



ECA
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Facts & Key Figures Player Release Analysis

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ECA **R**esearch

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Disclaimer

This research is based on the national football squads for the 2012 Coupe d’Afrique des Nations published on the 14th of January 2012 updated on the 20th of January. The European Club Association has endeavoured to keep the information up to date, but it makes no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, with respect to this information. The aim of this research is purely informative.

The **Coupe d'Afrique des Nations (CAN) / African Cup of Nations**, is the main international football competition in Africa. It is organised by the Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF), and the first edition was held in 1957. Since 1968, it has been held every two years in the months of January/February. The 28th edition is being co-hosted in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon from the 21st of January to 12th of February 2012. Games will be played in Bata and Malabo (Equatorial Guinea), Libreville and Franceville (Gabon).

Out of 55 countries belonging to the Confédération Africaine de Football (CAF), 13 have won the competition. Egypt is the record title holder having won the CAN 6 times.

The 2012 participants are:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
 Equatorial Guinea	 Côte d'Ivoire	 Gabon	 Ghana
 Libya	 Sudan	 Niger	 Botswana
 Senegal	 Burkina Faso	 Morocco	 Mali
 Zambia	 Angola	 Tunisia	 Guinea

During the CAN, all clubs have to release selected players according to the FIFA regulations. Since 1982, when the first African player who signed a professional contract with an European club (goalkeeper Thomas Nkono from Cameroon with Espanyol Barcelona), the exodus of African players has not diminished the development of football in Africa. In fact, the presence of players playing in Europe is vital for African national teams and to the survival and success of the CAN itself.

Africa is now the provider of some of the most important players in European football. In 2010 ECA published its first *Research Facts & Key figures CAN 2010* which already highlighted the importance of African players registered in one of the European National Championships. The 2012 CAN figures show that **179** players out of 368 (**49%**) are playing in one of the **25** European National Championships. It is important to note however, that Nations with traditionally high levels of players playing in Europe are not qualified for this edition¹.

This ECA research highlights the trend in the importance of European clubs and their contribution to the CAN 2012. The results are based on a research conducted on the basis of the official list of CAN players of the 14th January 2012.

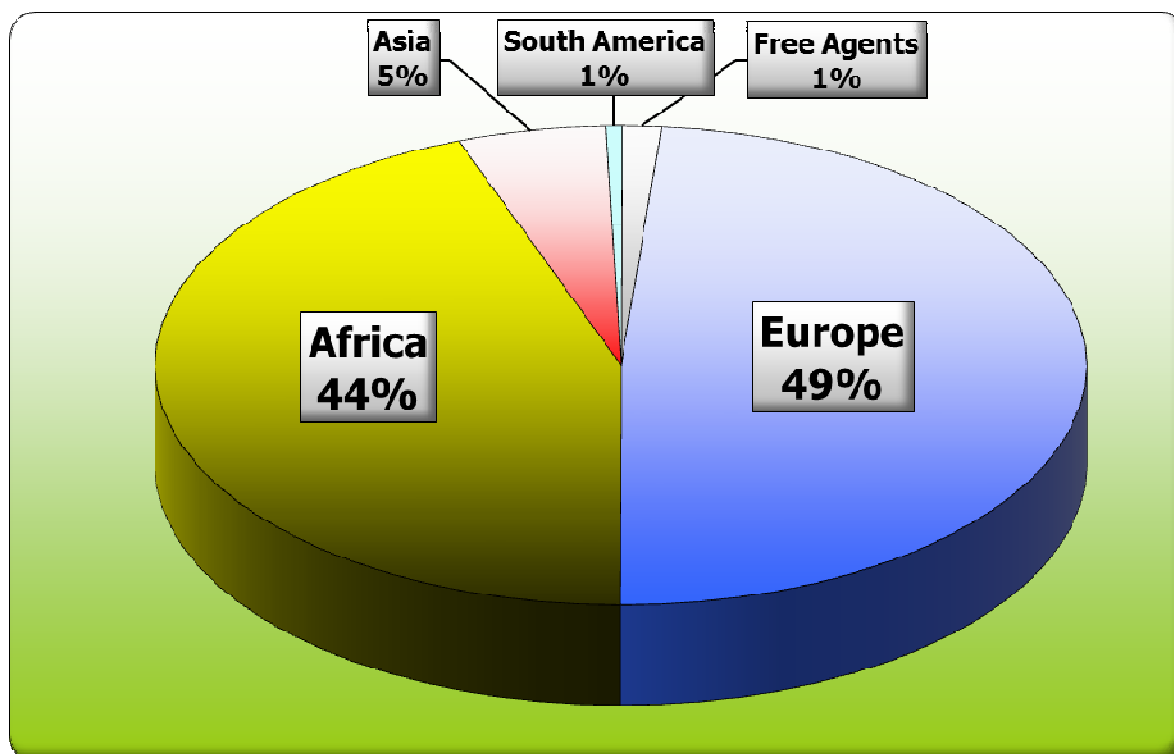
¹ National teams of Cameroon, Nigeria, Togo, Benin are not qualified (teams with more than 60% of players playing in Europe during CAN 2010)

