

01  
02  
03

Mitropa Chess Cup  
2025

Invitation for the  
ECU Congress &  
General Assembly

GlobalCell prepares  
special offer with free  
data for chess players

01



02



03



## ECU E-Magazine May 2025



### IN MEMORIAM:

**Professor Kurt Jungwirth -**  
Founding Father of European  
Chess Union

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Kurt Jungwirth, the visionary founder of the European Chess Union (ECU), who left us on May 13, 2025. As one of the most influential figures in European chess history, Professor Jungwirth's legacy will forever be etched in the annals of the sport.



*In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine you may read about European School Chess Championship 2025, Mitropa Chess Cup 2025, upcoming ECU events, activities of the ECU Commissions, Arbiters Corner and Fun Zone.*

## European School Chess Champions 2025 crowned in Mamaia, Romania



*Chess Makes You Smarter.*

## In May 2025 edition of the ECU E-Magazine you may read about:

- European School Chess Championship 2025
- Mitropa Chess Cup 2025
- Invitation for ECU Congress & ECU General Assembly 2025
- Invitation for ECU events
- Activities of the ECU Commissions

## Contents:



## In brief...

- **European School Chess Championship 2025** took place from 29 May to 8 June at the Complex Amiral – Comandor – Orfeu in Mamaia, Romania. The event gathered more than 200 players from 14 European federations and it was played in 6 age categories: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17 open and girls sections separately. European Chess Union congratulates to the Winners and Medalists.
- **The annual ECU General Assembly and ECU 40 years anniversary Gala** will take place on Saturday 11th of October, in Batumi, Georgia, simultaneously with the European Team Chess Championship 2025. ECU published the official invitation for the ECU Congress and General Assembly 2025.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland.  
European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria. European Chess Union has 54 National federations members, and each year organises more than 20 prestigious events.  
Website: [europechess.org](http://europechess.org)



# Professor Kurt Jungwirth

## IN MEMORIAM: Professor Kurt Jungwirth

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Kurt Jungwirth, the visionary founder of the European Chess Union (ECU), who left us on May 13, 2025. As one of the most influential figures in European chess history, Professor Jungwirth's legacy will forever be etched in the annals of the sport.



In 1985, Professor Jungwirth brought his dream to life when he founded the European Chess Union in Graz, Austria. His vision of uniting European chess under one umbrella organization has grown into what is today a thriving community of 54 national federations, representing over 8 million players and chess enthusiasts across the continent. He served as President of European Chess Union, Austria Chess Federation and Vice President of FIDE.

Throughout his distinguished career, Professor Jungwirth demonstrated an unwavering commitment to chess development and education. His pioneering spirit laid the groundwork for what would become numerous prestigious European championships and events that continue to shape the landscape of chess competition today.

Beyond his achievements in chess organization, Professor Jungwirth was a respected academic and cultural figure in Austria, serving as the Cultural Minister for Styria for many years. His unique ability to bridge the worlds of culture, education, and chess helped elevate the sport's status throughout Europe.

The European Chess Union that he founded has grown far beyond its humble beginnings to become one of the most significant chess organizations globally, organizing over 20 prestigious events annually and spearheading innovative programs in chess education and development.

Professor Jungwirth's passing, following closely after the recent losses of chess luminaries Boris Spassky, Fridrik Olafsson, and Vlastimil Hort, marks the end of an era in European chess. His vision, leadership, and dedication to chess will continue to inspire future generations.



The European Chess Union extends its deepest condolences to Professor Jungwirth's family, friends, the Austrian Chess Federation and the entire chess community. His legacy lives on through the thousands of chess players and enthusiasts who benefit from the organization he created.

May he rest in peace.

# European School Chess Champions 2025 crowned in Mamaia, Romania

The European School Chess Championship 2025 took place from 29 May to 8 June at the Complex Amiral – Comandor – Orfeu in Mamaia, Romania.

The event was played in six age categories: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17, open and girls sections separately, with the participation of more than 200 players coming from 14 European federations.

