



EUROPEAN CHESS UNION

Activities Report

January 2026 – August 2026

Reporting Period	January 2026 – August 2026
Continent	European Chess Union (ECU)
Date	September 2027

Foreword from ECU

The period covered by this report, January 2026 to August 2026, has been one of the most eventful and consequential in the history of the European Chess Union. Against a backdrop of ongoing growth in chess participation across the continent, ECU has delivered a series of landmark events, advanced its educational mission, and strengthened the digital and media infrastructure that connects our community.

As we reflect on the accomplishments detailed in this report, we do so with an awareness of both the privilege and the responsibility that comes with governing chess across 54 national federations. Our mandate to promote, develop, and protect the game of chess in Europe drives every initiative, every partnership, and every strategic decision recorded here.

The European Women's Rapid and Blitz Championship in Monaco, the inaugural Chess Superleague, and the European Junior (U20) Chess Championship in Montenegro each demonstrated the depth of competitive talent across our member federations and reaffirmed the ECU's standing as the leading chess authority in Europe. Looking further ahead, the award of the European Team Chess Championship 2027 to Lagos, Portugal, signals the continued global appeal of ECU events.

Beyond competition, this report captures significant progress in our educational programmes, most notably the ECU Chess in Education strategic framework, the expansion of the ECU Training Hub, and our ongoing engagement with European Union funding mechanisms. The participation of the Romanian Chess Federation's C.E.S.S. Project, backed by a €4.5 million investment, exemplifies the kind of systemic, federation-level commitment to chess education that ECU seeks to catalyze across the continent.

The signing of an agreement for 800,000 sponsorship by Super Foundation, the extension of sponsorship agreement with Sense Robot and the new sponsors Prize fund for Seniors events is another landmark in the ECU history.

This report is addressed to FIDE General Assembly our member federations, our institutional partners, our sponsors, and all members of the European chess community

Theodoros Tsormpatzoglou

Secretary General, European Chess Union

September 2026

Executive Summary

This Activities Report documents the principal achievements, programmes, and developments of the European Chess Union (ECU) during the twenty-month period from January 2026 to August 2026.

Key highlights of the period include the successful staging of the European Women's Rapid and Blitz Championship in Monaco (January 2026) with a prize fund of €46,500; the inaugural Chess Superleague announced for February 2027, a landmark competition bringing together eight elite club teams and a total prize fund of €300,000.

In education and training, the reporting period marked the formal launch of the ECU strategic framework, designed to build a scalable, pan-European model for chess in education. The ECU Training Hub at ecuhub.eu continued to expand its portfolio of courses and webinars. Significant investment from the Romanian Chess Federation, supported by the €4.5 million C.E.S.S. Project, demonstrated the concrete impact of ECU's education agenda at the national level.

ECU's ongoing partnership with Sense Robot Chess continued to deliver tangible benefits for member federations, including complimentary chess robots and co-branded promotional activities. The monthly ECU e-magazine,, and upgrading live streaming operations sustained strong community engagement throughout the period.

The period also carried moments of reflection. The ECU 40 Years Gala in Batumi (October 2025), held just before the commencement of this reporting period, set a tone of institutional pride and forward ambition.

1. Events and Championships

The European Chess Union holds the exclusive mandate to organise European Chess Championships and a broad portfolio of official competitions across the continent. The following section documents the principal events that held or announced of the reporting period and provides context for the competitive landscape they represent.

1.1 European Chess Club Cup 2025 — Rhodes, Greece

Although technically concluding immediately prior to the formal start of this reporting period, the European Chess Club Cup 2025, held in Rhodes, Greece (18–26 October 2025), serves as the essential competitive backdrop from which the reporting period's activities flow. The event attracted 120 elite club teams from across Europe and beyond, reaffirming Rhodes as one of the finest venues in the ECU's recent history. **Venue:** Location: Rhodes, Greece

- **Dates:** 18–26 October 2025

1.2 European Women's Rapid and Blitz Championship 2025 — Monaco

The European Women's Rapid and Blitz Championship 2025 was held in Monaco from 8 to 12 January 2026. Monaco's prestige as a venue added significant visibility to the event, aligning with ECU's strategic objective of hosting competitions in settings that elevate the profile of European chess. The event attracted players representing the breadth of ECU's member federations and was received with considerable attention from the international chess media.

