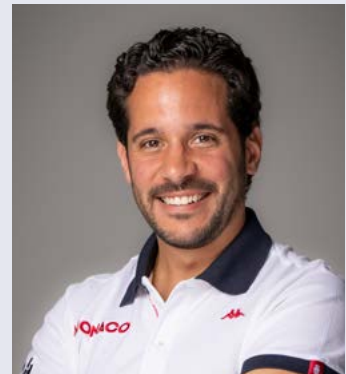


**Juan Carlos
Anton Cuesta**



25.02.1986

Al-Qadsiah Club
Sporting Director



**Carlos
Avina Ibarrola**



13.10.1990

AS Monaco FC
Sporting Director



**Zaur
Azizov**



21.10.1984

Neftçi PFK
Director of football



**Masiala Jean
Balawo**



30.06.1988

Djurgårdens IF Fotboll
Sporting Director



**Margarida
Batlle y Font**



30.12.1994

Sporting Clube de Portugal
Director of football

PARTICIPANTS



**Jiří
Bílek**



04.11.1983

SK Slavia Prague
Sporting Director



**Mario
Branco**



06.11.1975

Fenerbahçe S.K.
Sporting Director



**Fuat
Capa**



15.08.1968

Samsunspor
Director of football



**Giorgios
Efrem**



05.07.1989

APOEL FC
Director of football



**Kim Christian
Falkenberg**



10.04.1988

Bayer 04 Leverkusen
Director of football

**Marta
Carissimi**



03.05.1987

Genoa CFC
Head of Women's Area

PARTICIPANTS



**Alfred
Finnbogason**



01.02.1989

Breiðablik
Sporting Director



**Johnny Mikael
Gallefoss**



27.09.1980

**Football Association of
Norway**
Sporting Director



**Steven
Gunn**



22.12.1980

Aberdeen F.C.
Director of football



**Tamas
Hajnal**



15.03.1981

Ferencvárosi TC
Sporting Director



**Aaron
Hughes**



08.11.1979

Irish Football Association
Technical Director



**Monica
Jorge**



09.06.1979

**Portuguese Football
Federation**
Director of football

PARTICIPANTS



**Gert
Kams**



25.05.1985

Paide Linnameeskond
Sporting Director



**Nika
Kevkhishvili**



02.11.1995

FC Dinamo Tbilisi
Director of football



**Radek
Kucharski**



08.09.1980

AEK Athens F.C.
Technical Director



**Tiago
Lenho**



27.09.1988

Gil Vicente F.C.
Sporting Director



**Kader
Mangane**



23.03.1983

RC Strasbourg Alsace
Sports Coordinator



**Marko
Marin**



13.03.1989

FK Crvena Zvezda
Sporting Director

PARTICIPANTS



**Eren
Mert**



09.03.1983

Trabzonspor
Former Sporting Director



**Noel
Mooney**



12.12.1976

Football Association of Wales
Coach / Former Professional



**Kim Andre Horn
Pedersen**



27.03.1987

Brøndby IF
Sporting Director



**Mark
Ruijl**



13.08.1985

Feyenoord Rotterdam
Technical Manager 1st team



**Dirk
Schoofs**



07.11.1979

K.R.C Gent
Head of recruitment



**Philippe
Senderos**



14.02.1985

FIFA
Ex-Sporting Director /
Technical advisor

PARTICIPANTS



**Giovanni
van Bronckhorst**



05.02.1975

Ex player / Head coach
(Currently no club)

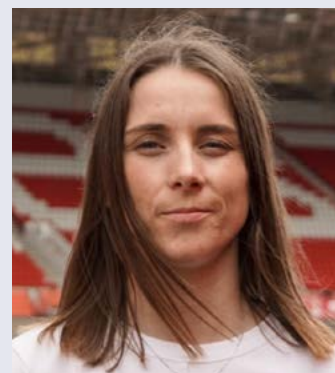


**Petri
Vuorinen**



31.08.1972

Helsingin Jalkapalloklubi
Sporting Director



**Amber
Wildgust**



10.02.1993

**Nottingham Forest
Football Club**
Head of Women and
Girls Football

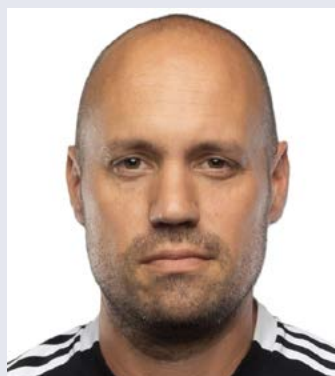


**John
Williams**



05.03.1978

Amiens SC
Sporting Director



**Piotr
Zasada**



15.03.1984

LEGIA WARSAW
Head of Scouting & recruitment

UEFA TEAM



**Thomas
Junod**

Head of UEFA Academy



**Stéphane
Ehrhart**

UEFA Programme manager
and Career Transition Expert



**Joël
Pinson**

UEFA Academy Programme
& Management Expert

ECA TEAM



**Diederik
Dewaele**

Director of football



**Sara
Williams**

Knowledge and
education manager



**Mario
Papa**

Football project manager

SESSION DIRECTORS



**Raul
Sanllehi**

President of Football Operations,
Inter Miami



**Paul
Mitchell**

Newcastle United
Football Club



**Oliver
Bierhoff**

Former DFB



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