## Medalists Open U7 section:

1. Mete Aras Akbudak (TUR), 8 pts
2. Victor Bojica (ROU, 1479), 7 pts
3. Alexios Alexandrakis (GRE), 6.5 pts

## Medalists Girls U7 section:

1. Ermina-Ioana Covalciuc (ROU), 6 pts
2. Elif Dila Koyuncu (TUR), 6 pts
3. Sophia Kaliskami (GRE), 5 pts

## Medalists Open U9 section:

1. Lukyan Huzela (UKR), 7 pts
2. Adam-Alexandru Mihai (ROU), 6.5 pts
3. Matija Arsenijevic (SRB), 6.5 pts

## Medalists Girls U9 section:

1. Lile Svanadze (GEO), 8.5 pts
2. Sabina-Teodora Dutcovici (ROU), 7.5 pts
3. Sophia-Lenina Matala (ROU), 6 pts

## Medalists Open U11 section:

1. Iustin Larion (ROU), 7 pts
2. CM Ali Poyraz Uzdemir (TUR), 7 pts
3. Denys Farkash (UKR), 6.5 pts

## Medalists Girls U11 section:

1. Sara Saltkhutishvili (GEO), 8 pts
2. Weronika Trzcinska (POL), 7 pts
3. WCM Maria Anistoroaei (ROU), 6.5 pts

## Medalists Open U13 section:

1. Gabriel Gabadadze (GEO), 7.5 pts
2. Davit Tatvidze (GEO), 7.5 pts
3. Kerem Sarp Yekeler (TUR), 7 pts







#### Medalists Girls U13 section:

1. Alina Baluh (UKR), 7 pts
2. WCM Selin Torun (TUR), 7 pts
3. Kaja Rzdakowska (POL), 7 pts

#### Medalists Open U15 section:

1. Andria Kviriashvili (GEO), 5.5 pts
2. CM Alexandru Ioan Constantinoiu (ROU), 5 pts
3. Erekle Tabatadze (GEO), 5 pts

#### Medalists Girls U15 section:

1. Ela Mullakutukcu (TUR), 6.5 pts
2. Barbare Ashotia (GEO), 5.5 pts
3. Tekla Koghuashvili (GEO), 5.5 pts

#### Medalists Open U17 section:

1. Victor-Dominic (ROU), 6.5 pts
2. Ozgur Deniz Hasirci (TUR), 6.5 pts
3. CM Matei-Valeriu Mogirzan (ROU), 6.5 pts

#### Medalists Girls U17 section:

1. Daria-Ana Marcu (ROU), 5 pts
2. Maria Criveanu (ROU), 5 pts
3. Hena Karadas (TUR), 4.5 pts

The Closing ceremony of the event took place with the attendance of the ECU Treasurer Ion-Serban Dobronauteanu, Vice-President of the Romanian Chess Federation Alin-Mile Berescu, Secretary General of the Romanian Chess Federation Gabriel Grecescu, member of the Romanian Chess Federation Board Nanu Costica-Ciprian, Tournament Director Elena Cristian and other distinguished guests.

Final report can be found on the [ECU Website](#).



Final rankings and detailed information about the event can be found on the [Official website](#).

# Czech Republic and Switzerland win Mitropa Chess Cup 2025

The 2025 Mitropa Chess Cup took place from 14-23 May with separate Open and Women's competitions and participation of 10 federations: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Czech Republic emerged as the sole Winner of the Open competition scoring 13 match points. A dramatical final round determined the Champions and medalists as we saw a direct encounter for gold between Czech Republic and Germany. Czech Republic won the match with a narrow 2.5-1.5 score, emerging as the Winner of the event. With the score of 12 match points each, Germany and Slovakia 1 tied for silver, but Slovakia 1 had better tiebreaks to take second place, and Germany won bronze medal.

Switzerland emerged as a convincing winner of the Women's championship with 17 match points, 8 match victories and 1 tied match, finishing 4 match points ahead of the runner-ups. Scoring 13 match points France won silver medal, while Italy and Hungary tied for third place with the score of 12 match points each, but Italy had better tiebreaks and won bronze medal and Hungary finished in the fourth place.



The best individual players per each board received trophies.

Board 1 (O)– IM Vaclav Finek (CZE)  
Board 2 (O)– GM Luca Moroni (ITA)  
Board 3(O)– FM Jachym Nemec (CZE)  
Board 4 (O)– IM Lukas Dotzer (AUT)  
Board 5(O)–IM Agoston Juhasz (HUN)

Board 1 (W) – WFM Emilie Negre (FRA)  
Board 2 (W) – WIM Sofiia Hryzlova (SUI)  
Board 3 (W) – IM Elena Sedina (ITA)  
Board4(W)-WGM Ghazal Hakimifard (SUI)  
Board 5 (W) – Eszter Sulyok (HUN)

Final rankings and detailed information can be found on the [ECU Website](#).

*Photos by Tomáš Danada*





18-27 August in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm



## European Union Youth U8-U14 Chess Championship 2025

The 23rd edition of the European Union Youth Chess Championship U8-U14 will take place from 18-27 August in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic. The event is organized by the Czech Chess Federation under the auspices of the European Chess Union.

The Championship is open for citizens of a member state of the European Union or of a Schengen state. Each federation can register one player, a boy or a girl, in each of the categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, and unlimited number of extra (additional) players. The player has to be registered as a player by the respective Federation on January 1st, 2025. Registration forms must be sent back no later than June 30th, 2025 by email.

The event will be played in four categories: U8, U10, U12, and U14, with separate prizes for the best ranked girls in the tournaments. The events will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 90 min for the whole game + 30 sec increase for each move played.