Location	Monaco
Dates	8–12 January 2026
Prize Fund	€46,500
Format	Rapid and Blitz (combined championship)
Significance	First major ECU women's championship event of the 2026 calendar year

The championship provided a prestigious stage for the leading women players in Europe to compete at rapid and blitz time controls, formats that have grown substantially in popularity and audience reach across the chess community. The prize fund of €46,500 reflected ECU's commitment to competitive parity and to rewarding excellence at the highest level.

1.3 Chess Superleague — Inaugural Edition (February 2027)

The inaugural Chess Super league announced one of the most ambitious and consequential new initiatives in ECU's history. Conceived as a premier club competition combining the strongest European and international teams, the Superleague will held in February 2027, building directly on the momentum generated by the European Chess Club Cup.

Date	February 2027
Format	8 teams, 6 boards per match
Participating Teams	5 European clubs, 3 European or international clubs
Prize Fund	€300,000
Host Context	Bucharest 8-10 February 2027

The €300,000 prize fund established the Superleague among the most generously funded club competitions in European chess history, reflecting both the confidence of ECU's leadership in the competition's potential and the support of its commercial partners. Post-event evaluations indicated strong appetite among participating clubs for the continuation and expansion of the format.

1.4 European Senior Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2027

- The inaugurate edition of the European Senior Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2027 will take place from 10-14 January 2027 in Monte-Carlo, Monaco, featuring the total prize fund of €32.000.

1.5 ECU 40 Years Gala — Batumi, October 2025

While falling immediately prior to this reporting period, the ECU 40 Years Gala held in Batumi on 11 October 2025 deserves particular recognition as the ceremonial gateway to the current era of ECU activity. The event brought together ECU leadership, federation representatives, chess officials, and

distinguished guests to mark forty years of the Union's existence and to look ahead to the ambitions articulated in the ECU strategic framework.

The Gala served as both a celebration of what ECU has achieved since its founding in 1985 and a formal occasion to honour the memory of Kurt Jungwirth, ECU's founder, who passed away on 13 May 2025. His contribution to European chess — in vision, in governance, and in his unwavering belief in a united European chess community — was formally recognised at the event and continues to inspire the organisation's strategic direction.

2. Education and Training

Education and training represent a core pillar of ECU's strategic mission. The Union's work in this domain spans the licensing of chess trainers and arbiters, the delivery of online learning through the ECU Training Hub, strategic engagement with European funding bodies, and the longer-term ECU programme to embed chess education at a systemic level across member federations.

2.1 ECU Training Hub — ecuhub.eu

The ECU Training Hub (ecuhub.eu) continued to serve as ECU's primary platform for online education throughout the reporting period. The platform hosts courses, structured webinars, and defined learning pathways catering to chess players, educators, trainers, and arbiters at various levels of expertise.

During 2026 the platform underwent continued expansion, with new course content developed and existing materials updated to reflect current standards in chess pedagogy and tournament management. Particular emphasis was placed on multi-language accessibility, in keeping with ECU's commitment to serving its pan-European community in its diverse linguistic landscape.

- **Featured Course:** Arbiter Pack Course, comprehensive preparation for chess arbiters and tournament officials, covering regulations, procedures, and practical applications (available at ecuhub.eu/course/the-arbiter-pack/).
- **Featured Course:** Chess in Primary Education, academic distance learning course for chess teachers and tutors, covering methodology, national context, and teaching materials, developed in collaboration with Aegean University's online platform.
- **Portfolio Growth:** Ongoing content additions across competency levels, from club player to advanced trainer.
- **Webinars:** Webinar series supporting continuing professional development for licensed trainers and arbiters.

2.2 Chess in Education Strategic Programme

The ECU programme represents the Union's most ambitious long-term strategic commitment: the construction of a scalable, pan-European model for Chess in Education, delivered through platform-based training, a structured membership pathway for national federations, and engagement with EU-level funding mechanisms.

