

To: FIDE Planning & Development Commission
Su: Report of the year 2024

February 19, 2025

Dear Chess Friends,

We are pleased to present our Annual Report on the European Development Fund 2043 that included 14 projects.

We would like to point out that we strive to implement the entire program within the framework of the main directions set by FIDE. ECU uses the funds for innovative and development projects that brings additional value to chess.

The amount reported is higher than this received in 2024 because some projects approved in 2023 and completed in 2024.

ECU experiences an important development using this fund.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou', written in a cursive style.

Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou,
ECU Secretary General

A. TABLE OF PROJECTS and AMOUNTS APPROVED

PROJECTS	AMOUNT	STATUS	
1. Concept "Safer place for Women"	3,000	Completed	Report
2. Support of Women's FIDE Norms Tournaments	4,000	Completed	Report
3. Online workshops/seminars WOM	4,000	Completed	Report
4. Development and support of European Women's Trophy	7,000	Completed	Report
5. FIDE Arbiters Seminar + FIDE Arbiters Workshops	5000	Completed	Report
		Partly in progress	
6. Global Chess Festival/Educational Summit, Budapest, Hungary	5,000	Completed	Report
7. Annual ECU Training Online Academy (2023-2024 completed)	8,000	On (2004-2025) in Progress	Report
8. ECU Trainers Seminar	2,000	Completed	Report
9. Developing of the ECU TV	8,000	Completed	Report
10. Aegean University Course	15000	Completed	Report
		in progress	
11. Research Database – Platform	6,000	Completed	Report
12. Fair Play Equipment	2,000	Completed	Report
13. ECU Media Guide	5,000	Completed	Report
14. Developing strategies & tools for ECU social media (FB, X, Instagram)	5,000	in Progress	
Total (euros)	79000		

REPORTS FOR PROJECTS

A. Support of women's Chess – projects 1 to 5

1. Safe Play Initiative:

Creating a safer chess environment remains a priority. Our Safer Play Initiative focuses on:

- 1 Raising Awareness of safety issues in chess through articles and seminars
- 2 Training Advocates: In collaboration with the Women in Chess Foundation, we've trained in 2024 33 advocates from all over Europe organising 3 webinars
- 3 Developing Guidelines: We are integrating Safer Play Guidelines into ECU's existing Fair Play regulations to address cases of harassment and promote safer play.



2. Supporting Women's Tournaments

We financially supported WIM and WGM norm tournaments in Austria, Denmark, England, Croatia, and Romania. This money allocated to this program supports both top female chess players and tournament organisers of women's tournaments.

Financial support for Women's Tournaments

We have increased a financial support up to
4 Organizers/Tournaments per Year

WIM norm tournament => support of 800 EUR/tournament
WGM norm tournament => support of 1000 EUR/tournament

Q1: The Chess Ladies Graz – In Memory of Eva Moser (Austria)
Tournament Director: Michael Stöttinger

Q2: Fredericia Chess 2024 WIM (Denmark)
Tournament Director: Claus Marcussen

Q3: WGM Menchik Memorial Challengers Tournament 2024 (England)
Tournament Director: Lance Leslie-Smith

Q4: The support was split among 3 organizers from 2024
24. International Women Tournament "Mediterranean flower" (Croatia)
2024 Menchik Memorial (England)
QUEENS CHESS CHALLENGE - PRIMA CHESS CLASSIC (Romania)



Participants of the tournament (photo: Heidi K. Høegh)

Chess Ladies Graz - In Memory of Eva Moser



Support for Women's Tournament The Chess Ladies Graz In Memory of Eva Moser

3. Online workshops/seminars (WOM)

- 3.1 Supporting Female Coaches and Arbiters To increase the number of female chess professionals, we supported 12 women to participation in various ECU Trainer Seminars, resulting in 11 new ECU-certified Expert Coaches, and one ECU Junior Coach.
- 3.2 Educational and Inspirational Events This year featured several engaging events:
- Time Management Workshop: GM Jan Markos led a seminar on mastering time management and avoiding time trouble in chess games.
 - Mental Resilience Seminar: Benjamin Portheault shared strategies on resilience and mental strength, to help players stay focused during tournaments.
 - Typical Mistakes in Chess: GM Sergei Movsesian led a discussion on the typical mistakes in chess, how to avoid them, and the role of psychology in games
 - Simultaneous Exhibition: During the European Youth Chess Championships, WGM/IM Zuzana Hagarova inspired young players with a memorable simultaneous exhibition.
 - Exchange Forum: We hosted an online seminar addressing key gender-related topics in chess. Two impactful talks, "Checking Gender Bias: Parents and Mentors Perceive Less Chess Potential in Girls" and "Gender-Inclusive Language," sparked discussions about biases in chess education and promotion.
 - 3rd ECU Girls' and Women's Chess Weekend
This event combined tournaments, coaching sessions, and seminars in a friendly and inclusive atmosphere. With over 100 participants, it highlighted the vibrancy and talent within the European chess community.

