ECU MAGAZINE

European Chess Union

ECU E-MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2026



European Youth Chess Champions 2026 crowned in Crete, Greece

European Senior Team Chess Champions crowned in Greece







Bayegan Pendik (Turkey) and Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo win European Chess Club Cup 2026



European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria; European Chess Union has 54 National Federation Members; Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious events and championships;

www.europechess.org

In brief

European Chess Club Cup 2026 took place from 16-24 October in Budva, Montenegro. The event gathered 130 teams (108 in the Open section and 22 in the Women's section) and broke the participation record. Bayegan Pendik Sports Chess Club (Turkey) clinched the title in the Open event, and Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo won the Women's competition.

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2026 was held from 26 August - 5 September in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece, with the participation of 32 teams and 150 players who competed in two age categories: 50+ and 65+. England 1 clinched the event in the Open 50+ section, while Slovenia claimed the title in the Open 65+ category. Competing in Open 50+ category, England's women's team was crowned European Women's Senior Team Champion 2026.

European Youth Chess Championship 2026 was organised from 2-13 November in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece. The event gathered nearly 1250 players from 49 federations who competed over six age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls sections separately. 12 players were crowned European Youth Champions for 2026 for the respective age category.

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European Chess Club Cup 2026

The 41st European Chess Club Cup and the 30th edition of the European Women's Chess Club Cup took place from 16-24 October in Budva, Montenegro.
Bayegan Pendik Sports Chess Club (Turkey) emerged as the Winner of the Open section, while Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo defended the title in the Women's event.









#ECCC2026

Heading into the final round of the event, there were three teams in the Open section tying for the top: Bayegan Pendik Sports Chess Club, SuperChess and Novy Bor Chess Club. The last round featured the top-board direct encounter between Bayegan Pendik and SuperChess, while Novy Bor Chess Club played against Elektroprivreda.

After intense and long games, Bayegan Pendik Sports Chess Club defeated SuperChess with a narrow score 3.5-2.5 with victories by GM Anish Giri and GM Amin Tabatabaei against GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov and GM Haik Martirosyan (respectively). GM Jorden Van Foreest scored for SuperChess after defeating GM Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus, but the other three games finished in a draw and the Turkish club won the match.

Novy Bor Chess Club was victorious against Elektroprivreda thanks to the victories by GM Sarin Nihal, GM Pentala Harikrishna, and GM David Navara, while the other three games finished with draws. Scoring 13 match points each, Bayegan Pendik Chess Sports Club (Turkey) and Novy Bor Chess Club (Czech Republic) tied for the top, but Bayegan Pendik had better tiebreak criteria to clinch the title, while Novy Bor Chess Club (Czech Republic) claimed silver medal.

Rishon LeZion A (Israel) won the bronze medal with 12 match points, while six teams scored 11 match points (each) and tied for the fourth and equally important place which guarantees the qualification spot for the inaugural European Super League. With the best tiebreaks, SuperChess Romania finished fourth.





Ahead of the final round of the Women's event, there were three teams tying for the top: Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo, CE Gambit Bonnevoie and Odlar Yurdu.

Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo scored a crushing 4-0 win in the final round against Davit Jojua's chess club (Georgia) to conclude the event with the score of 12 match points.

CE Gambit Bonnevoie (Luxembourg) scored a narrow 2.5-1.5 win over Crvena Zvezda (Serbia) as GM Ushenina Anna and IM Aleksandra Maltsevskaya won their games, while GM Eline Danielian lost to WIM Adela Velikic. The game on the second board finished in a draw, putting CE Gambit Bonnevoie on the final score of 12 match points and a tie for the first place.

Odlar Yurdu (Azerbaijan) lost to Sirmium Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia) as the Serbian team scored a convincing 3.5-0.5 victory, with the only draw played on the third board.

Following the results, Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo (Monaco) and CE Gambit Bonnevoie (Luxembourg) tied for the top, but Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo had better tiebreak criteria to defend the title and win gold medal. CE Gambit Bonnevoie finished second, while Sirmium Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia) and Odlar Yurdu (Azerbaijan) tied for bronze medal scoring 10 match points each. With dominant tiebreaks, Sirmium Sremska Mitrovica finished the event in the third place.

Final rankings and report can be found here.

The best individual players in both sections were awarded according to their tournament performance on each board.

The best individual players (Open section):
Board 1: 1. GM MarcAndria Maurizzi
Board 2: 1. GM Sarin Nihal
Board 3: 1.FM Lennert Lenaerts
Board 4: 1.GM Benjamin Gledura
Board 5: 1.GM Ihor Samunenkov
Board 6: 1.GM Volodar Murzin

The best individual players (Women's section):
Board 1: 1.GM Aleksandra Goryachkina
Board 2: 1.GM Humpy Koneru
Board 3: 1.IM Nurgyul Salimova
Board 4: 1.IM Gulnar Mammadova

The Closing Ceremony of the event took place in the complex of the Slovenska Plaza Hotel, with the attendance of the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, President of the Montenegro Chess Federation Mr. Jovan Milovic, ECU Vice Presidents Mr. Lasse Ostebo Lovik, Mrs. Ingrid Lauterbach, Mr. Jean Michel Rapaire, Mr. Sarkhan Gashimov, Mr. Roman Muzik, ECU Treasurer Mrs. Prabitha Urwyler, ECU Honorary Vice Presidents Mr. Veselin Draskovic, Mr. Malcolm Pein, Mr. Moshe Slav and Mr. Volodymyr Kovalchuk, ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, and other distinguished guests.

European Youth Chess Championship 2026



The European Youth Chess Championship 2026 took place from 2-13 November in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece gathering nearly 1250 players coming from 49 European federations who competed in six age categories: U8 - U18, open and girls separately.





