

To: FIDE Planning & Development Commission  
Su: Report of the year 2023

February 20, 2024

Dear Chess Friends,

We are pleased to present our Annual Report on the European Development Fund 2023 that included 13 projects. All the details of the projects are included and in our description of each project by each specific request.

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.

Few projects are still in progress (started in December 2023) since needs more time to be completed.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

With kind regards,



Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou,  
ECU Secretary General

**A. TABLE OF PROJECTS and AMOUNTS APPROVED**

PROJECTS	AMOUNT	STATUS	
1. Krakow European Olympic Games	10,000	Completed	Report
2. Global Chess Festival/Educational Summit, Budapest, Hungary	5,000	Completed	Report
3. Tournament of Peace, Zagreb Croatia	5,000	Completed	Report
4. Development and support of European Women's Trophy	8,000	Completed	Report
5. Support of Women's FIDE Norms Tournaments	2,000	Completed	Report
6. FIDE Arbiters Seminar:	2,500	Completed	Report
7. Annual ECU Training Online Academy	8,000	On Progress	Report
8. ECU Trainers Seminar	2,000	Completed	Report
9. Developing of the ECU Training Syllabus	10,000	Completed	Report
10. Research Database – Platform	6,000	On Progress	Mid-Report
11. Digitalisation of Materials for Academic Program	10,000	On Progress	Mid Report
12. ECU CIS TOOLBOX	15,000	On Progress	Report
13. Development of Media-Press Manual for ECU Championships	5000	On Progress	Report
<b>Total (euros)</b>	<b>88500</b>		

## A. REPORTS FOR PROJECTS

### 1. EUROPEAN



The 1st European Pairs Chess Championship, an official side event of the European Olympic Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023, was organized in Krakow, Poland on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The event was held in two phases: qualification and playoffs, and the individual medalists were determined by the playoffs in each section (Open and Women's). The combined Pair medals were decided by the final position of the players of each team after the playoffs in each section (sum of points): 1<sup>st</sup> 8-points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-points, 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-points, 4<sup>th</sup> 5-points, 5<sup>th</sup> 4-points, 6<sup>th</sup> 3 points, 7<sup>th</sup> 2-points, and 8<sup>th</sup> 1-point.

The team of Armenia, represented by GM Shant Sargsyan and IM Elina Danielian, emerged as the Winner of the event scoring 15 points. The Netherlands clinched silver with 14 points with GM Benjamin Bok and IM Eline Roebers in the team, while Azerbaijan came third with 13 points, represented by GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and IM Gunay Mammadzada

Report: <https://www.europechess.org/armenia-wins-european-pairs-chess-championship-2023/>



## 2. GLOBAL CHESS FESTIVAL



This year, the festival expanded to a two-day event, and on October 15th, 220,000 people from around the world joined the online programs. This year's main theme was decision-making, according to the official website: <https://www.globalchessfestival.com/index.php/en/>

Practicing chess helps us a lot to improve this skill. And the best part is that this will represent an experience that will help us in the future in other areas as well. In this sense, various workshops for children, over-the-board and online competitions were organized on the chess.com website

The **Judit Polgár Chess Foundation**, in cooperation with the **European Chess Union (ECU)**, organized the Chess Challenge Tournament. The event took place at the 9th Judit Polgar's Global Chess Festival at the Hungarian National Gallery, in a **friendly atmosphere** and environment where **chess enthusiasts** of all genders, ages, and social backgrounds can feel safe and **welcome**. This event was supported by special motivation prizes for the participants.

Report and photos:

<https://www.globalchessfestival.com/index.php/en/?view=article&id=165:chess-challenge-tournament&catid=11>

## 3. TOURNAMENT OF PEACE CROATIA



The 2023 edition of the historical chess event Tournament of Peace was organised in Zagreb, Croatia. It is a 10-player round-robin tournament, took place from 22 to 30 November in the National and University Library.