The playing venue of the event is Sports hall Hotel Energetic in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, and the players and accompanying persons will be accommodated at hotel Energetic, Ibis Styles hotel Relax in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, at hotel Forman\*\*\* and Koruna\*\*\*, at pension Beskyd\*\*\* and Garni\*\*\*\*.

The first three players from each category will receive championship trophies, medals and diplomas. Every player of each category will receive commemorative championship medal and a diploma. Furthermore, players will receive prizes. The winners of each tournament receive a laptop, other medalists will receive a digital clock. Prizes will receive at least the first six players of each category. The total value of the prize fund will be at least 6.000 Euro. Girls in each category will be evaluated separately.

Detailed information about the event, official regulations and registration information can be found on the [ECU Website](#).

Rabac, 26 September - 6 October

# European Senior Chess Championship 2025

The European Senior Individual Chess Championship 2025 will take place from September 26th (arrival day) to October 6th (departure day) at the "Sunny Rabac" restaurant by Valamar, in Rabac, Croatia.

The event will be played in two age categories: 50+ and 65+, open and women's sections separately. In case of less of nine players in the women's section, the event will be merged with the respective Open age category, with separate prizes for the best women players.

Each tournament will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with time control of 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one. The total prize fund of the event is 8.000 EUR.

The event is open to all players who reached the age of 50 or 65 (by December 31st of the year in which the tournament will commence) and who represent national federations which are listed as the ECU members.

The players placed 1-3 in the previous European Senior Championships shall have the personal right to participate in the European Senior Championships of the corresponding age category or a higher age category. The registration deadline is Friday, August 29th, 2025.

The official hotels of the event are:  
\*\*\*\*Valamar Sanfior Hotel & Casa and  
\*\*\*\*Valamar Bellevue Resort. Both official hotels are within a walking distance from the playing hall.

Detailed information can be found on the [ECU Website](#).



Rabac, Croatia



Batumi, 11 October



## ECU Congress and General Assembly 2025

The ECU Congress 2025 will be held in Batumi, Georgia, consecutively with the European Team Chess Championship 2025 and will take place from 9-11 October 2025.

The ECU General Assembly 2025 will take place on 11th October 2025. The official venue of the ECU General Assembly will be in the European Team Chess Championship 2025 hosting Hotels. The exact room will be announced later. The Assembly will start at 9.30 am.

ECU will provide free of charge 3 nights for the ECU Delegates for the dates 10th -12th or 9th to 11th October. Additional rooms and nights can be booked through the Organising Committee.

All the information about airports and hotels for the ECU General Assembly are included in the European Teams Championship 2025 Invitation. Requests for bookings and transportation shall be forward to O.C. email: [batumieurope2025@gmail.com](mailto:batumieurope2025@gmail.com)

### ECU Congress Schedule:

- Thursday 09 October: Commissions' Meetings
- Friday, 10 October : ECU Board Meeting – Commissions' Meetings
- Saturday 11 October: Annual General Assembly starts at 09.30 am

Proposals from Members to be included in the agenda for the General Assembly shall reach ECU Secretariat not later than three months (11th July 2025) before the start of the Assembly.

The exact schedule for the Commissions meetings will be announced with a later announcement.

Detailed information will be available on the [ECU Website](#).

Paris, 7-8 November

# European Corporate Chess Championship 2025

The European Corporate Chess Championship 2025, organised by Asnière Le Grand Echiquier under the auspices of the European Chess Union, will be held on 7-8 November in Asnières sur Seine, Paris, France.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with time control of 15 minutes for the whole game, plus 5 seconds of an increment starting from move one. The tournament is open to teams from corporate entities based in Europe. Each team consists of four players and possibly one substitute player.

Each team :

- Can only have one player over 2400 ELO (FIDE Rapid Rating – October 2025)
- Must include at least one player below 2000 ELO participating in each round.

For each round, at least two players on the team should have an employment relationship (or similar) with the corporate entities they are playing for. Players are ranked in order of initial team composition (FIDE rating lists October 2025) in order to play amateurs against amateurs as much as possible.

All participants must be over 16 years old

The guaranteed minimum prize fund of the event is 7.000 EUR. The organisers will provide special trophy for the following sectors of activity (with a minimum of 3 teams per sector): Banking & Insurance, Energy, Digital, Consulting, Industry, Sport & Tourism and Special.

The tournament features a special side event Chess and Strategy Conference, which will take place on Friday, 7th of November, in the morning hours.

Detailed information about the event can be found on the [ECU Website](#).





Malta, 25 November - 5 December

# European Amateur Chess Championship 2025



Each tournament will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, and separate Women's competitions will be organized if there are at least 10 women players registered in the category. Otherwise, the Women's sections will be merged with the Open competition, with separate rankings.