Winners - Girls U8 section:
1.Eliz Melike Karahan (TUR)
2.Karolina Briukhovych (UKR)
3.Selin Mammadova (AZE)

Winners - Open U8 section:
1.Nikolas Bausys (LTU)
2.Boris Jaksic (SRB)
3.Harry Chan (ENG)





Winners - Girls U10 section:
1.Lile Svanadze (GEO)
2.Nina Bos (POL)
3.Elif Defne Ozer (TUR)

Winners - Open U10 section:
1.Han Nam Pham (FRA)
2.Ertugrul Pala (TUR)
3.Damian Zidek (CZE)

Winners - Girls U12 section:
1.Lila Rzadkowska (POL)
2.Nare Isakhanyan (ARM)
3.Lam Vy Le Nguyen (ENG)





Winners - Open U12 section:
1.Timing Zhang (FIN)
2.Boris Kolodziejczyk (FRA)
3.Marc Llari (FRA)

Winners - Girls U14 section:
1.Kaja Rzadkowska (POL)
2.Blanka Ejsymont (POL)
3.Tea Rusitashvili (GEO)

Winners - Open U14 section:
1.Noam Sason (ISR)
2.Rahav Eliran Shilon (ISR)
3.Tyhran Ambartsumian (ARM)













European Youth Chess Championship 2026 was played in six age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls sections separately.

Winners - Girls U16 section:
1.Veranika Abramkina (FIDE)
2.Naomi Maklakova (LAT)
3.Vera Vujovic (SRB)

Winners - Open U16 section:
1.Mateu Boci (ALB)
2.Lukas Dotzer (AUT)
3.Erekle Tabatadze (GEO)

Winners - Girls U18 section:
1.Narmin Abdinova (AZE)
2.Klara Szczotka (POL)
3.Sofiia Moskalets (UKR)

Winners - Open U18 section:
1.Vahe Sukiasyan (ARM)
2.Tunar Davudov (AZE)
3.Can Durak (TUR)

Final rankings from each tournament can be found here.

All photo galleries, and photos by ECU and ECU/Mark Livshitz can be found here.

The Closing ceremony of the event was held in the open air, in the resort of Hotel Royal & Imperial Belvedere, with spectacular acrobatic and dance performances. The ceremony was attended by the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Secretary General Mr. Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, representative of the Cretan Periphery Mr. Georgis Pitsoulis, Tournament Director Mr. Nikos Kalesis, Aegean University Professor Mrs. Katerina Frantzi, representatives of the member federations of the ECU: Mr. Duncan Vella (Malta), Mr. Alin-Mile Berescu (Romania), Mr. Ben Dardha (Belgium), Mr. Jose Francisco Suarez Roa (Spain), Mrs. Ilaha Kadimova (Azerbaijan), Cretan Chess Union, local OC, and other distinguished guests.



England and Slovenia win European Senior Team Championship 2026

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2026 took place from 26 August – 5 September in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece.

The European Senior Team Chess Championship 2026 was played from 26 August - 5 September at the Hotel Royal & Imperial Belvedere in Hersonissos, Crete, Greece.

The event gathered 32 teams competing in two age sections: 50+ and 65+.

The Championship gathered 32 teams and 150 players competing in two age categories: 50+ and 65+. Each tournament was played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with the classical time control, with the participation of legendary Grandmasters.

England 1 clinched the title in the Open 50+ section, scoring convincing 17 match points (8 match wins and 1 drawn match). Italy followed with 16 match points and won silver medal, while Netherlands and Slovakia tied for the third place with 13 match points each. Netherlands had better tiebreak criteria and claimed the bronze medal, while Slovakia finished in the fourth place.

After nine played rounds in the Open 65+ section, Slovenia and England 1 tied for the first place scoring 16 match points each. The tiebreak criteria determined the winner, and it was Slovenia who won the gold medal, while England 1 claimed silver. Italy followed with the score of 15 match points and clinched bronze.

Competing in Open 50+ category, England's women's team was crowned European Women's Senior Team Champion 2026.

Final rankings and all results from each competition can be found here.









The best individual players of each board in each section were awarded with medals.

Open 50+ section:
Board 1: 1.GM Michele Godena (ITA); 2.GM Lubomir Ftacnik (SVK); 3.GM Stuart Conquest (ENG)
Board 2: 1.GM Daniel Gormally (ENG); 2.GM Alberto David (ITA); 3.IM Mark Van Der Werf (NED)
Board 3: 1.IM Fabrizio Bellia (ITA); 2.GM Mark Hebden (ENG); 3.IM Martin Martens (NED)
Board 4: 1.GM John Emms (ENG); 2.IM Carlo D'amore (ITA); 3.FM Claudiu Andrei Zetocha (SVK)
Board 5: 1.IM Graeme Buckley (ENG); 2.Clive Frostick (ENG); 3.IM Giulio Borgo (ITA)

Open 65+ section:
Board 1: 1.GM Carlos Horacio Garcia Palermo (ITA); 2.GM John Nunn (ENG); 3.GM Alexander Beliavsky (SLO)
Board 2: 1.GM Lexy Ortega (ITA); 2.GM Anthony Kosten (ENG); 3.Paul Townsend (ENG)
Board 3: 1.IM Leon Mazi (SLO); 2.FM Markky Henttinen (FIN); 3.FM Mario Sibilio (ITA)
Board 4: 1.IM Vojko Mencinger (SLO); 2.FM Ivano Ceschia (ITA); 3.Edgar Wilson (ENG)
Board 5: 1.IM Peter Large (ENG); 2.FM Olivier Tassi (ITA); 3.Mats Lindgren (SWE)

Board lists and individual results and rankings can be found here.

The Closing ceremony of the event took place after the final round in the evening with the attendance of the ECU Director of Strategic Projects Ms. Nina Rob, the ECU Honorary Vice President Mr. Malcolm Pein, and representatives of the Municipality of Hersonissos, who awarded the Winners and Medalists.

Upcoming

The European Corporate Chess Championship 2026 will take place on 27-28 November in Asnières-sur-Seine, France! The event will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 15 min + 10 sec increment.