Highlights

- ⌚ Only **8** National Teams qualified for the 2012 CAN participated in the previous edition in Angola.
- ⌚ **120 European clubs in total** from UEFA Member Associations are involved in the release of players (including 38 ECA Members).
- ⌚ **49%** of the players participating at the CAN (**179 players** from a total of 368) currently play in one of the European National Championships.
- ⌚ **30.4% (112)** of the players play in France, Spain, Germany, England, or Italy.
- ⌚ **22 players** out of 23 (95.6%) of the first ranked African National team Côte d'Ivoire play in Europe.
- ⌚ **7** French clubs have released **4** players each, including ECA Members FC Girondins de Bordeaux (FRA) and Olympique de Marseille (FRA).
- ⌚ None of the Botswanese players currently play in one of the European National Championships. All players from Sudan play in their National Championship, the Sudanese Premier League.
- ⌚ Amongst non-qualified African countries, the highest figure amongst African National Championship is the Premier Soccer South African League (PSL) with 16 players.
- ⌚ African football is increasingly globalised. **57** National Championships are represented for the 2012 CAN. A number of players play in leagues from Qatar, the People's Republic of China, Iran, Thailand and Lebanon.

Club origin of the players

Amongst the **368** registered players, **179** players play in one of the European domestic Championships, **163** players play in one of the African National Championships (CAF), **19** players play in Asian leagues (AFC), **2** players play in South America (CONMEBOL). Interestingly, none of the players play in Central and the North American continent (CONCACAF)



Source : ECA/CAF

(Europe 48.64%, Africa 44.29%, Asia 5.16%, South America 0.54%, Free agents 1.36%)






Top 10 of the most represented European National Championships

30.4% (112 players) of the tournament players play in the so called "BIG 5" leagues, namely France, Spain, Germany, England or Italy. **16.5%** of the players play in the French National Championship.

Players	Country of the Championship
61	 France
16	 Spain
15	 Germany
14	 England
13	 Turkey
9	 Belgium
7	 Russia
6	 Italy
6	 Portugal
4	 Netherlands
3	 Switzerland  Ukraine

Top 5 of the most represented National Championships (outside Europe)

The national team of Sudan is exclusively composed of players playing in their own National League. Amongst non-qualified African Countries, the highest figure amongst African National Championships is the Premier Soccer South African League (PSL) with 16 players.

Players	Country of the Championship
23	 Sudan
21	 Tunisia
16	 Botswana
16	 South Africa
13	 Lybia







Most represented European clubs






French clubs are the clubs which released the highest number of players. **7** clubs released **4** players each.





Players	Club Name
4	AS Saint-Étienne, FC Girondins de Bordeaux, Montpellier HSC, OGC Nice, Olympique de Marseille, Stade Brestois 29, Stade Rennais FC (FRA)
3	VfB Stuttgart (GER), Udinese Calcio (ITA), AC Arles-Avignon, FC Metz, Olympique Lyonnais, Toulouse FC (FRA)

African players playing in Europe

Amongst the 16 African nations, only 2 National teams fail to include a single player currently playing in an European National Association. Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana classified 1st in the CAF ranking have the highest number of player currently playing in Europe with 22 player each (see proportion table European club representation in African teams p.13)