Programme Name	Chess in Education
Strategic Period	2026–2030
Core Objective	Build a scalable European model for Chess in Education
Delivery Channels	Platform-based training (ecuhub.eu), membership pathway, EU funding engagement
Multi-language	Active expansion of course content into multiple European languages
Certification	Standardised certification for educators and trainers across member federations

2.3 Romanian Chess Federation — C.E.S.S. Project

A landmark development within the ECU framework was the advancement of the Romanian Chess Federation's C.E.S.S. (Chess Education School System) Project, underpinned by a total investment of €4.5 million. This project exemplifies the kind of federation-level commitment to chess-in-education digitisation that ECU seeks to catalyse and support across the continent.

The C.E.S.S. Project encompasses the development of digital educational infrastructure, teacher training programmes, and the integration of chess into formal school curricula across Romania. ECU has provided strategic guidance, content frameworks, and shared metrics to support the project's alignment with ECU objectives. The Romanian project serves as a proof-of-concept for similar national-level initiatives that ECU intends to support in other member federations during the 2026–2030 period.

- **Total Investment:** €4.5 million
- **Scope:** Digitisation of chess education content; teacher training and certification; curriculum integration.
- **ECU Role:** ECU strategic guidance, content frameworks, and reporting alignment with ECU KPIs
Distribution of the program results to all Europe.

2.4 Trainer Licensing and Certification

ECU's trainer licensing programme continued to operate throughout the reporting period, maintaining the quality and integrity of chess instruction across Europe. With 200 active licensed trainers across the continent, ECU's certification framework provides a recognised standard for chess education professionals.

3. Partnerships and Sponsorships

Commercial partnerships and sponsorships play an increasingly important role in ECU's financial sustainability and in the value it delivers to its member federations and the broader chess community. The reporting period saw the consolidation of key existing partnerships and the exploration of new avenues for commercial and institutional collaboration.

3.1 Sense Robot Chess — Official ECU Sponsor

ECU's partnership with Sense Robot Chess (www.senserobotchess.com) remained active and productive throughout the reporting period. The agreement, which was formalised prior to the commencement of this reporting period extended in August 2026, provides for paid marketing activities on behalf of Sense Robot Chess across ECU's platforms, as well as the provision of complimentary Sense Robot Chess units to member federations — a tangible benefit that has been well received within the federation network.

Partner	Sense Robot Chess
Website	www.senserobotchess.com
Agreement Type	Official Sponsorship
Key Benefits	Paid promotional activities on ECU platforms; complimentary chess robots for member federations
Status	Ongoing active throughout the reporting period

The partnership with Sense Robot Chess represents a model for the kind of commercial relationship ECU seeks to develop: one in which commercial value for the sponsor is paired with tangible benefits for the federation community. The distribution of complimentary Sense Robot Chess units to member federations introduces innovative technology into club and educational settings across Europe, supporting both the commercial partner's market development objectives and ECU's own agenda of promoting accessible, technology-enabled chess.

3.2 Super Foundation — Strategic Partnership Agreement

In a development that represents one of the most significant milestones in ECU's commercial and institutional history, the European Chess Union formalised a strategic partnership agreement with Super Foundation during the reporting period. The agreement, valued at €800,000, constitutes the largest single partnership commitment in ECU's four-decade existence and marks a transformative moment in the organisation's approach to external funding and institutional collaboration. The agreement reflects the growing recognition, within philanthropy and civil society, of chess as a vehicle for cognitive development, educational inclusion, and community building across Europe. For ECU, the Super Foundation partnership provides a substantial and sustained resource base with which to accelerate delivery across its flagship programmes — including the ECU Chess in Education framework, the expansion of the ECU Training Hub, and the further development of ECU's championship and community engagement activities. The formalization of this agreement is a testament to the credibility and strategic coherence of ECU's institutional position and a strong signal of confidence in the organization's capacity to deliver impactful, pan-European outcomes. ECU acknowledges Super Foundation's commitment to the promotion of excellence, education, and sporting development, and looks forward to a partnership characterized by shared ambition and mutual accountability.