European Corporate Chess Championship 2026

68 teams registered for the competition and the top-seeds are: 16 Rue Anjou 1 (France) - Consulting, GRECO (Ukraine) - Consulting, Global Ramblers (Czech Republic) - Sport-T, Chateau Montaigullon (France) - Sport-Tourism, AGROFERT (Bulgaria) - Industry, TePe (Sweden) Sigeman Consulting, 16 Rue Anjou 2 (France) - Consulting, PROBIT 1 (Poland)- Banking Insurance, DGAC (France) - Industry and ASML 1 (Netherlands) - Industry.

The teams are represented by 300 players, and the top-rated players are: GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA, 2712) - 16 Rue Anjou 1, GM Erwin L'Ami (NED, 2642) - TePe Sigeman, GM Martyn Kravtsiv (UKR, 2635) - GRECO, GM Veselin Topalov (BUL, 2607) - AGROFERT, and GM Laurent Fressinet (FRA, 2588) - 16 Rue Anjou 2.

Starting list of teams and players can be found here. Detailed information about the event, regulations and schedule can be found on the official website.

Upcoming



Conference: Chess and Business Strategy

A special side event of the European Corporate Chess Championship 2026 will be the Chess and Business Strategy Conference.

Chess and Business Strategy Conference.

27th of November, 2026

The Conference Chess and Business Strategy will take place on Friday, 27th of November, in the morning hours.

The conference will bring together executives, champions and experts and live broadcast of the Conference can be followed through ECU TV.

The opening remarks will be made by Manuel Aeschlimann (Vice President de la Metropole du Grand Paris), Zurab Azmaiparashvili (President of the European Chess Union), Eloi Relange (President of the Chess Federation of France) and Yves Marek (President d'Asnieres - Le Grand Echiquier).

The programme will be continued with speeches by Patrice Georget (PhD in psycho-sociology, senior lecturer at the IAE, University of Caen), Michel Vaissaire (Chairman of MVCMI), Laurent Fressinet (GMI and former second to Magnus Carlsen) and Joël Lautier (GMI – Director of Operations at Retail Robotics Solutions).

Detiled information about the programme, themes of the conference, speakers and time schedule can be found on the official webpage of the conference.

European Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships 2026

The European Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2026 and the European Fischer Random (Chess960) Chess Championship 2026 will take place from 4 December (arrival day) to 9 December (departure day) 2026 in Portimao, Portugal, marking the 100th anniversary of the Portuguese Chess Federation.

The event will commence with the European Rapid Chess Championship 2026 scheduled to take place on 5-6 December. The Rapid competition will be played in 11 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 15 minutes + 10 seconds increment.

The European Blitz Chess Championship 2026 will be played on 7 December, in 13 rounds (swiss system), with the time control of 3 minutes + 2 seconds increment.

The European Fischer Random (Chess960) will take place on 8 December, and will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 10 minutes + 5 seconds increment.

The total prize fund of the events is €40.000, with €20.000 in prizes for the European Rapid Chess Championship 2026, €12.500 prize pool of the European Blitz Chess Championship 2026, and €7.500 in prizes for the Fischer Random (Chess 960) Chess Championship.



More than 600 players coming from 38 European federations registered for the event, and the field will include 62 Grandmasters, 40 International masters, 51 FIDE masters and the total of 204 titled players.

Starting list of players can be found here.

Detailed information about the event can be found on the Official website.

4th - 9th December.

Portimao, Portugal.

ECU Annual Academy training programme 2026/2027

The ECU Annual Academy training programme commences on Monday, 16th of November 2026 and will run until the 27th of April 2027 with the support of the FIDE Development Fund.

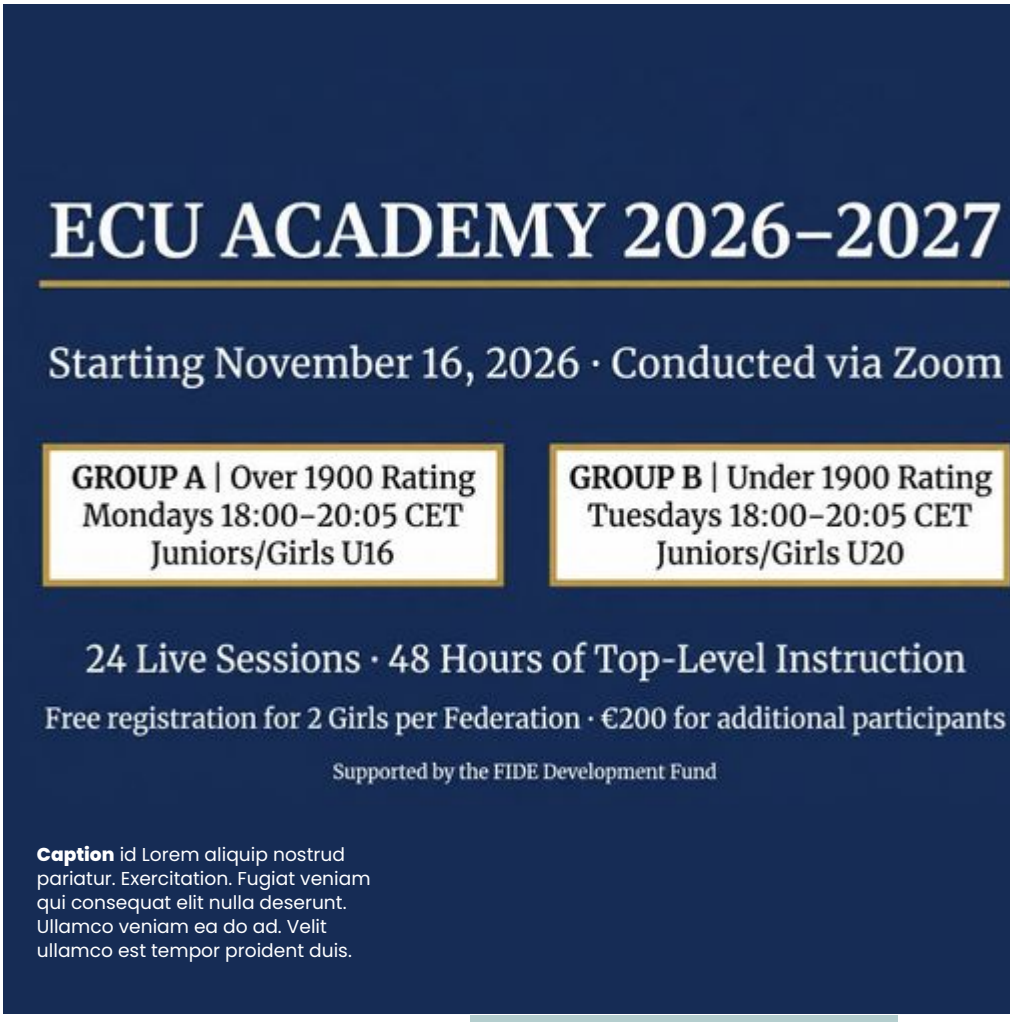
The lecturers are the world-renowned chess coaches, and the trainings are organised in two groups: A – for players rated 1900+, and B – for players rated U1900. Each group will have 24 live sessions for a total of 48 hours of instruction. Participants will have the opportunity to watch the lectures and recordings for a limited time if they are unable to watch all the live sessions. The program is based on the new ECU-ETC Trainers' Syllabuses and aims to systematically develop chess talents.