Lecture & Discussion with Benjamin Portheault

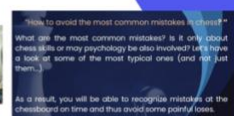
Topic: How To Be a Resilient Tournament Player
Date: June'24

Mental strength in chess in form of tournament resilience



Lecture & Discussion with GM Sergei Movsesian

Topic: Typical mistakes in chess
Date: November'24



Lecture & Discussion with GM Jan Markos

Topic: Taming The Time,
Time Management For Chessplayers
Date: March'24

How to use your time effectively and avoid time trouble



Simultaneous Exhibition Event with WGM/IM Zuzana Hagarova (SVK) at the European Youth Chess Championships

In cooperation with the Organizing Committee of the EYCC 2024

01
Aiming to inspire and challenge the next (and not only) generation of chess players & admins

02
Zuzana won a Gold Medal at the EYCC in 1999 (Batumi), 7th place finish at the Women's Chess Olympiad in 2004 (Calvià), and 2nd place at the World Girls Youth Championship U18 in 1994 (Szeged)

4. The European Women's Chess Trophy

Inspiring Participation The European Women's Chess Trophy was introduced to encourage participation in women tournaments. With categories for juniors, <2200, <2400, and open, this initiative promotes competitive and inclusive play across Europe through financial incentivisation of top performing females.

European Women's Chess Trophy

Goal and Financial rewards in 2024

- ✓ Inspire female chess players to actively take part in the women only tournaments in Europe
- ✓ Support and promote tournaments' organizers

Categories and prizes in EUR	1. Prize	2. Prize	3. Prize
Junior (U20)	700	500	300
Best female player up to 2200	1000	600	400
Best female player between 2201 - 2400	1000	600	400
Best female player above 2401	1000	600	400

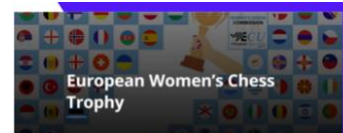
2024 Winners

Category	Ranking	Name of the players
Juniors	1	Tomcheva Nadya
U20	2	Van Foreest Machteld
	3	Gaal Zsóka

Category	Ranking	Name of the players
Up to	1	Cosman Andreea-Maria
2200	2	Marakova Maria
	3	Munko Maria

Category	Ranking	Name of the players
Up to	1	Fatalayeva Ulviyeva
2201-2400	2	Bukva Nataliya
	3	Murichan Lilit

Category	Ranking	Name of the players
Above	1	Batishvili Nino
2400	2	Dzagnidze Nana
	3	Javakhishvili Ieda



*The program is "Supported by the FIDE Development fund"

<https://wom.europechess.org/european-womens-chess-trophy-2024-winners/>

5a. FIDE Arbiters Seminar for Women

We also held an online FIDE Arbiter's seminar for women in which 18 female arbiters from 13 national federations participated. These efforts are vital to empowering women in all aspects of chess.



157th Internet-based FIDE Arbiters' Seminar for Women

June 1 – June 9, 2024

FIDE Lecturer: IA Shohreh Bayat
Assistant Lecturer: IA Alon Shulman

01

18 female arbiters from 13 national chess federations.

All of them took part in the final test.

The seminar gave norms of FIDE Arbiter, according to the regulations for the titles of arbiter.

02

Costs for the lecturers were covered by ECU WOM Commission.