The rate of play will be 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

The official hotel and the playing venue of the event is \*\*\*\*RIVIERA SPA RESORT. During the event, the participants can join variety of parallel events, including: excursion to Malta's capital Valletta, visit to Gozo island, visit to Coral Lagoon, excursion to Blue Lagoon, visit to Medina – old capital of Malta.

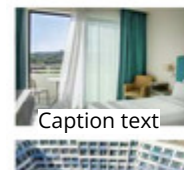
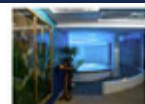
The European Amateur Chess Championships 2025 will be held from 25 November (arrivals) to 5 December (departures) in the Conference Hall of the 4-star "Riviera Spa Resort" Hotel in Mellieha, Malta.

The event will be played in three rating categories: U2300, U2000, and U1700. In order to be eligible to participate in the tournament, the players must fulfill the following conditions:

- All players must not hold any title above CM (or WCM for women) in the sections U1700 and U2000.
- All players must not hold any title above FM (or WFM for women) in the section U2300.
- A player must not have a published

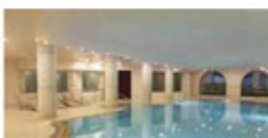
FIDE rating of 2300 or greater for at least one year prior to the registration deadline of the event.

- For the U2000 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 2000 or greater for at least one year prior to the start of the championship.
- For the U1700 section, a player must not have a published FIDE rating of 1700 or greater for at least one year prior to the start.



The total prize fund of the events is 4.600 euros and the distribution of prizes is shown below. The winners of women categories receive the relevant title: "European Women Amateur Chess Champion under 1700 under 2000 and 2300."

Detailed information, official regulations and contact information can be found on the [ECU Website](#).



## Educational Chess: From Curricular Practice to Cognitive Transformation

### Chess Alone Isn't Enough

Many schools introduce chess, hoping it will boost students' thinking skills. But just playing chess doesn't do that. One common mistake is to rely on basic gameplay without purpose. This isn't bad. But it misses the point. It

misses the aim of what Chess in Education is for and the deeper potential that Chess in Education can offer.

If you use chess in the classroom, don't assume the game teaches the skills on its own. Build a structure around it and

guide students to think about their thinking.

### What skills are students actually building?

Ramon Pérez Rodríguez's reports on the work they do in Catalonia

[Read more](#)





# ECU Education Commission

## ECU Chess in Education Ambassador Greece

The European Chess Union has launched the ECU Chess in Education Partnership with National Chess Federations to help promote chess as an educational tool in schools and institutions across Europe and beyond, strengthening the

connection amongst National Federations and the broader educational community.

**ECU EDU's goal** is to increase the visibility of the National Chess in Education initiatives through our dedicated online platforms to create

opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration to inspire each other.

National Ambassadors will play a key role in supporting the ECU Education Commission's mission

The ECU logo consists of the letters "ECU" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a blue rounded rectangular background.The logo for the European Chess Union features a black and white checkered square to the left of the letters "CU" in a large, blue, serif font. Below "CU" is the text "European Chess Union" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

**CHESS IN EDUCATION  
AMBASSADOR**



**GREECE**



**Vera Avramidou**



# ECU Education Commission

## Parents + Chess = Powerful Education Partnership!

### Why Are Parents So Important in Education?

You are your child's first and most influential teacher. Your involvement boosts their confidence, motivation, and academic success. When children see that learning is something the whole

family values, they take it more seriously.