The lecturers are: GM Ivan Sokolov, GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, GM Miguel Illescas, GM Efstratios Grivas, GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Laurent Fressinet, GM Etienne Bacrot, GM Anton Korobov, and GM Gudmundur Kjartansson.

Each European National Chess Federation is entitled to register free of charge on priority 2 Girls; one on each Group through the following link.

Registration deadline is 1st of November.

The program is open for a limited number of additional participants, from all continents, for each group.



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The cost is on Euros 200 for 48 hours of top-level training. Registrations of additional participants are made through the following link.

Each participant will receive an ECU-ETC official Certificate for the respective group upon completion of the programme.

For all additional questions, please contact: trainers@europechess.org .

Detailed information, schedule, lesson topics and lecturers for each lesson, as well as the full programme can be found through the ECU Website.



ECU Board Meeting October 2026

The fourth quarter meeting of the ECU Board took place on 22 and 23 October 2026 in Budva, Montenegro, under the well-known hospitality of the Montenegro Chess Federation.

Detailed information about the ECU Board Meeting held in October 2026 and the official press release can be found on the ECU Website.

Main information and decisions

ECU Statutes
The ECU Board launched the procedure to review and amend the ECU Statutes.
The newly established Chess Olympic Affairs Commission will be the main contributor to this process.

Finance
The ECU Board took note of the ECU income statement and of the expected revenues and expenses for the third quarter of 2026.

Sponsorships

- The ECU Board took note that two contracts have been signed with the Super Foundation.
- The ECU Board took note that the new agreement with Sense Robot has been fully executed and that ECU received the agreed sponsorship amount in October 2026.
- The ECU Board welcomed the sponsorship proposal from WR Events in support of European development and social projects. The ECU Swiss legal counsel was instructed to take the necessary procedural steps and to draft the final agreement for approval.

Development Support
In implementation of the 2027–2030 programme, and following the requests received, the ECU Board decided to support:

- the European Small Nations Individual Championships in Monaco
- the Chess in School programme of Andorra;
- the Chess in School programme of Guernsey;
- the 2027 Glorney and Gilbert Cup;
- the 2027 Futures (girls) tournament of the Prague Chess Festival.

ECU will prepare guidelines for applying for, and reporting on, projects funded by ECU.

Requests for Institutional Support
The ECU Board supports the Ukrainian Chess Federation in its motion against the decision and interpretation of the FIDE Council allowing a FIDE ID under the Ukrainian federation to be issued to Mr Podolyak without the Ukrainian national federation having been consulted or informed.
The ECU Board supports the right of Israeli players to compete in the World Amateur Chess Championship 2026 in Malaysia.
The ECU Board reconfirms its full support for the Bulgarian Sports Chess Federation and remains committed to the unification process in Bulgaria agreed by ECU, FIDE and the Bulgarian Ministry of Sports.
ECU will inform FIDE of its position in all of these cases by official letters.

European Championships
ECU opens the bidding procedure for the European Championships scheduled for 2028. The procedure was delayed owing to the election period. The detailed announcement will be published in November.

ECU Commissions 2027–2030
On the basis of the proposals of the Chairpersons and of the applications received through the open call for interest, the ECU Board approved the composition of the ECU Commissions for the 2027–2030 term, as follows.

Trainers Commission

- Chairperson Ivan Sokolov
- Secretary Efstratios Grivas
- Members: Miguel Illescas, Antoaneta Stefanova, Laurent Fressinet, Vladimir Grabinsky

Social Commission

- Chairperson Geert Bailleul
- Members: Prodromos Gerontopoulos, Luis Blasco de la Cruz, Susana Alexandra Paiva da Silva Gonçalves, Anders Petterson, Ayhan Kartal, Attila Balla

Arbiters Council

- Chairperson Takis Nikolopoulos
- Secretary Melih Cicek
- Members: Alon Shulman, Tamas Gyomber, Frank Jaeger, Aleksander Sokolski, Arta Driza, Agim Shemshiji, Javier Perez Llera, Zsolt Kardkovacs, Kristoffer Gressli, Klara Vidmar and Ad hoc member Marco Biagioli

Events Commission

- Chairperson Paris Klerides
- Members: Bojana Bejatovic, Nikolaos Kalesis, Sandra Schmidt, Milan Roman & Ad hoc members: Petr Pisk, Ion Dobronauteanu

Commission for Women's Chess

- Chairperson Eva Repkova
- Secretary Christelle Jager-Hafstad
- Members: Elena-Luminita Cosma, Nandita Kanyamarala, Tereza Rodshtein

Education Commission

- Chairperson Jesper Hall
- Secretary Brigitta Peszleg
- Members: Madalina Lejean, Pep Suarez, Philippe Vukuojevic, Alessandro Dominici, Walter Raedler, John Foley, Vera Avramidou, Mykola Spiridonov

Chess Olympic Affairs Commission

- Chairperson Hakan Jalling
- Members: Nina Rob, Majlinda Pilinci, Polina Tsedenova, Alisa Maric

Detailed inofmation can be found here.