4. Digital Infrastructure and Media

ECU's digital and media activities constitute an increasingly significant component of the organisation's overall mission. Through its YouTube channel, social media platforms, monthly e-magazine, and live streaming operations, ECU serves as the primary digital media hub for European chess — connecting players, federations, fans, and partners across the continent and beyond.

4.4 Live Streaming and Broadcast Technology

ECU's live streaming capability continued to develop during the reporting period. DGT board integration and OBS software form the technical backbone of ECU's broadcast operations, enabling reliable, professional-quality live transmission of championship games across all major ECU events.

Live streaming has become a cornerstone of ECU's audience development strategy, dramatically extending the reach of its championships beyond physical attendees to a global online audience. Improvements to production quality, commentary provision, and integration with the YouTube channel remained ongoing priorities throughout the reporting period.

The ECU YouTube channel continued to grow its subscriber base during the reporting period, reaching 21,000 subscribers and 300,000 unique viewers.

The channel serves as ECU's primary video content platform, hosting live streams of major championships, recorded event highlights, player interviews, and educational content.

Work to improve and formalize the channel's monetization infrastructure was ongoing throughout the reporting period. Improvements under development include the optimization of ad revenue streams, the structured promotion of the channel across ECU's social media platforms, and the development of premium content offerings that complement the live championship streaming programme.

4.2 Social Media Operations

ECU maintained an active and growing presence on Facebook and Instagram throughout the reporting period, with Facebook serving as the primary platform for community engagement, event promotion, and federation communications, and Instagram providing a visual and dynamic complement to the Facebook presence. Content production across both platforms was guided by an approved social media strategy emphasising brand awareness, community engagement, and event promotion. The strategy recognised ECU's dual audience: the existing European chess community (players, trainers, arbiters, and federation officials) and a broader public audience with latent interest in chess as a cultural and competitive activity.

4.3 ECU Monthly E-Magazine

The ECU monthly e-magazine continued to be published throughout the reporting period, providing member federations, stakeholders, and the wider chess community with a comprehensive, curated digest of ECU activities, championship results, educational developments, and chess culture.

Each edition of the magazine typically includes:

- Reports and results from ECU championships and events during the preceding month.
- Coverage of ECU seminar and training activities.
- Commission reports and governance updates.
- Interviews with players, trainers, officials, and federation representatives.
- Chess puzzles and instructional content.
- Sponsor and partner features.

The e-magazine serves as an important communications channel between ECU and its federation network, complementing the more immediate social media and digital communications while providing depth and permanence to the ECU's ongoing narrative.

5. Looking Ahead - ECU Strategic Priorities 2027–2030

As this reporting period draws to a close, ECU enters the new cycle with clear momentum, a strong portfolio of flagship events, and a growing educational presence. The priorities set in our plans represent ECU's principal areas of strategic focus for the period from late 2027 through to 2030.

This Activities Report has sought to provide a comprehensive and transparent account of ECU's activities during one of the most dynamic periods in the organisation's four-decade history. From the prestigious championship stages of Monaco and Paris (European Corporate) to the digital learning pathways of ecuhub.eu, from the €300,000 prize fund of the inaugural Chess Superleague to the €4.5 million investment in the Romanian C.E.S.S. Project, the period covered by this report demonstrates the breadth, ambition, and impact of the European Chess Union's work.

ECU extends its gratitude to its fifty-four member federations, whose support, participation, and engagement make every ECU initiative possible. We thank FIDE and our commercial partners for their confidence in European chess and in ECU's ability to deliver value. We acknowledge with gratitude the work of the European Commission's funding programmes, which have supported ECU's educational mission through Erasmus+ and related mechanisms.

Most importantly, we acknowledge the players, coaches, arbiters, and volunteers who are the living heart of European chess. It is for them, and because of them, that the European Chess Union exists.

ECU looks ahead with confidence and determination. The foundations built during 2025–2026 in competitive excellence, educational reach, digital capability, and commercial partnership provide a strong platform from which to pursue the organisation's enduring mission: to promote, develop, and protect chess across the continent of Europe.

European Chess Union

www.europechess.org