### Why Time Together Matters?

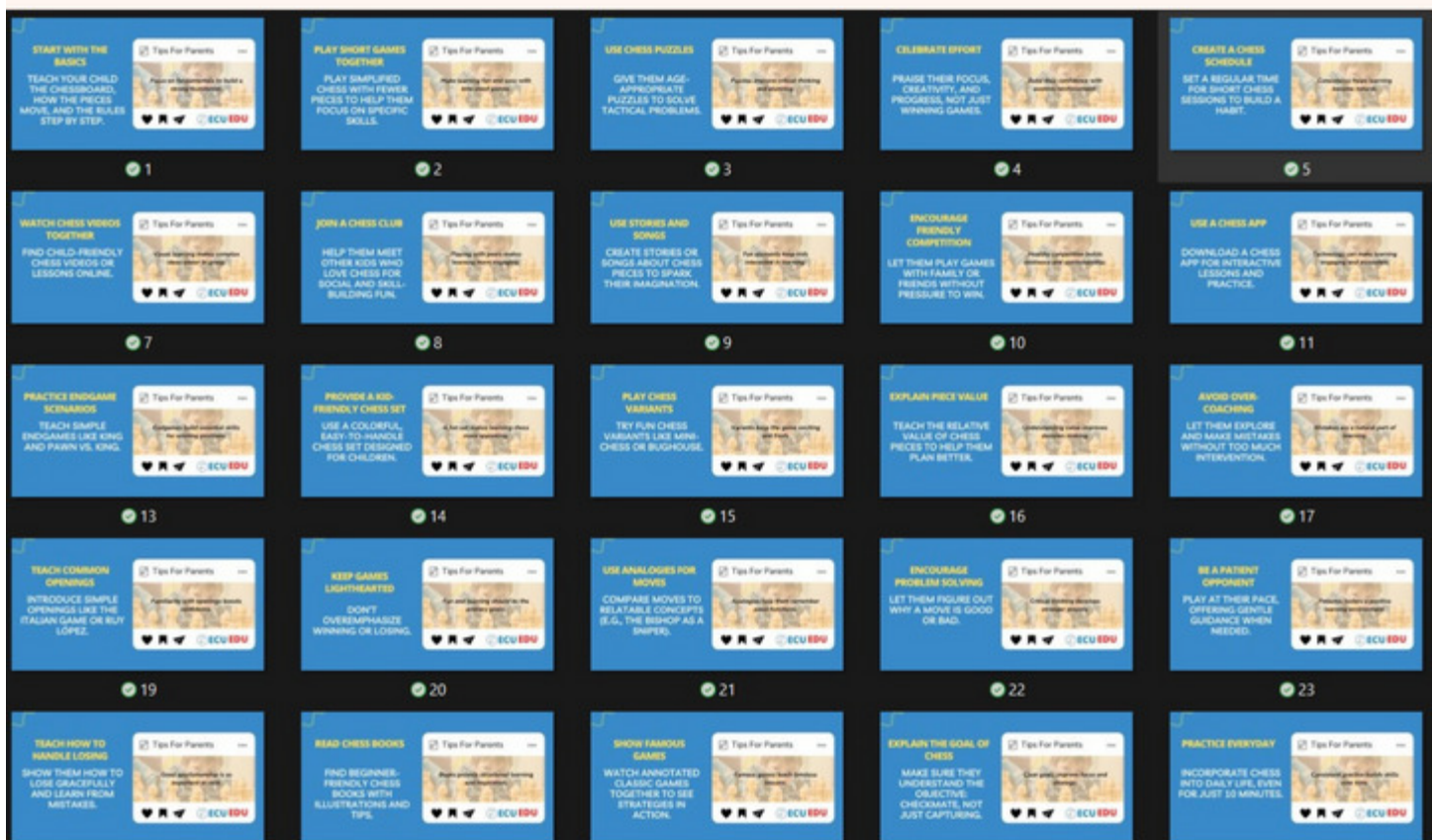
Spending quality time, like playing a game of chess, is more than bonding. This shared time strengthens emotional security, which is a key pillar of academic

success and a more balanced life.

### Why Learning Together Works?

You don't need to be a chess expert to be a great guide. Just be there and have fun together! Your presence matters more than perfection.

## Tips for Parents with Chess in Education





## Breaking down educational objectives into SMART goals

The Training Course supports educators in improving their instructional skills, including how to structure lessons, provide feedback, and create a supportive learning environment to maintain students' motivation. It also

introduces various teaching techniques and strategies to help educators develop and deliver effective lessons to achieve better learning outcomes for students. The Training Course is certified by the European Chess Union and has been

supporting chess educators in classroom teaching since 2017 in several countries and languages. After successful completion of the course, participants receive the ECU School Chess Teacher title.

[Read more](#)

### **FIDE Certified course**

**Start SMART with  
Chess in Education  
and support your  
Professional  
Development!**



The ECU School Chess Teacher certificate meets the license renewal requirement for educators who hold a title from the FIDE Education Commission

# The SMART Method to Teach Chess Training Course

Endorsed by FIDE

# IN GERMAN



ECU EDU

## For teachers and chess tutors teaching chess for beginners

*Learn how to use  
chess as an  
educational tool*

*Develop children's  
social, emotional and  
cognitive skills*

*Become a certified  
School Chess Teacher by  
the European Chess Union*

The course supports educators in improving their instructional skills: structuring lessons, providing feedback, and creating a supportive learning environment to maintain students' motivation. It also introduces various teaching techniques and strategies to help educators create and deliver effective lessons and achieve better learning outcomes for students.



## 11 – 13 July 2025



### Date and Time

Friday, 11 July 2025, 18:00 - 21:00 CET  
Saturday, 12 July 2025, 9:00 - 15:00 CET  
Sunday, 13 July 2025, 9:00 - 13:00 CET



### Course instructors

**Lothar Handrich**  
School Chess | Austrian Chess Federation



### More information

**Course Language: German**

Location: Online Zoom Webinar

Course Fee: €90 (Including the ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate)

Registration:

<https://ecuhub.eu/course/the-smart-method-to-teach-chess/>

Contact: [info.edu@europechess.org](mailto:info.edu@europechess.org)





# CHESS IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

Academic Training Course

20-WEEK DISTANCE LEARNING



## Register for the course

Fill out the registration form and start your professional development through the online distance learning program.