ECU Education Commission



📣 A proud milestone for our Chess in Education university programme!
We are delighted that our programme, *Chess in Primary Education*, was recognised at the FIDE Summit on Chess in Education 2026 in Samarkand.

🎓 For us, this recognition is an important milestone. It reflects the work that has gone into developing an academically grounded approach to the professional development of chess educators and strengthens our commitment to connecting chess, education, research and teacher training.

🌍 It also opens the door to the next important step: greater collaboration with chess organisations and universities internationally. By sharing expertise, research and good practice, we can continue to strengthen the academic foundations of Chess in Education and extend its impact.

♟️ We are proud to see our work highlighted on an international stage and even more excited about where collaboration can take us next.

AEGEAN UNIVERSITY

The Centre of Training and Lifelong Learning is responsible for all continuing education, training and lifelong learning programs organised by the University.

ECU Education Commission



We are immensely proud to congratulate our commission member, John Foley, on being named FIDE Chess Educator of the Year 2026.

For those of us who have worked alongside John over the years, this feels like a well-deserved recognition. It acknowledges decades of commitment to developing Chess in Education.

John was one of the early pioneers of the Chess in Education movement. Long before the field had gained the international attention it has today. He was advocating for a broader understanding of chess in education that supports children's wider development.

He contributed to international projects and research, developed educational programmes, trained teachers and tutors worldwide, organised conferences, created resources and connected people across countries and organisations.
John still teaches chess in a primary school in London, staying connected to those everyday realities where he experiences classroom challenges first-hand and remains inspired by the children.

Samarkand 2026

We are incredibly proud to see your work recognised and very grateful for everything you continue to contribute to Chess in Education.

ECU Education Commission

Chess Without Age: Bringing Generations Together

What happens when chess becomes a reason for people of different generations to meet, talk and spend time together? This question was at the heart of our recent ECU Education Discussion Group meeting, where Mădălina-Maria Lejean-Anușca presented Chess without Age, an Erasmus+ project exploring how chess can bring younger and older people together.

I'm pleased that Mădălina is sharing this project in English, allowing people beyond Romania to hear about their work and take inspiration from it. Through a collaboration between the Romanian Chess Federation and Club Ajedrez 64 Villalba (Spain), led by Luis Blasco de la Cruz, Madrid Chess Academy, she is bringing ideas and experiences back to Romania and reaching out to clubs and communities interested in putting them into practice.



A shared game, a reason to connect

Start with your community

Read more

One word: connection

We ended the meeting by asking participants: "What is one word you associate with chess across generations?" The most frequent answer was connection.

ECU Education Commission

Looking for fresh ideas and inspiration for teaching chess to young children?

Join our next Chess in Education Discussion Group meeting, where we will explore the creative approach of Story Time Chess. Story Time Chess introduces children aged 3–6 to chess through storytelling, imagination and memorable characters such as King Shaky, rather than traditional rule-based instruction.

And here is something particularly interesting: many of their 150 tutors in New York City are actors, comedians and musicians, rather than chess experts! 🎭 What can chess educators learn from people whose expertise lies in storytelling and performance?

Paul Levy, CEO of Story Time Chess, will share how this approach works in practice and how storytelling can make chess accessible, enjoyable and meaningful for young learners.



Join us for another opportunity to exchange ideas, challenge our thinking and find inspiration for our own teaching practice.
Sometimes the best ideas for teaching chess come from outside the chess world!

Read more and Register here

ECU Education Commission

Congratulations to our newest ECU School Chess Teachers!

We are delighted to welcome the latest group of chess educators who have successfully passed the online assessment and earned the ECU School Chess Teacher title.

This achievement reflects their commitment to professional development and to delivering meaningful Chess in Education experiences for children.

We are proud to welcome them to our growing international community of chess educators and look forward to learning from their experiences and seeing their work in classrooms and communities around the world.



Feedback from the course:

The course exceeded my expectations. I found many ideas and methods that I can apply directly to my lessons. I especially liked the practical methods and activity ideas, and now I feel more prepared and confident to teach chess in a way that is as engaging as possible for children.

Adrian Chitu (Romania)

Find out more about the upcoming ECU courses and Register here.

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Feedback from the course:
Special kudos to the instructors for their excellent sharing and insights. Jesper and Brigitta have both been professional and yet humorous in their approach, and one can feel their enthusiasm to bring chess in education to greater heights!

A big THANK YOU again!

Shuh Ming Sng
(Singapore)



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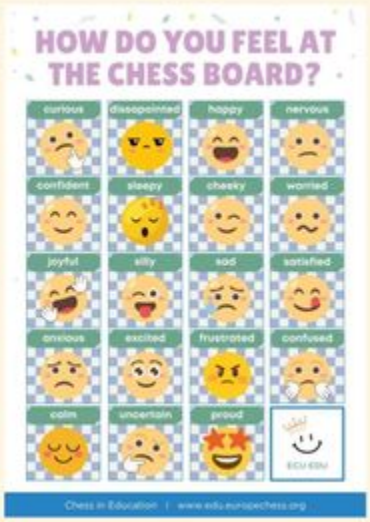


Feedback from the course:
The course was very relevant to my learning goals. The practical exercises were especially helpful because I can apply them directly in my chess lessons. The course had a good balance between theory, practice, and discussion.
Thank you for the interesting and helpful course. I learned a lot.
Gazel Tekdal (Germany)

Find out more about the upcoming ECU courses and Register here.

ECU Education Commission









Chess Classroom Posters can reinforce positive habits, classroom values and chess knowledge

These posters work together as a small collection covering three connected areas of children's development: thinking skills, emotional development and social learning. Although each poster has a main focus, several develop more than one area.

Together, they show how Chess in Education can support the development of the whole child. We aim to teach children to think carefully, understand their emotions and interact respectfully with others.