Country	Number of players	Player & Club
 Angola	10	Marco Airoso - AEL Limassol (CYP), Zuela - Atromitos FC (GRE)-Gilberto - SK Lierse, Dédé - AEL Limassol (CYP), Flávio - SK Lierse (BEL), Manucho - Real Valladolid (ESP), Mateus - CD Nacional (POR), Djalma - FC Porto (POR), José Vunguidica - SC Preußen Münster (GER), Nando Rafael - FC Augsburg (GER).
 Botswana	0	<i>None</i>
 Burkina Faso	18	Daouda Diakité - KV Turnhout (BEL), Germain Sanou - AS Saint-Étienne (FRA), Paul Kéba Koulibaly - ROC Charleroi (BEL), Bakary Koné - Olympique Lyonnais (FRA), Ibrahim Gnanou - FC Alania Vladikavkaz (RUS), Saïdou Panandétigui - Valletta FC (MLT), Mahamoudou Kéré - Konyaspor (TUR), Charles Kaboré - Olympique de Marseille (FRA), Jonathan Pitroipa - Stade Rennais (FRA), Florent Rouamba - FC Sheriff (MDA), Benjamin Balima - FC Sheriff (MDA), Alain Traoré - AJ Auxerre (FRA), Abdou Razack Traoré - Lechia Gdańsk (POL), Djakaridja Koné - SC Dinamo București (ROM), Narcisse Yaméogo - AD Camacha (POR), Aristide Bancé - Samsunspor (TUR), Prejuce Nakoulma - Górnik Zabrze (POL), Issiaka Ouédraogo - FC Admira Wacker (AUT).
 Côte d'Ivoire	22	Boubacar Barry - KSC Lokeren (BEL), Gérard Gnanhouan - US Avranches (FRA), Daniel Yeboah - Dijon FCO (FRA), Kolo Touré - Manchester City FC (ENG), Siaka Tiéné - Paris Saint-Germain FC (FRA), Emmanuel Eboué - Galatasaray SK (TUR), Arthur Boka - VfB Stuttgart (GER), Sol Bamba - Leicester City FC (ENG), Benjamin Angoua - Valenciennes FC (FRA), Igor Lolo - FC Kuban Krasnodar (RUS), Didier Zokora - Trabzonspor (TUR), Yaya Touré - Manchester City FC (ENG), Cheick Tioté - Newcastle United FC (ENG), Jean-Jacques Gosso - Orduspor (TUR), Didier Konan Ya - Hannover 96 (GER), Kafoumba Coulibaly - OGC Nice (FRA) Max Gradel - AS Saint-Étienne (FRA), Didier Drogba - Chelsea FC (ENG), Salomon Kalou - Chelsea FC (ENG), Gervinho - Arsenal FC (ENG), Seydou Doumbia - PFC CSKA Moskva (RUS), Wilfried Bony - Vitesse Arnhem (NED).
 Equatorial Guinea	11	Dani Evuy - AD Villaviciosa de Odón (SPA), Kily - UP Langreo (SPA), Rui - UD Logroñés (SPA), Sipo - CD Badajoz (SPA), Juvenal - CE Sabadell (SPA), Randy - UD Las Palmas (SPA), Rodolfo Bodipo - Deportivo La Coruña (SPA), Iván Bolado - FC Cartagena (SPA), Daniel Ekedo - CD San Roque de Lepe (SPA), Raúl Fabiani - CD Alcoyano (SPA), Javier Balboa - SC Beira-Mar (POR).
 Gabon	11	Didier Ovono - Le Mans FC (FRA), Moïse Brou Apanga - Stade Brestois 29 (FRA), Bruno Ecuele Manga - FC Lorient (FRA), Bruno Mbanangoyé Zita - FC Dinamo Minsk (BLR), Lloyd Palun - OGC Nice