## Learn more about Chess in Education

Learn the course material in your own pace and time and gain an academic qualification from the University of the Aegean.



## Teach chess with confidence

Start using the knowledge and skills you learned on the course in your teaching practice to teach chess for educational purposes.

STARTS ON

01 SEPTEMBER 2025



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
AEGEAN  
LIFELONG LEARNING CENTRE

 **CU**  
European Chess Union



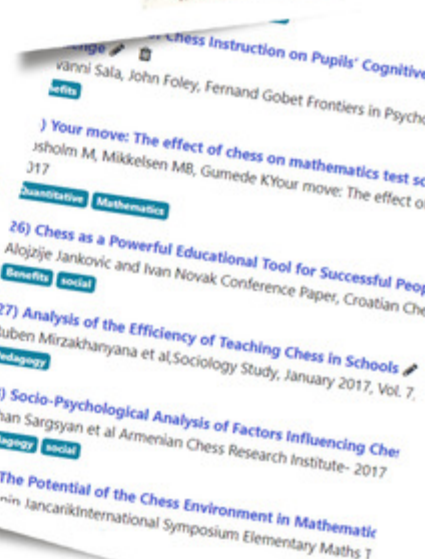
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THE ORIGINAL

a  
HISTOR  
OF CHESS





### WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

The course is aimed at teachers in Primary Education as well as those attending Teacher Training institutions. It is also suitable for chess tutors and educators who are interested in how chess can be used in education to develop children's social, emotional and intellectual skills.



### ACCREDITATION

The course provides a lifelong Academic Certificate from the University of The Aegean. It is a recognized academic qualification of 320 hours through distance learning, making it accessible to educators worldwide. It's designed as a comprehensive program that aligns with Continuing Professional Development standards and is recognised through the European Credit Transfer System. The academic content constitutes 12.8 ECTS academic points and enables participants to transfer their learning credits across various educational institutions.



### COURSE DELIVERY

The 20-week course is conducted in English, using the online Moodle platform. Students are expected to work independently, learn the course material at their own pace and time and submit their assignments after each Unit. The content is delivered by interactive materials, course documents, research papers, live sessions, video instructions, external resources, references, project works and assignments.



### COURSE FEE AND REGISTRATION

The course fee depends on the number of courses you buy at the same time:

- **500 €** [Payment for the course via ECU-HUB](#)
- **400 €** [Payment in a BUNDLE via ECU-HUB](#)

Please also fill out the registration form here: [Registration Form \(1<sup>st</sup> September 2025\)](#)



### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The teaching objective of the course is to provide a comprehensive overview of the different aspects of Chess in Education. We combine theory and practice to equip educators with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to deliver effective lessons using chess as an educational tool. The course is divided into 6 Units, each of them contributing towards a better understanding of the possibilities what chess can offer in the classroom and beyond.





## COURSE CONTENT

<b>UNIT</b> <b>1</b>	<b>HOW TO PLAY CHESS, RULES AND BASIC CONCEPTS</b> <p>In Unit 1 you learn the rules and basics of chess through puzzles, quizzes and game-play. For those who already know how to play chess, the lessons were designed to give useful ideas to be used in the classroom. These lessons also offer a practical guideline with a clear structure to be used as lesson plans for a session that you can modify (simplify, complicate and extend) considering the age, ability and attitude of the children you teach.</p>
<b>UNIT</b> <b>2</b>	<b>CHESS THROUGH HISTORY AND CULTURE</b> <p>In Unit 2 you learn about the rich history and culture of chess and storytelling as a powerful teaching method to be used in the classroom. Stories bring chess to life. The history of chess provides countless stories and anecdotes that can be introduced in the classroom and help children to better engage, relate and remember the lesson.</p>
<b>UNIT</b> <b>3</b>	<b>THE SMART METHOD TO TEACH CHESS, TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES</b> <p>Unit 3 is <u>The SMART Method to Teach Chess</u> training course the Education Commission of ECU has been providing since 2017. You learn the basic didactics of how to deliver effective chess lessons for educational purposes and gain practical experience in applying the SMART framework in your teaching practice.</p>
<b>UNIT</b> <b>4</b>	<b>WHAT DOES RESEARCH SAY ABOUT CHESS IN EDUCATION?</b> <p>Unit 4 offers a wide range of 50 selected studies to learn more about what Research says about Chess in Education. Is chess really an effective tool or is it just a Wishful Thinking? As one of the research paper's title suggests, teacher training is the key. You will find a lot of valuable information in these articles, connected to Primary Education that offer practical application to your teaching.</p>
<b>UNIT</b> <b>5</b>	<b>INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR THE CLASSROOM, CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES</b> <p>In Unit 5 you will be introduced to the CGS project with its different modules that provide instructional materials for the classroom for various ages that you can use in your teaching practice. Exploring different approaches will prepare you to discover what works best for you and your students. The CGS project was founded by Erasmus+ where the European Chess Union was in partnership with organisations from Italy, Spain and Sweden.</p>
<b>UNIT</b> <b>6</b>	<b>DEVELOPING CHESS IN EDUCATION FOCUSED PROJECTS</b> <p>In Unit 6 the content is the accumulation of the content of the previous five units where you will develop Chess in Education-focused projects. You create specialized resources and intellectual capital to be reused across diverse audiences and settings, ensuring practical application in promoting Chess in Education.</p>