[Read more and download posters from here]

ECU Education Commission



Read more and register here

Registration is open for the next academic course starting on 01 February 2027

The course provides a lifelong Academic Certificate from the University of the Aegean. It is a recognised 320-hour academic qualification delivered through distance learning, making it accessible to educators worldwide.

ECU Education Commission

18th German School Chess Congress

Hamburg
November 27-29, 2026

An exciting line-up of speakers and topics is coming together, promising inspiring discussions and valuable opportunities to learn from one another!

Walter Radler (ECU EDU member and ECU Chess in Education Ambassador for Germany) and 🔹 Lothar Handrich (ECU101 trainer and ECU Chess in Education Ambassador for Austria) are among the organisers and presenters, introducing many of the ideas from the ECU EDU's training courses.

The German School Chess Foundation Deutsche Schulschachstiftung and the German Chess Youth Association Deutsche Schachjugend look forward to welcoming participants who want to help shape, promote and develop chess in schools, including teachers, chess club leaders, school chess coordinators, and dedicated chess educators.



Detailed programme and registration here:

WIM Lena Govedarica: "Chess players don't need another engine. They need the why."

Women International Master Lena Govedarica does a bit of everything in chess. She just got back from the European Club Cup 2026, where she commented on the games, and she's also building Outpost Chess, an AI chess coach for amateur players. We asked her what commentary and coaching have in common, why engine analysis leaves so many players stuck at the same rating, and what actually helps you improve at chess. Her short answer: stop counting blunders and start understanding them.



Q: You commentate elite chess and run a startup. How do they connect?
A: It's a similar job with a different audience. On air, my work is to explain why a move works, so someone watching at home understands the idea and not just the evaluation bar. Viewers don't care that the engine says +1.5. They want to know why the knight belongs on d5 and what goes wrong if it isn't there.
At Outpost, I'm building an AI agent that explains that same idea to amateurs, on their own games. Commentary taught me something simple: people stay with chess when they understand it. Nobody falls in love with a number.

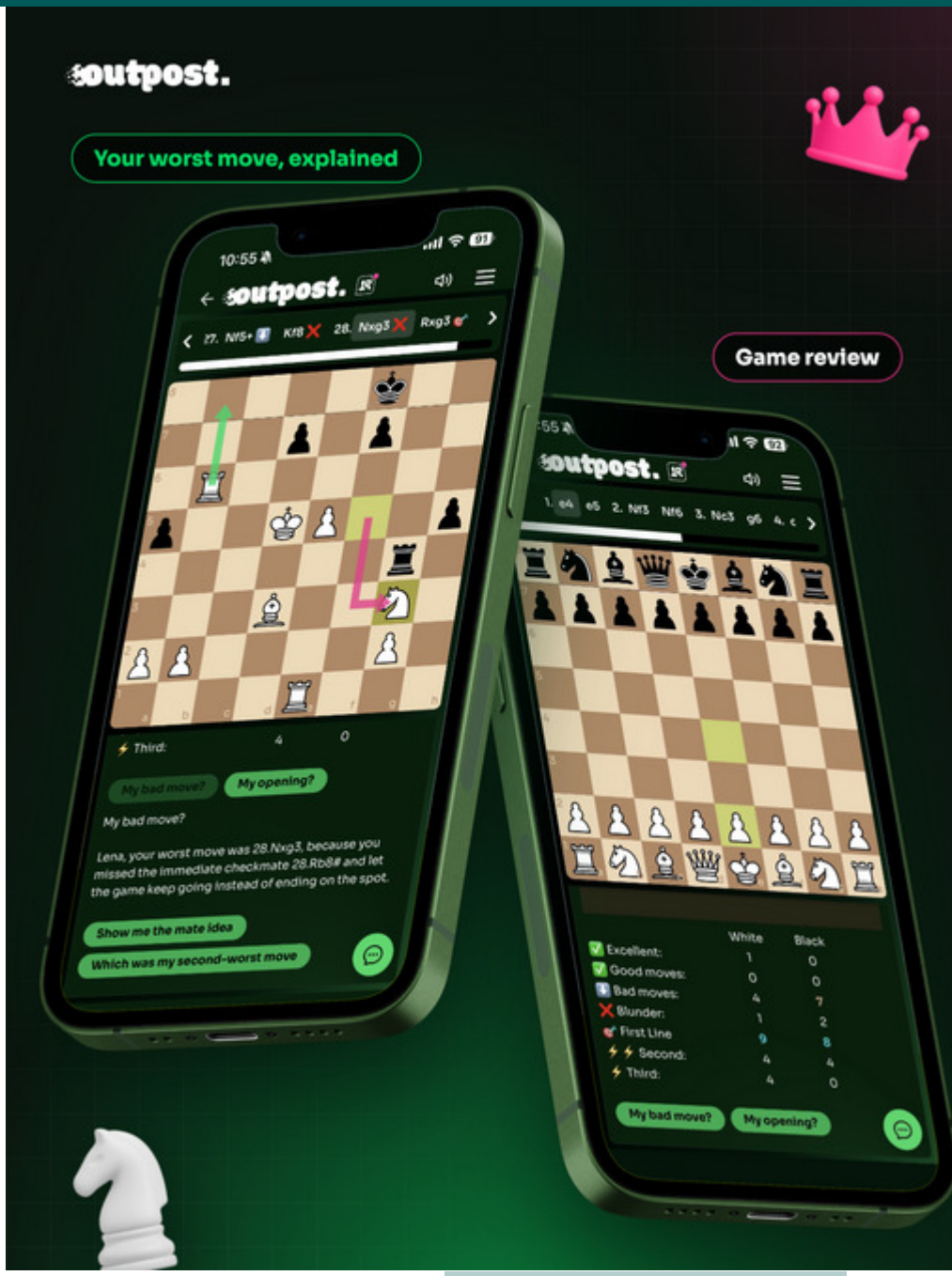
Q-What does Outpost Chess do?
Outpost is a chess app where you play online and get coached by AI. The coach is called Outposty. After every game, Outposty reviews your moves, finds the mistakes that cost you the game and explains them in plain language. Instead of "Inaccuracy, -0.8", you get something like: "You pushed the f-pawn, your king lost its cover and the queen came straight in." Then you can ask follow-up questions. Why was that move bad? What should I have played? What was the plan in this position? Outposty answers in your language, the one you think in when you play. For most amateurs, that's the difference between reading a chess game review and actually learning from it.