GM Anton Korobov (UKR, 2667) headlines the participants list this year, followed by GM Hans Niemann (USA, 2659), GM Vasyl Ivanchuk (UKR, 2653), GM Ivan Cheparinov (BUL, 2649), GM Ante Brkic (CRO, 2622), GM Alexander Motylev (ROU, 2619), GM Ivan Sokolov (NED, 2588), GM Hrvoje Stevic (CRO, 2549), GM Zdenko Kozul (CRO, 2531), and GM Robert Zelcic (CRO, 2478).

The Opening ceremony of the event took place today, shortly before the start of the first round. The ceremony was attended by the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Vice President Mr. Alojzije Jankovic, and distinguished representatives of the city of Zagreb, Zagreb Chess Federation and Croatian Chess Federation.

**Reports/Photos:**

<https://www.europechess.org/tournament-of-peace-2023-kicked-off-in-zagreb/>

#### 4. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S TROPHIE



ECU Commission For Women's Chess announced last year "European Women's Chess Trophy", an initiative that aimed to financially reward women and girls actively taking part in the solely female tournaments in Europe. It was for the first time and we hope to continue with the Trophy also this year, to be growing by including more female events and female players into the list.

#### **Reports/Results:**

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

[https://wom.europechess.org/our-commission-events/european-womens-chess-trophy/?fbclid=IwAR2bpiWWsw2ElkagrPrhYnweBhGHRc6TRkt3mTsjTs7xgUZD-SJ8\\_qFmL3l](https://wom.europechess.org/our-commission-events/european-womens-chess-trophy/?fbclid=IwAR2bpiWWsw2ElkagrPrhYnweBhGHRc6TRkt3mTsjTs7xgUZD-SJ8_qFmL3l)

#### 5. SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S FIDE NORMS TOURNAMENTS

One of our goals is to support organizers of female norm tournaments in Europe in order to increase the number of female players with FIDE titles. We offer a financial support to organizers who are ECU member federations and under following conditions and criteria. We are very glad that in 2023 we managed to financially support 3 women's closed tournaments and raised an awareness of our initiative. It remains our goal and vision to increase the number of female players with FIDE titles and hope to achieve this also with this initiative. We offer a financial support to organizers who are ECU member federations and under following conditions and criteria.

#### **Reports of supported tournaments:**

<https://wom.europechess.org/our-commission-events/support-for-womens-tournament/>

<https://wom.europechess.org/financial-support-for-womens-tournaments-the-2nd-she-plays-to-win-wim-challengers-edinburgh/>

<https://wom.europechess.org/financial-support-for-womens-tournaments/>

## 6. FIDE ARBITERS SEMINAR MAMAIA, ROMANIA



From 6th to 11th September 2023, a FIDE Arbiters' Seminar was organized in Mamaia (Romania), by the European Chess Union, under the auspices of FIDE.

The Lecturer was IA Escafre, Stephane (FRA), FIDE Lecturer, and the Local Assistant Lecturer was IA Karali, Tania (GRE). The language of the Seminar was English.

Eleven (11) arbiters from three (3) federations (CYP, GRE, and ROU) participated in the Seminar and all of them participated in the examination test, held after the end of the lectures.

Report:

<https://arbiters.fide.com/news/8525>

## 7. ECU ANNUAL TRAINING ACADEMY

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The European Chess Union and ECU Trainers Commission, with the support of FIDE development fund announce the annual European Chess Union training program from 20 November 2023 to 21 May 2024 with some of the best European and world's chess trainers.

The program will be organized in two groups:

- **Group A – For players rated 1900+ – Monday 18:00-20:05 CET**
- **Group B – For players rated U1900 – Tuesday 18:00-20:05 CET**

The program started on Monday, 20th of November 2023, and each group will have 24 live sessions until May 2024, with a total of 48 hours of instruction. The program is based on the new ECU-ETC Trainers' Syllabuses and aims to systematically develop chess talents.

Each European National Chess Federations was entitled to register free of charge 2 players, U20 Juniors or Girls one on each Group.

In total 150 players taking part in the program.

