



ECU Activities Report: January–March 2026

Introduction

The first quarter of 2026 marked an active and strategically important period for the European Chess Union (ECU). Across competition, education, and communications, the ECU continued to advance its institutional mission of promoting and developing chess throughout Europe. The period from January to March 2026 reflected the organization's ongoing commitment to high-level event delivery, professional training, and the strengthening of its public presence.

Major Events

A principal activity during the reporting period was the **European Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2025**, held in **Monaco from 8 to 12 January 2026**. Although designated as the 2025 edition, the championship formed a central part of the ECU calendar in early 2026. With a **prize fund of €46,500**, the event represented an important contribution to the promotion of women's chess and to the ECU's competitive program.

Strategic Project Announcements

During the reporting period, the ECU also advanced its long-term development vision through the announcement of the **European Super League** project. This initiative was presented as an innovative competition concept designed to strengthen the visibility and commercial appeal of European chess.

The project foresees a competition featuring **eight teams**, including **five European teams and three international teams**, with **six boards per team** and a **prize fund of €300,000**. The concept also includes qualification relevance linked to the **European Chess Club Cup**, underlining its strategic importance within the broader ECU competition framework.

The announcement of the European Super League reflected the ECU's intention to explore new formats capable of enhancing spectator interest, media value, and international engagement, while creating additional opportunities for the promotion of elite chess.

Education and Training

During the first quarter, the ECU continued to invest in educational development and the professionalization of chess structures through its training initiatives. The **ECU Training**

Hub, available at ecuhub.eu, remained a key platform for delivering educational content and supporting the development of chess professionals with new webinars announced and took place. The 4th cycle course with the Aegean University met the biggest number of participants among all cycles. Additionally it was modified to be accessible for people with visual impairments.

These actions demonstrate the ECU's continued commitment not only to competition, but also to the long-term strengthening of standards, knowledge, and institutional capacity within European chess.

Communication and Media Development

Throughout the reporting period, the ECU maintained a clear focus on strengthening its communication strategy and public visibility.

The organization's communication activity remained centered primarily on **Facebook**, **X** with additional support from **Instagram** and other digital channels. This content activity and its increased popularity contributed to the visibility of ECU events, educational initiatives, and institutional priorities.

Organizational Priorities

From January to March 2026, the ECU's activities reflected several consistent organizational priorities:

- The delivery, contracting and promotion of official European championships
- The development of innovative competition formats
- The expansion of training and certification opportunities
- The improvement of digital communication and audience engagement
- The continued development of media and broadcasting initiatives connected to ECU TV
- The maintenance of active engagement with the European chess community and member federations

Conclusion

The first quarter of 2026 demonstrated the European Chess Union's continued activity and institutional focus across its principal areas of work. The successful staging of the European Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship in Monaco, the announcement of the European Super League project, the ongoing development of the ECU Training Hub, and the sustained emphasis on professional communication and media development all contributed to the advancement of the ECU's mission.

As the year progresses, these foundations provide a strong basis for further growth in event organization, educational outreach, innovation in competition formats, and the broader promotion of chess throughout Europe.