"Stop counting blunders and start understanding them."

Q: Who is the Outpost for?
Amateurs and beginners rated 0 to 1600. That's the range where the gap between "I made a mistake" and "I understand why" is widest, and where an AI chess coach makes the biggest difference. Grandmasters have coaches and seconds. A 1200 player on a lunch break has a game review full of red question marks and no explanation. Outpost works on web, iOS and Android, so you can review a blitz game on your phone right after you play it, while you still remember what you were thinking. It's free to start, and plans start from €4. Over 115,000 chess players have signed up.

Q: Why isn't a chess engine enough?
An engine tells you the best move. It rarely tells you why. Stockfish will show you a line twelve moves deep that no 1100 player would ever find, and then it moves on. You close the analysis knowing you lost and not much else. Amateurs don't lack information. They lack interpretation. That's the gap Outposty fills. It takes what the engine sees and turns it into an idea you can use in your next game: king safety, a loose piece, a pawn break you missed, a plan you never had. Chess players don't need another engine. They need the why.

Q: What's your advice for improving your chess rating?
Stop counting blunders. Understand them. That's where the rating points are.
Most players finish a game, glance at how many mistakes they made and queue up the next one. Next week they make the same mistake again. If you hang a piece every time you attack too early, that's not bad luck. It's a pattern, and patterns can be fixed.
So review every loss. Find the one moment where the game turned. Ask why until the answer makes sense to you, not just to the engine. Do that consistently and you stop repeating your blunders. That's how chess ratings move.



Try the AI chess coach
Play a game, let Outposty review it, and ask it anything you didn't understand. Start free at https://outpostchess.com/ai-chess-coach

FAQ:

What is an AI chess coach? An AI chess coach reviews your games, explains your mistakes in plain language and answers your follow-up questions. On Outpost, that coach is Outposty.
Is Outpost Chess free? Yes, it's free to start on the web, iOS, and Android. Paid plans start from €4.
Can an AI chess coach help me improve my rating? Yes, if it explains why a move was a mistake. Understanding the reason is what stops you from repeating it.

Problem Solving Chess

Text by: Nikos Sidiropoulos

The 68th World Congress of Chess Composition (WCCC) and the 49th World Chess Solving Championship (WCSC) were organized in Magdeburg, Germany, from 8 to 15 August 2026. A record number of 99 solvers, plus 6 unofficial participants, took part in the competition. In the team event, 20 countries competed. It was one of the strongest solving events ever to take place — almost every top solver (with very few exceptions) was there. The level of fierce competition became evident from the open tournament, which traditionally takes place a day before the main event. No fewer than four solvers scored maximum points (60/60); as a result, all the medals were decided on time. Eddy Van Beers was 1st (163 minutes), Ural Khasanov and Danila Pavlov tied for 2nd (both needed 173 minutes), while Taras Rudenko finished 4th, as he spent in total four minutes more (177 minutes). Kacper Piorun was 5th with 59 points. Tomas Peitl also had a reason to cheer, thanks to his 8th place with 55 points, he achieved his third norm and became the 40th GM in the history of chess solving. Some problems from the competition follow.

The first day of the WCSC proved to be particularly easy, by the end of the day, 20 solvers were tied on maximum points! Strong solvers are expected to score maximum points in the 2-mover section, and often in the 3-mover section as well. Studies, on the other hand, are traditionally one of the toughest parts of a competition, along with the moremovers and the last selfmate, and are the deciders of the top positions. But not in this case, two of the three studies were quite straightforward, with very few opportunities to go wrong. This left the solvers with plenty of time to spend on Minski's problem (the second study, see below), where both queens were on the board, increasing the complexity of the task.
The situation was quite different on day two. Even in the first round, many solvers dropped points, as both the helpmates in three and in four moves were challenging. The score variance at the top increased further in the last two rounds: a 1886 mate-in-four creation by Sam Loyd and the selfmate in five were the most difficult problems of the tournament, as each of them was fully solved by only four solvers. At the end of the day, there was only one solver with 100% — the usual suspect, Danila Pavlov, who thus became world champion for a fourth time. Piotr Murdzia was second with 86 points, and Arno Zude third with 84. An indication of the score congestion at the top is the fact that the 15th solver (Oleksiy Solovchuk) was less than a problem behind the podium! The first ten solvers were:
1) Danila Pavlov 90
2) Piotr Murdzia 86
3) Arno Zude 84
4) Ural Khasanov 83
5) Mihnea Costachi 82
6) Ulrich Voigt 81.5 (275 minutes)
7) Eddy Van Beers 81.5 (325 minutes)
8) Martynas Limontas 81.5 (344 minutes)
9) Kacper Piorun 80.5
10) Nikos Sidiropoulos 80

The team competition was equally exciting. The host country, Germany (Arno Zude, Ulrich Voigt, Boris Tummes), with 169 points, managed to be crowned champion for the 8th time, but it was their first title since 2002. Poland (Piotr Murdzia, Kacper Piorun, Piotr Gorski) had the same 169 points as the Germans but spent in total 56 minutes more. It is astonishing that it is the second time in three years that the Poles find themselves in the same situation: in 2024 in Jurmala, they were tied first with the Brits but again lost the title on time! Lithuania (Martynas Limontas, Kevinas Kuznecovas, Dmitrijus Chocenka) took the bronze medal with 162.25 points. The points in the team event are calculated as follows: in every round, each team counts the best two results of the three solvers on the team. Typically, a country might participate with only two solvers in its composition; of course, in this case the team pays the toll for every mistake committed by the solvers. In the European Championship, the teams consist of four solvers, and the best three results count in every round. The first ten countries were: 1) Germany, 2) Poland, 3) Lithuania, 4) Ukraine, 5) Serbia, 6) Finland, 7) Netherlands, 8) Slovakia, 9) Belgium, 10) Romania .