### **Full program description:**

<https://www.europechess.org/european-chess-union-academy/>



## 8. ECU TRAINERS SEMINAR

A promotional banner for the ECU Trainers Online Seminar. The background is dark blue with a pattern of small, light blue diamonds. On the left, the text "ECU TRAINERS ONLINE SEMINAR" is written in large, bold, white and light blue letters. On the right, there is a white box containing the "TRAINERS' COMMISSION" logo, which includes a checkered flag icon and the text "CU European Chess Union Since 1985". Below the text and logo, there is a row of six portraits of the seminar's expert lecturers: GM Ivan Sokolov, GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, GM Efstratios Grivas, GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Miguel Illescas, and WGM Jana Krivec.

**ECU TRAINERS  
ONLINE SEMINAR**

**TRAINERS'  
COMMISSION**

**CU**  
European Chess Union  
Since 1985

- *Dates: 19–29 February, 2024*
- *18 hours of lectures and Final test for the ECU Expert Coach titles*
- *25 free places for nominees by the ECU National federations*
- *5 free places for nominees by the ECU WOM Commission*
- *Expert lecturers: GM Ivan Sokolov, GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, GM Efstratios Grivas, GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Miguel Illescas & WGM Jana Krivec*

The ECU Trainers Commission organizes the first Seminar for trainers' education & titles. The Seminar will be held online from 19-29 February 2024, with free participation for 25 participants nominated by European National Chess Federations and five free places for participants nominated by the ECU Commission for Women's Chess.

The Seminar will be based on the ECU-ETC Syllabus (Volume 3 – Advanced). The Seminar will comprise 18 hours of lecture and the lecturers are: GM Ivan Sokolov, GM Adrian Mikhalchishin, GM Efstratios Grivas, GM Antoaneta Stefanova, GM Miguel Illescas, and WGM Jana Krivec.

### **Full program description:**

<https://www.europechess.org/the-1st-ecu-trainers-online-seminar/>

## 9. DEVELOPING OF THE ECU TRAINING SYLLABUS

The ECU Trainers Syllabus (3 books) were completed (first phase) in September 2023 by the completion of prototype training material and 600 pages. The Syllabus is already in use in ECU Academy and ECU Trainers Seminars. Additionally in cooperation with Chessable the ECU Trainers Syllabus is digitalized and will be available within 2024 in Chessable platform.

### Contents of ECU Syllabus

<b>Syllabus - 1200- (20 Lessons/Hours)</b>
Robert Ris (10 H.) – Jovan Peronic (10 H.)
Learning Chess - Origins & Myths - The Chessboard
The King - The Queen
The Rook - The Knight
The Bishop - The Pawn
Castling - En Passant - Chess Notation
Check & Checkmate - Stalemate
Checkmate - King & Queen vs King
Checkmate - King & Rook vs King
Checkmate - The Back Rank
Checkmate - The Typical Mates
Opening Principles
The Ten Basic Rules
Basic Tournament Openings - White
Basic Tournament Openings - Black
Middlegame Mating Patterns - 1
Middlegame Mating Patterns - 2
Middlegame Tactics Patterns - 1
Middlegame Tactics Patterns - 2
Basic Endings - 1
Basic Endings - 2

<b>Syllabus - 1200-1700 (20 Lessons/Hours)</b>
Stefanova (3 H.) - Grivas (8 H.) - Mikhailchishin (2 H.) - Illescas (7 H.)
Creating the Right Training Environment (Stefanova)
Common Training Mistakes (Stefanova)
Psychological Aspects - Antoaneta Stefanova
By Failing to Prepare you are Preparing to Fall (Grivas)
Knowledge Rewards! (Grivas)
Typical Pawn Structures - Part 1 (Mikhailchishin)
Typical Pawn Structures - Part 2 (Mikhailchishin)
The Back-rank Mate (Illescas)
Lolli's Mate (Illescas)
Damiano's Mate (Illescas)
Lucena's Mate (Illescas)
The Arabian Mate (Illescas)
Fool's Mate (Illescas)
Opening Mates (Illescas)
The Golden Rules of the Endgame (Grivas)
Pawn Endings (Grivas)
Queen Endings (Grivas)
Rook Endings (Grivas)
Bishop Endings - Efstratios Grivas (Grivas)
Knight Endings - Efstratios Grivas (Grivas)