		(FRA), Lévy Madinda - Celta Vigo B (ESP), André Biyogo Poko - FC Girondins de Bordeaux (FRA), Fabrice Do Marcolino - Stade Lavallois (FRA), Eric Mouloungui - OGC Nice (FRA), Roguy Méyé - Zalaegerszeg TE (HUN), Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang - AS Saint-Étienne (FRA).
 Ghana	19	Adam Larsen Kwarasey - Strømsgodset IF (NOR), John Paintsil - Leicester City FC (ENG), John Mensah - Olympique Lyonnais (FRA), Samuel Inkoom - FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk, Isaac Vorsah - TSV 1899 Hoffenheim (GER), Jonathan Mensah - Evian TG (FRA), Daniel Opare - R. Standard de Liège (BEL), John Boye - Stade Rennais (FRA), Masahudu Alhassan - Genoa CFC (ITA), Sulley Muntari - FC Internazionale Milano (ITA), Anthony Annan - Vitesse Arnhem (NED), Kwadwo Asamoah - Udinese Calcio (ITA), André Ayew - Olympique de Marseille (FRA), Derek Boateng - FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (UKR), Emmanuel Agyemang-Badu - Udinese Calcio (ITA), Mohammed Abu - Eintracht Frankfurt (GER), Charles Takyi - St. Pauli (GER), Prince Tagoe - Bursaspor Kulübü (TUR), Jordan Ayew - Olympique de Marseille (FRA)
 Guinea	14	Naby Yattara - AC Arles-Avignon (FRA), Aboubacar Camara - CD Alcoyano Juv.A (ESP), Bobo Baldé - AC Arles-Avignon (FRA), Kamil Zayatte - İstanbul BB (TUR), Ibrahima Diallo - Waasland-Beveren (BEL), Habib Baldé - FC Universitatea Cluj (ROM), Lanfia Camara - White Star Woluwe (BEL), Mamadou Bah - VfB Stuttgart (GER), Ibrahima Traoré - VfB Stuttgart (GER), Ibrahima Conte - KAA Gent (BEL), Thierno Bah - FC Lausanne Sport (SWI), Sadio Diallo - Bastia (FRA), Alhassane Bangoura - Rayo Vallecano (ESP), Abdoul Camara - FC Sochaux-Montbéliard (FRA)
 Libya	2	Mohamed Mounir - FK Jagodina (SRB), Djamel Mahamat - SC Braga (POR)
 Mali	19	Oumar Sissoko - FC Metz (FRA), Adama Tamboura - FC Metz (FRA), Cédric Kanté - Panathinaikos FC (FRA), Drissa Diakité - OGC Nice (FRA), Mohamed Fofana - Toulouse FC (FRA), Ousmane Coulibaly - Stade Brestois 29 (FRA), Mahamadou N'Diaye - Vitória de Guimarães (POR), Seydou Keita - FC Barcelona (ESP), Mahamane Traoré - FC Metz (FRA), Abdou Traoré - FC Girondins de Bordeaux (FRA), Bakaye Traoré - AS Nancy (FRA), Samba Sow - RC Lens (FRA), Sidy Koné - Olympique Lyonnais (FRA), Samba Diakité - AS Nancy (FRA), Modibo Maïga - FC Sochaux Montbéliard (FRA), Garra Dembélé - SC Freiburg (GER), Cheick Diabaté - FC Girondins de Bordeaux (FRA), Mustapha Yatabaré - EA Guingamp (FRA)
 Morocco	16	Mohamed Amsif - FC Augsburg (GER), Badr El Kaddouri - FC Dynamo Kyiv (UKR), Michaël Chrétien Basser - Bursaspor Kulübü (TUR), Mehdi Benatia - Udinese Calcio (ITA), Abdelhamid El Kaoutari - Montpellier HSC (FRA), Ahmed Kantari - Stade Brestois 29 (FRA), Houssine Kharja - AC Fiorentina (ITA), Mbark Bousoufa - Anzhi Makhachkala (RUS), Adel Taarabt - Queens Park Rangers FC (ENG), Karim El Ahmadi - Feyenoord Rotterdam (NED), Younès Belhanda - Montpellier HSC (FRA), Oussama Assaidi - Heerenveen sc (NED), Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez - Anzhi Makhachkala (RUS), Nordin Amrabat - Kayserispor (TUR), Youssouf Hadji - Stade Rennais (FRA), Marouane Chamakh - Arsenal FC (ENG)
 Niger	4	Sullivan Mazadou - US Marignane (FRA), William N'Gounou - IF

