



<b>Event</b>	Interview
<b>Interviewee</b>	Mr. Alexandr Alimov Vice president of the FC Obolon
<b>Date</b>	22 April 2009

**Eunite Ukraine (EU): Does Obolon Stadium plan to host the EURO 2012 teams' trainings?**

Alexandr Alimov (AA): Yes. Our facility was listed among the proposed training centers in the National Program of preparations and hosting the EURO 2012 in Ukraine. By the way, our facility was also mentioned in the tender documents during the stage when Ukraine was only bidding for the EURO 2012.

**EU: Does Obolon Stadium meet UEFA requirements regarding the training facilities? Or do you plan any development plans?**

AA: To answer your question I would like to start with a short history background of our Stadium. FC Obolon got this Stadium in 2004, before that it was a play ground for a neighboring residential area. I don't want to focus in details about poor condition of the stadium back then, as an example I will just tell you that when we took over the upper lay of ground we discovered there a big pile of a construction waste that was hidden underneath there. So we were faced a necessity to invest rather significant amount of time and money to prepare the stadium for the hosting FC Obolon home matches of the Ukrainian football league. We laid a natural grass pitch and constructed two stands from two opposite sides of the stadium. The Obolon Stadium seating capacity became 5100 seats, which meets UEFA requirement for having at least 5000 seats at this class facilities. Later on we initiated further development of the North stand, and today we are on the final stage of this project. We have also installed a new Philips screen recently and put lighting towers in the corners of the Stadium perimeter. For future we plan to finish our South stand modernization, namely covering it with a roof.

**EU: What did you do for your pitch development?**

AA: We have planted a natural grass pitch in 2004, as well as installed a heating system underneath.

**EU: What grass does the Obolon Stadium have? Who was a supplier?**

AA: Our stadium is covered with a natural grass pitch of 105x68 meters. We seeded it using seeds supplied by Ukrainian producer of lawn grasses. I should say that we have been operating this field for 3 years already and we are very satisfied with its quality.

**EU: What did you mean by further development of the North stand? What projects did you accomplish there, and what do you plan still?**

AA: By further development of our North stand we mean its coverage with a roof and other projects on upgrading the stand, for instance development of a specific area for media representatives, where they will have access to electricity power supply and Internet connection. Also we developed under-stand premises, which include two dressing rooms for participating teams. These rooms are 100 square meters each, which is in accordance with UEFA requirements. Thus, after this stand would be set into operation, playing teams will have much better conditions compared to the current ones, when players have to change in a temporary cabins located next to the field.



**EU: You have mentioned that lighting towers were installed recently? Did Obolon Stadium have an artificial light before?**

AA: There were no artificial lighting systems there before. Thus, the stadium was restricted to host football matches only during the daylight time.

**EU: What is the financial source for Obolon Stadium development?**

AA: FC Obolon is owned by the leading Ukrainian brewery Obolon Company. Director of the Obolon Brewery, Mr. Slobodyan, is fond of football, and the Obolon brewery invests both in the FC Obolon and Obolon Stadium development.

**EU: Does Kiev authorities support Obolon's investments into social infrastructure development?**

AA: Kiev City assists us in some issues. For instance Kiev City Council voted for a preferential taxation of a future connection the Stadium to municipal community utilities.

**EU: What can you say about a general development level of training centers infrastructure in Ukraine?**

AA: I can say that lots of projects are planned for the nearest several years in the field of training centers development in Ukraine. The National program of preparations and hosting the EURO 2012 in Ukraine lists training centers that are proposed for the EURO 2012. However, as a development of most of them is due on the expenses of private investors, the general development level of training infrastructure in Ukraine depends only on initiatives and financial capabilities of current private owners of these training facilities. As of today, I think that Kiev and Donetsk have the best infrastructure; even Donetsk probably has a better one because of this year hosting the U19 UEFA championship. However, I believe that in 2012 Ukraine will provide UEFA with proper level of training facilities in all host cities.