## **AEGEAN UNIVERSITY**

The University of the Aegean (UAegean) is dedicated to conducting high level research and qualitative teaching on contemporary dynamic study subjects serving the economic and social development, the cohesion of the European area and the values of a universal culture.

The Centre of Training and Lifelong Learning (CTLL) of the University of the Aegean is responsible for all continuing education, training and all lifelong learning programs organised by the University, on a national and international level. Academic staff, who are responsible for every project and program, supervise and monitor the design, organisation, and development of those trainings and programs.

The CTLL of the University of the Aegean drawing on the Institution's renowned expertise in developing and managing educational programs via live, mixed and e-learning courses, offers a set of innovative distance-learning Training Programmes for professional training and specialisation in cutting-edge topics.

## **EUROPEAN CHESS UNION (ECU)**

The European Chess Union was founded in 1985 and is based in Switzerland. It is the representative body for chess in Europe. The ECU works with National Chess Federations as well as international sporting, cultural and educational bodies and is committed to advancing the role of chess in education.

## **ECU EDUCATION COMMISSION**

The ECU Education Commission strives to include chess in educational settings, recognising its numerous educational benefits. It offering training courses and educational materials to empower educators to effectively use chess as an educational tool. It also supports individuals, schools, organisations and National Chess Federations.



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
**AEGEAN**

LIFELONG LEARNING CENTRE



Register for the course 

**Fill out the registration form and start your professional development!**

### **Academic Director**

Professor Katerina T. Frantzi  
frantzi.kedivim@aegean.gr

### **Course Director**

Jesper Hall  
info.edu@europechess.org



# About Fischer Random Chess

Allow me to go back in time for a moment.

Chess 960 has its origins in the 18th century at that time called "Schuffle Chess". Although this form of chess traditionally fascinated chess players for the idea that one had to play the game without the preparation of a certain opening and thus relied on one's own chess skills from the start, it remained a niche activity in the chess world for a long time.

"Shuffle chess" (later also called random chess) is the precursor of Chess960 and was first mentioned as early as 1792. Mr. Van Zuylen van Nijvelt (1743-1826) was probably the first to come up with the idea of this variant, a form of chess with a symmetrical basic setup established by drawing lots. He disliked openings "with all those annoying, recurring patterns" and therefore came up with the idea of having the arrangement of the pieces determined by lot. That produces an infinite number of different positions, with the result that nobody can study them in advance, he said. Van Nijvelt's nephew, the squire Elias van der Hoeven (1778-1854), a Dutch envoy, further developed "Schuffle chess".

In 1996, former world chess champion Robert (Bobby) Fischer introduces for the first time Fischer Random Chess (FRC), also known as Chess960 (it refers to the 960 distinct possible starting positions) or Free Style Chess, now a day the more used term.



*Text by* **IA Geert Bailleul,**  
**Secretary of the ECU Arbiters Council**

The literature on FRC is very scarce and often extremely superficial.

It's a chess variant that randomizes the starting position of the pieces on the back rank. Fischer's goal was to reduce the emphasis on opening preparation and to encourage creativity in play. FRC uses the same board and pieces as classical chess, but the starting position of the pieces on the players' home ranks is randomized, following certain rules. The random setup makes gaining an advantage through the memorization of openings unfeasible. Players instead must rely on their skill and especially on their creativity.

Theoretically, in FRC, 960 starting positions can be used. They are all legal. However, it might be necessary to exclude some positions before the start of the tournament. The "normal" starting position in classical chess is also one of the 960 starting positions in FRC, namely 518, or even 534 which is the normal starting position with king and queen swapped. This excluded positions should be mentioned in the tournament regulations.

In 2008, FIDE added FRC to an appendix of the Laws of Chess. In 2020, during the FIDE general assembly in Abu Dhabi, FRC was approved as an official World Championship title. The first world championship officially sanctioned by FIDE, the FIDE World FRC Championship 2019, brought additional prominence to the variant.

It was won by Wesley So. In 2022, Hikaru Nakamura became the new champion. According to experienced players, the first advice to give to new FRC players is to realise that the first move of a game can already be critical. Unlike standard chess, you will notice that a lot of games are already decided in the first moves. It's also very important for new FRC players to know as soon as possible and, above all, remember well the different castling rules.

In short, just like in standard chess, it's all about developing pieces, occupying centre and king security but you sometimes have to play moves for this that you wouldn't play in standard chess or less quickly in the opening.