<b>Syllabus - 1700-2200 (20 Lessons/Hours)</b>
Stefanova (4 H.) - Sokolov (8 H.) - Mikhailchishin (4 H.) - Janjghava (4 H.)
Common Training Mistakes on Females (Stefanova)
Psychological Aspects (Stefanova)
Chess & Life Choices of Females (Stefanova)
Play on Two Wings (Stefanova)
Patterns Recognition (Sokolov)
Recognising a Talent (Sokolov)
Coaching a Team (Sokolov)
Typical Attacking Motifs (Sokolov)
King in the Centre (Sokolov)
Pawn Storm (Sokolov)
Pawn Storm (Sokolov)
Critical Positions (Sokolov)
Facing World Champions (Sokolov)
Attacking the Centralised King (Janjghava)
Defence and Counterplay (Janjghava)
Importance of the Centre (Janjghava)
Prophylactic Measures (Janjghava)
Positional Sacrifices (Mikhailchishin)
Mistakes of General Training (Mikhailchishin)
Exchanges: Planning & Technique (Mikhailchishin)
Rook Endings (Mikhailchishin)

## 10. RESEARCH DATABASE – PLATFORM

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Chess in Education website. At the top, there is a blue header with the 'EDUCATION COMMISSION' logo on the left and the 'Chess in Education' title in large white letters on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, CIE PACKAGE, TEACHER TRAINING COURSE, CERTIFICATION, SURVEYS, CIE PROJECTS, UPCOMING EVENTS, and ECU. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features the 'ECU Education Commission' title, a mission statement 'We are on a mission to', and three colored boxes: 'Promote Chess in Education' (purple), 'Empower Chess Educators' (blue), and 'Support CIE Initiatives' (pink). Below these is a paragraph about the commission's 10th anniversary in 2024. The right column has a 'Follow us on Social Media' section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Below that is a 'LATEST NEWS' section with a hand cursor icon pointing to a red speech bubble. The news item is titled 'International Conference in Menorca 2024' and dated 'February 13, 2024'. The text of the news item reads: 'Chess, Education and Health: A New Look into the Future Menorca is preparing to welcome leading international experts in the field of chess, education and... Read More »'.

The research database and the platform are under development on the new ECU EDU Website. [edu.europechess.org](http://edu.europechess.org)

A contact has been signed in January 2024 for the creation and completion. of the whole project.

## 11. DIGITALISATION OF MATERIALS FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Aegean University and European Chess Union have an agreement for an online (distance learning) course in chess instruction with the main target teachers at primary schools.

The course is 320 hours, with an estimated working load of 10 hours per week (7months 25% of a full time), or 20 hours per week (3,5 months 50% of a full time that will give the students CTS points. These points are recognized all over Europe.

The course is organized in 5 sections: 1. The history of chess 2. Why is chess good for kids? 3. The Chess Rules 4. Chess as a tool in the classroom 5. Chess materials  
Beside the material to read the participants will also write 3 essays on topics connected to the sections and make a final test. These are checked by teachers at the university that approve them or not.

Main Task of ECU EDU Commission is to prepare the biggest part of teaching materials in special modules that will be approved by the University structures.

### **Update of works:**

- A. The memorandum with Aegean University has been finalized in February 2024
- B. The modules expected to be finalized by March 15<sup>th</sup> and the modules will be approved by the University.
- C. The teaching materials are under development.
- D. The University course is expected to start by May 2024.

### **12. ECU EDU Toolbox**

The project is under discussion for drafting and finalizing a contract for all materials, rights and final product.

### **13. DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIA-PRESS MANUAL FOR ECU CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The manual was tasked to ECU Media Commission and is expected to be completed by the first half of 2024. The report of completion will follow.