		Limhamn Bunkeflo (SWE), Olivier Harouna Bonnes - Lille Métropole OSC (FRA), Ouwo Moussa Maazou - SV Zulte Waregem (BEL)
 Senegal	19	Rémi Gomis - Valenciennes FC (FRA), Ludovic Sané - FC Girondins de Bordeaux (FRA), Pape Diakhaté Granada CF (ESP), Souleymane Diawara - Olympique de Marseille (FRA), Kader Mangane - Stade Rennais (FRA), Moussa Sow - Fenerbahçe SK (TUR), Souleymane Camara - Montpellier HSC (FRA), Issiar Dia - Fenerbahçe SK (TUR), Dame N'Doye - FC København (DEN), Moustapha Bayal Sall - AS Saint-Étienne (FRA), Jacques Faty - Sivasspor (TUR), Deme N'Diaye - AC Arles-Avignon (FRA), Papiss Cissé - SC Freiburg (GER), Omar Daf - Stade Brestois 29 (FRA), Guirane N'Daw - Birmingham City FC (ENG), Demba Ba - Newcastle United FC (ENG), Armand Traoré - Queens Park Rangers FC (ENG), Mohamed Diamé - Wigan Athletic FC (ENG), Cheikh M'Bengue - Toulouse FC (FRA)
 Sudan	0	<i>None</i>
 Tunisia	12	Karim Haggui - Hannover 96 (GER), Anis Boussaïdi - FC Rostov (RUS), Ammar Jemal - 1. FC Köln (GER), Aymen Abdennour - Toulouse FC (FRA), Hocine Ragued - Kardemir Karabükspor (TUR), Wissem Ben Yahia - Mersin İdmanyurdu SK (TUR) Yassine Chikhaoui - FC Zürich (SWI), Jamel Saihi - Montpellier HSC (FRA), Issam Jemâa - AJ Auxerre (FRA), Amine Chermiti - FC Zürich (SWI), Sami Allagui - 1. FSV Mainz 05 (GER), Saber Khelifa - Evian TG (FRA)
 Zambia	2	Chisamba Lungu - FC Ural Sverdlovsk (RUS), Emmanuel Mayuka - BSC Young Boys (SWI)

Source : ECA/CAF

European clubs represented

179 players play in one of the **25** European National Championships represented (*28 in 2010*). **120** European clubs are involved in releasing African players (*142 in 2010*). Interestingly, not only the European top leagues are represented, but also lower leagues such as the 4th French Championship "CFA" (US Avranches, US Marignane) or the Spanish Championship "Tercera División" (UP de Langreo).

UEFA Ranking of the Country ²	Country	Number of clubs	Club <i>(In alphabetical order by number of players)</i>
1	 England	7	Arsenal FC (2 players), Chelsea FC (2), Leicester City FC (2), Queens Park Rangers FC (2), Manchester City FC (2), Newcastle United (2), Birmingham City FC, Wigan Athletic FC
2	 Spain	15	CD Alcoyano (2), AD Villaviciosa de Odón, CD Badajoz, CD San Roque de Lepe, Celta Vigo B, CE Sabadell, Deportivo La Coruña, FC Barcelona, FC Cartagena, Granada CF, Real Valladolid, Rayo Vallecano, UD Logroñés, UD Las Palmas, UP de Langreo.
3	 Germany	10	VfB Stuttgart (3), FC Augsburg (2), Hannover 96 (2), SC Freiburg (2), 1. FC Köln, 1. FSV Mainz 05, Eintracht Frankfurt, TSV 1899 Hoffenheim, SC Preußen Münster, St. Pauli.
4	 Italy	4	Udinese Calcio (3), AC Fiorentina, FC Internazionale Milano, Genoa CFC.
5	 France	26	AS Saint-Étienne (4), FC Girondins de Bordeaux (4), Montpellier HSC (4), OGC Nice (4), Olympique de Marseille (4), Stade Brestois 29 (4), Stade Rennais FC (4), AC Arles-Avignon (3), FC Metz (3), Olympique Lyonnais (3), Toulouse FC (3), AJ Auxerre (2), AS Nancy (2), Evian TG (2), Lille Métropole OSC (1), FC Sochaux-Montbéliard (2), Valenciennes FC (2), Dijon FCO, EA Guingamp, FC Lorient, Le Mans FC, Paris Saint-Germain FC, RC Lens, SC Bastia, Stade Lavallois, US Avranches, US Marignane.
6	 Portugal	6	AD Camacha, CD Nacional, FC Porto, SC Beira-Mar, SC Braga, Vitória de Guimarães
7	 Russia	6	Anzhi Makhachkala (2), FC Alania Vladikavkaz, FC Kuban Krasnodar, FC Rostov, FC Ural Sverdlovsk, PFC CSKA Moskva.
8	 Ukraine	2	FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (2), FC Dynamo Kyiv.
9	 Netherlands	3	Vitesse Arnhem (2), Feyenoord Rotterdam, Heerenveen sc
10	 Greece	2	Atromitos FC, Panathinaikos FC
11	 Turkey	13	Bursaspor Kulübu (2), Fenerbahçe SK (2), Galatasaray SK, İstanbul BB, Kardemir Karabükspor, Kayserispor,