Magnus Carlsen has clearly jumped on that bandwagon too. With the Freestyle Chess G.O.A.T. challenge in 2024, the very first top tournament featuring classic Chess960 chess was organised.

From the arbiters point of view a tournament (or round) in FRC is much like a classical tournament. However, the responsibilities of the arbiter is considerably more demanding. Especially castling, with some very important castling rules, is a tricky moment as there are a certain number of different rules for castling. I can refer to the Guidelines II. Chess960 Rules in the FIDE Laws of Chess.

Back in time...

## About 10<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion - **Boris Spassky**

Boris Spassky (30 January, 1937 - 27 February, 2025) - A towering figure in chess history, Spassky's legacy spans decades of extraordinary achievements and contributions to the royal game.

Born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Spassky rose to prominence as a chess prodigy, becoming the youngest Soviet player to achieve the title of International Master at age 16. He reached the pinnacle of chess excellence by winning the World Championship in 1969, defeating Tigran Petrosian, and held the title until 1972.

Spassky will forever be remembered as one half of the historic 1972 World Championship match against Bobby Fischer, dubbed "The Match of the Century." This contest, set against the backdrop of the Cold War, transcended chess to become a cultural phenomenon that captured global attention.

His elegant playing style, characterized by universal and harmonious play, made him one of the most respected and admired players in chess history. Spassky's contributions to chess theory and his sporting attitude at the board set a standard for generations of players to follow.



### **Boris Spassky said about chess:**

- When I am in form, my style is a little bit stubborn, almost brutal. Sometimes I feel a great spirit of fight which drives me on.
- The computer age has arrived, and it influences everything: analysis, preparation, information. Now a different talent is required - the ability to synthesize ideas.
- Classical and rapid chess can be compared with theatre and cinema - some actors prefer theatre.

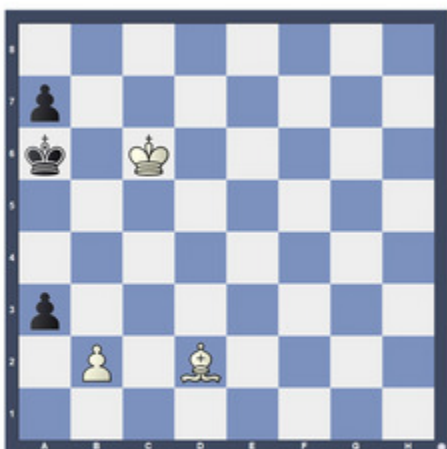
*In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine we prepared three positions where white mates in two. Solutions will be published in the next edition.*

### **Solutions from ECU E-Magazine February 2025**

**#Puzzle 1:** 1.Rg6+!! fxg6 2.Nh6#

**#Puzzle 2:** 1.Ka1!! a4 2.Nc4#

**#Puzzle 3:** 1.Be1+!! Rxe1 2.g3#





# SenseRobot at Bucharest Grand Prix



The Bucharest Rapid Grand Prix 2025 took place from 10-11 May at the Romanian Palace of Parliament in Bucharest.

The event gathered 475 players coming from 15 federations and was played in 10 rounds swiss system, with rapid time control (15 min + 5 sec increment).

SenseRobot Chess also made an appearance, and joined the event with smart AI-powered gameplay, drawing plenty of attention from chess fans and curious minds alike.

Participants of the Bucharest Rapid Grand Prix 2025, Chess enthusiasts, and event's visitors had a chance to play a chess game against AI SenseRobot choosing Robot's playing level and time control.

Blending smart tech with chess education, SenseRobot engaged young players with its interactive, multi-sensory experience, making chess fun, accessible, and future-forward.



Chess players, enthusiasts, visitors played chess against SenseRobot at the Bucharest Rapid Grand Prix 2025 in Romania.

After 10 played rounds at the Bucharest Rapid Grand Prix, two players finished the event tying for the top with the score of 8.5/10 points each: GM Jaime Santos Latasa (ESP, 2645) and GM Alexander Predke (SRB, 2591). Having better tiebreaks, Jaime Santos Latasa clinched gold while Alexander Predke came second. As many as 14 players tied for bronze with 8 points each but GM David Gavrilescu (ROU, 2517) had the best tiebreak criteria to finish the event in the third place.



## **SenseRobot Chess**

SenseRobot brings chess to life with cutting-edge AI vision technology and intelligent decision-making algorithms. Its home-use robotic arm, designed with millimeter-level precision, effortlessly performs tasks like picking up chess pieces, enabling human-computer matches, multiplayer games, and recording and reviewing gameplay. SenseRobot challenges, adapts, and sharpens your strategy like a true opponent.

Detailed information and purchase information can be found [here](#).

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Caption text



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# How to Activate Your eSIM on Your iPhone



*"Chess makes you smarter!"*