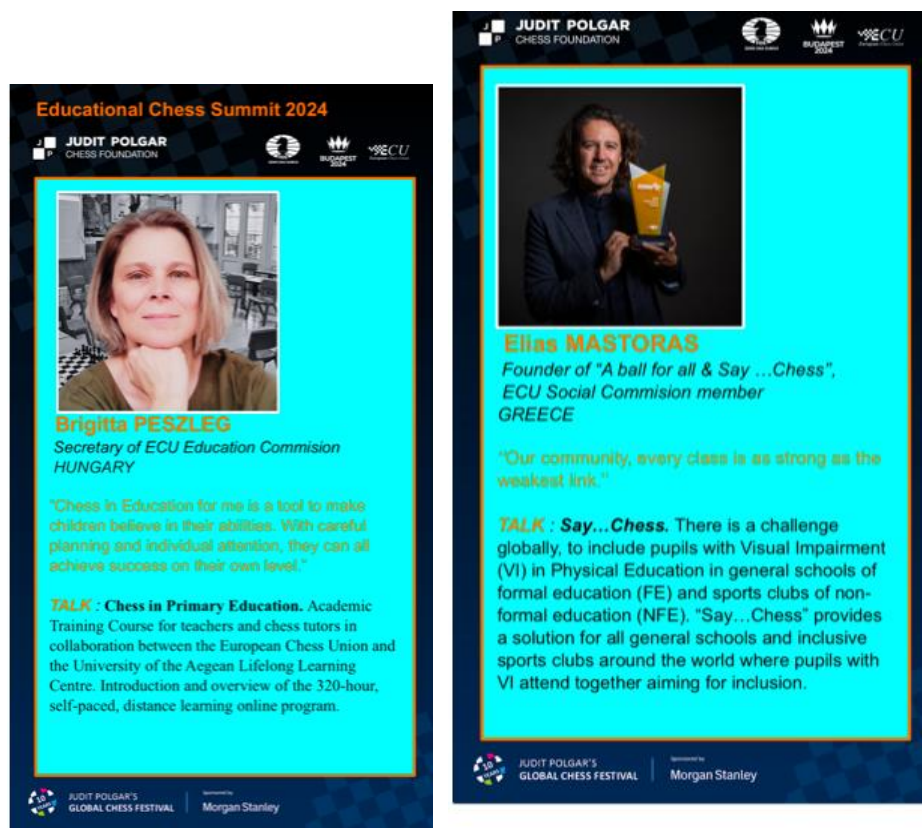
8 ladies passed the exam successfully.

5.b Arbiters Workshops

ECU Arbiter has already build and organise a Swiss manager Webinar and is working on creation of more innovative workshops in the first half of 2025.

5. GLOBAL CHESS FESTIVAL

ECYU supported the 10th Global Chess Festival and especially the 4th Educational Summit Budapest, 17 & 18 September 2024.



Inspiring chess programs over two days in three locations: The first day of the festival ended with a full house – over 6,000 people visited the Hungarian National Gallery on September 17. On the second day of the festival, the auditorium of the InterContinental Hotel was occupied by educational experts, while the Judit Polgár Chess Foundation stand in the BOK Hall was filled with chess fans.

Report and photos:

<https://www.globalchessfestival.com/index.php/en/>

<https://www.globalchessfestival.com/index.php/en/?view=article&id=224:4th-edu-chess-summit&catid=14>

6. ECU ANNUAL TRAINING ACADEMY



European Chess Union and ECU Trainers Commission, supported by FIDE Development Fund, running the annual training program in period from 18th November 2024 to 29th April 2025.

The 4th Annual Training Program will feature two groups:

- Group A – Over 1900 Rating: Monday 18:00-20:05 CET (Juniors/Girls U20)
- Group B – Under 1900 rating: Tuesday 18:00-20:05 CET (Juniors/Girls U16)

Each group will have 24 live sessions for a total of 48 hours of instruction and 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 Mikhachishin, GM Miguel Illescas, GM Efstratios Grivas, GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Jan Timman, GM Ramachandran Ramesh, GM Gunnar Kjartansson, GM Arshak Petrosian, IM Jovan Petronic and WGM Jana Krivec.

Participation and Registrations

- Each European National Chess Federation is entitled to register free of charge 2 Junior/Girls; one on each Group.
- Additionally, winners of youth European Championships taking part free of charge:

In total 150 players taking part in the program.

Full program description:

<https://www.europechess.org/4th-ecu-annual-training-program/>

7. ECU TRAINERS SEMINAR



The ECU Trainers Commission organized the second Seminar for trainers' education & titles, from November – 5 December 2024. In the Webinar the titles of ECU Expert Coach, or ECU Junior Coach, or ECU Novice Coach, may/will be awarded.

One participant from each European Small Nation (FIDE Zone 1.10) – free seminar and title fee, and five (5) female trainers selected by the European Women Commission (the Webinar fee will be waived) supported by the FIDE Development fund.

The Seminar is based on the ECU-ETC Syllabus (Volume 2 and 3). The Seminar comprises 18 hours of lecture and the lecturers are:

GM Ivan Sokolov,
GM Adrian Mikhachishin,
GM Efstratios Grivas,
GM Antoaneta Stefanova,
GM Miguel Illescas,
GM Gudmundur Kjartansson, and
WGM Jana Krivec.

Full program description:

<https://www.europechess.org/the-5th-ecu-trainers-online-seminar/>

8. ECU TV/Youtube Channel - ecutv.eu



The European Chess Union was pleased to announce the launch of ECU TV ecutv.eu . ECU TV will be running in trial mode for the next few months to test and improve all technical features.

The development of ECU TV is a multi-project consisting of 4 main pillars:

- Branding & Design:

Development of visual identity, creation of a unique logo, colour scheme, and comprehensive brand book. 3D animations for transitions and a complete setup for OBS live streaming, including custom intros and outros.

