

The Future of the Greek Professional Football

Dr. KOLIMPALIS CHARALAMPOS

Member of the Professional Sport Committee (GSS)
Department of International Economic Relationships and Development
Democritio University of Thrace, Greece

The present study analyzes the financial status of the Greek Professional Football clubs during the last years. It also focuses on the prospects arising for the organizations as a result of the introduction and operation of the Greek Ministry's Committee for Professional Sport (EEA). The particular committee deals with the licensing of the Greek professional clubs in order to be able to participate in the UEFA competitions. Data were collected and analyzed in relation to the finances of all the Greek professional football clubs for the seasons of 2003/04 in comparison with 1999/00. The findings showed a significant decrease in the expenditure, equal to 45,6%, while during the same period the clubs' total income decreased only by 2,8%. If this evidence is combined with the recent superior achievement of the Greek National Football team at the EURO 2004, in Portugal, and also with the application of two parallel licensing programs for the Greek professional football clubs, then it can be said that the sector's prospects for financial recover appear very optimistic.