Problem Solving Chess

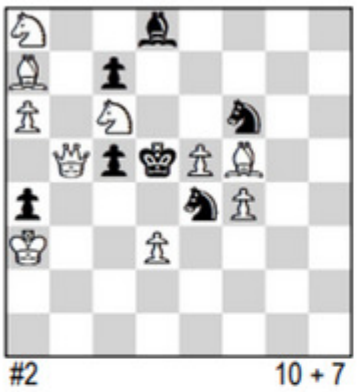


Diagram 1

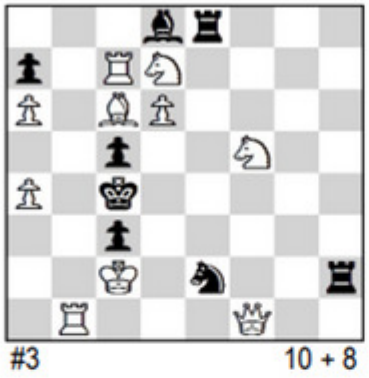


Diagram 2

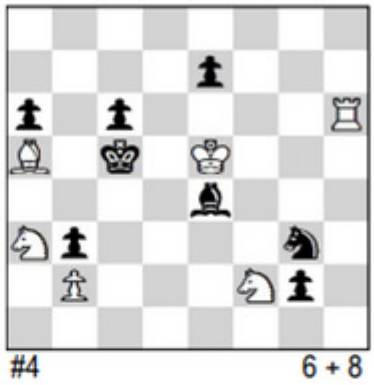


Diagram 3



Diagram 4

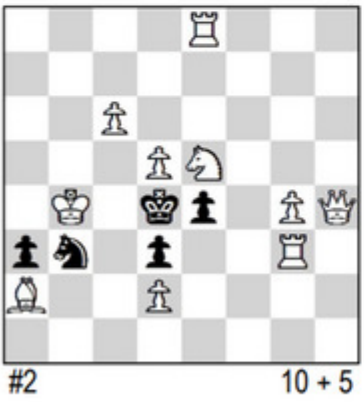


Diagram 5



Diagram 6

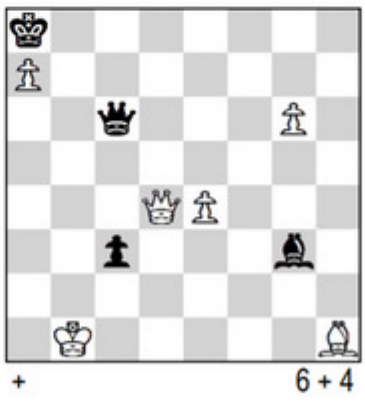


Diagram 7

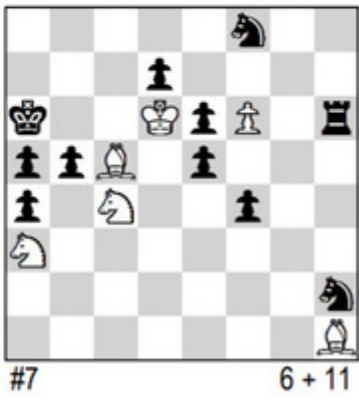


Diagram 8

Solutions
Diagram 1: Qb4 (zugzwang), Tivardar Kardos, Parallele 50, 1947, 3rd HM.
Diagram 2: 1.a5 threat 2.Ra1, i) 1...B:c7 2.Nf6, ii) 1...Bh4 2.Be4, iii) 1...Bg5 2.Bg2, iv) 1...Bf6 2.N:f6, Robin C.O. Matthews, The Observer 1956, 1st Pr.
Diagram 3: 1.Rh2 i) 1...e6 2.R:g2 B-anywhere 3.R:g3, ii) 1...g1=Q/any 2.N:e4 N:e4 3.Rc2, iii) 1...B-anywhere 2.Rh4 Ne4/Be4 3.R:h4, E.Grosdemange, La Régence 1860
Diagram 4: 1.h7 Kg7 2.Nf7 K:h7 3.Ng5+ Kg7! (preparing black's 10th move) 4.N:h3 d2 5.Nf2 B:f2 6.c7 d1=Q 7.c8=Q Qa4+ 8.Kb7 Qb5+ 9.Kc7 Bg3+ 10.Kd8 Kf8 11.Qf5! Q:f5 stalemate, Volodimir G. Ryabtsev, Europa Rochade 1994-1995, 2nd Pr.

Diagram 5: 1.Qg5! This problem has many tries: 1.g5? K:d5!, 1.Qh1? Nc1! 1.Qh7? Nc5!, 1.Qf6? e3! 1.Qe7? e3! 1.Qd8? Nc5! 1. Bxb3? a2!, Santi Pirrone, Thèmes-64, 1960, 1st Pr.
Diagram 6: 1.Ka2 threat 2.Nd3, i) 1...c5 2.Nd5, ii) 1...Rd7 2.Rf8, iii) 1...Rc7 2.Nf1, iv) 1...Nd7 2.N:c6, László Lindner, The Western Morning News and Daily Gazette 1934
Diagram 7: 1.g7 (1.Kc2 Q:g6 2.Qg1 Kb7!=) c2 2.Ka2 Qe6+ (2...c1=N 3.Kb1+-) 3.Kb2 Be5 4.g8=Q+ Q:g8 5.Q:e5 Qg7 6.Qf6! (6.Q:g7? c1=Q=) Q:f6 7.e5+ K:a7 8.e:f6+-, Martin Minski, Original for Polish Chess Federation 2026
Diagram 8: 1.Ba8 (threat 2.Kc7 and 3.Bb7#) Rh7 2.f7 R:f7 3.N:b5 K:b5 4.Na3+ Ka6 5.Be4, now black has two tempi to spend, but he can't defend against 6.Nb5 and 7.Nc7# (if 6...K:b5 7.Bd3#), Manfred Zucker, Schach 1984, 1st Pr. 1st Prize 2nd DDR-Meisterschaft 1983-1984

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