² Last official ranking January 2012

			Konyaspor, Mersin İdmanyurdu SK, Orduspor, Samsunspor, Sivasspor, Trabzonspor.
12	 Belgium	9	SK Lierse (2), KAA Gent, KSC Lokeren, KV Turnhout, ROC Charleroi, R. Standard de Liège, SV Zulte Waregem, Waasland-Beveren, White Star Woluwe.
13	 Denmark	2	FC København, OB Odense
14	 Switzerland	3	BSC Young Boys, FC Lausanne Sport, FC Zürich
15	 Austria	1	FC Admira Wacker
16	 Cyprus	1	AEL Limassol (2)
20	 Poland	2	Lechia Gdańsk, Górnik Zabrze
22	 Romania	2	FC Universitatea Cluj, SC Dinamo București
23	 Belarus	1	FC Dinamo Minsk
24	 Sweden	1	IF Limhamn Bunkeflo
26	 Norway	1	Strømsgodset IF
27	 Serbia	1	FK Jagodina
29	 Hungary	1	Zalaegerszeg TE
36	 Moldova	1	FC Sheriff (2)
45	 Malta	1	Valletta FC

Source : ECA/CAF

ECA clubs represented

38 ECA Members from **17** different UEFA countries have at least one player playing in the 2012 CAN. As we can see, FC Girondins de Bordeaux (FRA) and Olympique de Marseille (FRA) have released 4 players each followed by Olympique Lyonnais (FRA) and VfB Stuttgart (GER) with 3 players each.

European club representation in African teams

Most players of the Top African National teams (according to the CAF ranking) play in European National Championships.

CAF Ranking	Country	African players playing in Europe	% of the players playing in Europe
1	 Côte d'Ivoire	22/23	95.6%
3	 Ghana	19/23	82.6%
4	 Burkina Faso	18/23	78.3%
5	 Senegal	19/23	82.6%
10	 Morocco	16/23	69.6%
11	 Tunisia	12/23	52.2%
12	 Libya	2/23	8.6 %
12	 Mali	19/23	82.6%
15	 Gabon	11/23	47.8%
17	 Guinea	14/23	60.9%
20	 Zambia	2/23	8.6 %
21	 Angola	10/23	43.5%
24	 Niger	4/23	17.4%
25	 Botswana	0/23	0 %
27	 Sudan	0/23	0 %
40	 Equatorial Guinea	11/23	47.5%









Source: ECA/CAF Ranking (January 2012)

ANNEXE 1: Comparison with statistics of CAN 2010

Club Origin of the player	CAN 2010	CAN 2012	%
African Players playing in Europe	213	179	↓ - 16.0
<i>Including Players playing in "BIG 5"</i>	<i>38.1%</i>	<i>30.4%</i>	↓ - 20.2
<i>Including Players playing in France</i>	<i>20.7%</i>	<i>16.5%</i>	↓ - 20.3
African Players playing in Africa	141	163	↑ +15.6
African Players playing in Asia	14	19	↑ +35.7

European Clubs	CAN 2010	CAN 2012	%
Number of European Clubs	142	120	↓ - 15.5
<i>Including ECA Members Clubs</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>38</i>	↓ - 2.6
Number of European National Championships	28	25	↓ - 10.7

Most represented European Club in 2010 <i>(by number of players)</i>	CAN 2012	CAN 2010
OGC Nice (FRA)	4	9
Chelsea FC (ENG)	2	4
AS Monaco (FRA-MC)	0	4
Olympique de Marseille (FRA)	4	4
Portsmouth FC (ENG), FC Nantes (FRA), FC Sion (SWI)	0	4
Most represented European Club in 2012 <i>(by number of players)</i>	CAN 2012	CAN 2010
AS Saint-Étienne (FRA), FC Girondins de Bordeaux (FRA), Stade Brestois 29 (FRA)	4	1
Stade Rennais FC (FRA)	4	2
Montpellier HSC (FRA)	4	0

CAF Ranking 2012	Country	2010		2012		%
		African players playing in Europe	% of the team playing in Europe	African players playing in Europe	% of the team playing in Europe	
1	 Côte d'Ivoire	22/23	95.6%	22/23	95.6%	→
2	 Ghana	17/23	73.9%	19/23	82.6%	↑ +11.7
4	 Burkina Faso	17/23	73.9%	18/23	78.3%	↑ +5.9
11	 Tunisia	6/23	26.1%	12/23	52.2%	↑ + 100
12	 Mali	19/23	82.6%	19/23	82.6%	→
15	 Gabon	16/23	69.6%	11/23	47.8%	↓ - 31.2
20	 Zambia	7/23	30.4%	2/23	8.6 %	↓ - 71.4
21	 Angola	10/23	43.5%	10/23	43.5%	→

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