- Web development:

Development of the main platform ecutv.eu using a custom framework for scalability and ease management. Presentation of past and upcoming tournaments and archive of games and livestreams.

- Tournament coverage: Build a gaming platform, live streaming, and enhanced user interactivity, comments system and an integrated chess engine.
- Media guidelines: [The ECU Media Guide](#) contains media standards for the ECU tournaments and defines guidelines for the organisers for the live and press coverage of the European Championships.

The European Chess Union is taking a further step towards institutional development and communication to enhance the European Championships experience and provide more promotional opportunities for sponsors and supporters. We endeavour to provide the best possible services to our members, chess players and fans.

The project was co-supported by the FIDE Development fund and has already important impact on the ECU relations with sponsors and partners.

9. Aegean University Course – Chess in Primary Education

European Chess Union and Aegean University specialised in long distance learning programs signed the Agreement of co-operation yesterday in Rhodes, Greece.

The training course “Chess in Primary Education” created in 2024 is primarily aimed at teachers in primary education, as well as students of pedagogical departments. Secondly, it is aimed at any chess tutor interested in training related to the contribution of chess to education.

The first cycle of the program started in 10 of June and 40 participants registered in two different term programs. 25 of them completed successfully the course and got a University certificate on teaching in Primary Education. FIDE Dev supported up to 15 participants from other continents and mainly Africa that was big interest.

The second part of the cycle started in mid of January and is running till beginning of June. FIDE Dev fund supports students from other continents.

The program is breakthrough for the Chess in Education as it connects it with Universities procedures and certificates.



Relating reports and information:

<https://edu.europechess.org/academic-training-course/>

1st cycle

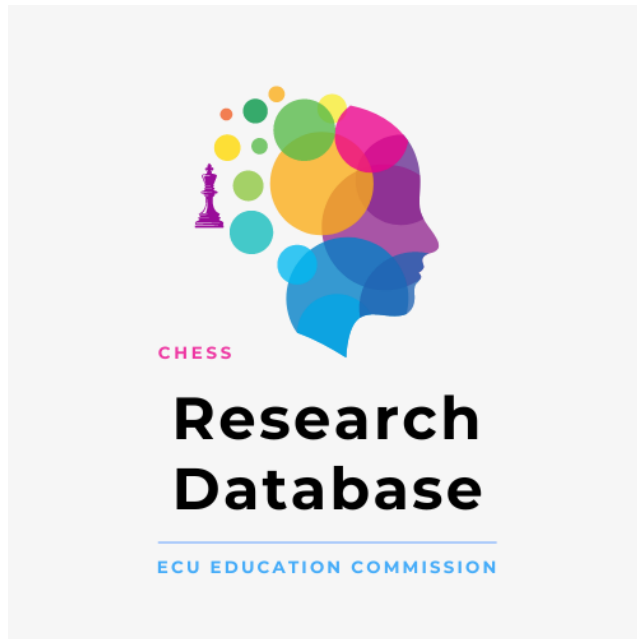
<https://www.europechess.org/european-chess-union-and-aegean-university-sign-the-agreement-of-co-operation/>

2nd cycle

<https://edu.europechess.org/2024/11/19/next-course-starts-on-20-january-2025/>

10. RESEARCH EDUCATION DATABASE

A big project started in 2023 and completed in 2024.



Source: <https://edu.europechess.org/chess-research-database>

Despite the wealth of research available on the topic of chess, a comprehensive and systematic review of chess-related academic articles has yet to be conducted. By this motive, the database was created by Seyhan Nisel, curated by John Foley and made easily searchable by Alexis Harakis to provide a comprehensive and structured resource for researchers, educators, players and enthusiasts in the chess community. It is a collection of chess-related academic articles, containing essential information for each publication. It serves as a rich resource to facilitate research, analysis and understanding of the academic literature related to chess, covering various aspects such as game strategies, psychology, cognitive development, artificial intelligence and interdisciplinary connections.

Users can filter and search the database based on their research questions. Using keywords allows them to identify relevant publications and uncover trends, patterns and relationships within the field of their interest.

11. Fair Play Equipment

ECU purchased 10 new hand scanners that is already in use.

12. DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIA-PRESS MANUAL FOR ECU CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Media Press Manual was tasked in 2023 and is completed by the first half of 2024.



European Chess Union presented the new Media Guide, concerning the live coverage on major European Chess Championships.

The ECU Media Guide was approved by the ECU General Assembly 2024 in Budapest, Hungary, and was added to the [ECU Rulebook](#).

ECU Media Guide contains media standards for the ECU tournaments and defines guidelines for the organisers for the live and press coverage of the European Chess Championships. The Media Guide also contains detailed information about press accreditations at the ECU tournaments, and requirements needed by media representatives in order to receive a Media accreditation.