

EUROPEAN SENIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2018- NORWAY



EUROPEAN AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2018- MONTENEGRO



EUROPEAN CLUB CUP 2018- GREECE



EUROPEAN YOUTH TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2018- GERMANY

EUROPEAN CHESS UNION
NEWSLETTER



Upcoming European Individual Chess Championship 2018

The European Individual Chess Championship for 2018 will take place in Batumi, Georgia, from 16th-29th March, in the 5 starts Hotel "Sheraton Batumi", which will be the official venue of the Championship.

Registrations for the event are closed after extended registration deadline due to many requests from a number of federations. As expected, the final number of participants exceeded the 300 with very strong line-up of the event.

Exactly 312 players coming from 34 different European federations registered for the event among whom are 136 Grand masters and 59 International masters! The battleground is led by seven 2700+ rated players: Navara David (CZE, 2745), Jakovenko Dmitry (RUS, 2744), Wojtaszek Radoslaw (POL, 2735), Ivanchuk Vassily (UKR, 2731), Mamedov Raug (AZE, 2709), Matlakov Maxim (RUS, 2709) and Naiditsch Arkadij (AZE, 2705) who are followed by 67 players rated 2600+.

The event also attracted many female players who will have a chance to compete in such a strong tournament. Top women players are: Goryachkina Aleksandra (RUS, 2493), Stefanova Antoaneta (ECU, 2489), Girya Olga (RUS, 2482), Ushenina Anna (UKR, 2423), Danielian Elina (ARM, 2413) etc.

Starting rank list





The Championship is a qualification event for the next World Cup with a total prize fund of 100.000 EUR, including the special prizes for the best Juniors and ACP Special prizes for the 6 highest placed ACP Premium Members.

The event will be played in 11 rounds, according to Swiss system in accordance with ECU and FIDE Tournament Rules and Rules of Chess, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from the move one.

Top boards will be live transmitted and followed with live commentary which can be followed through the official website of the Championship.

Simultaneously with European Individual Chess Championship 2018, Batumi will host ECU Board meeting, which will be held on 26th and 27th of March.

Official Website of the Championship

Official Regulations and more details about the event

CASTLE project- a success story for chess

The CASTLE project- a "Chess curriculum to Advance Students' Thinking and Learning skills in primary Education" (this acronym reminds of the casteling move) was born from the idea of creating a strong partnership in the field of chess in schools, under the initial thrust of three partners with considerable experience in teaching chess in schools: Alfiere Bianco (White Bishop) in Italy, Deutsche Schulschachstiftung (the German school chess foundation) in Germany, Club Ajedrez 64 Villalba in Spain.

The project was funded by the ERASMUS + European Program, with 246.300 euros and it was realizing through 2014 to 2017 in Italy, Spain and Germany.







The Erasmus + Agency has announced that the final evaluation of the project has been 100 points out of 100 possible, and also the project has been designated as an example of good practices on the EU Commission website. It is the first time that a project based entirely on the pedagogical use of chess gets this recognition.

Finally, CASTLE wants to be a help in changing the education policies of the states, in full compliance with the European Parliament Declaration of 15/03/2012, which calls for the introduction of "Chess in Schools" in the education systems of the Member States, suggesting an easy-to-use template, specially created and tested with precision (over 8000 measurements tools compiled and analyzed in three years) without any external experts and which can be disseminated independently by the schools, not only internally but also to other schools.

Free didactic materials or videos of the CASTLE project can request free password through e-mail contact which is also available to be contacted for those who are interested to develop the CASTLE system in their countries.

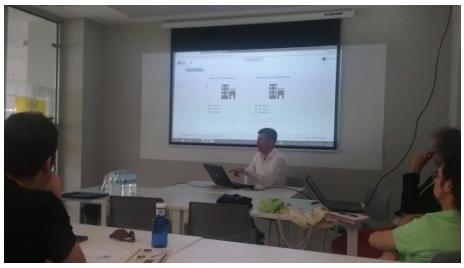
To date, the main way of launching "Chess in Schools" projects in Europe has been by using chess instructors, external chess experts, with a significant cost to school administrations. With the CASTLE project it has been able to suggest a valid alternative to affirm the pedagogical use of chess in schools by having the schools' own teachers carry out the various class activities, in their classes in a completely autonomous way, during school hours. The following idea is that those teachers may, in the future, become trainers of their colleagues in the school, realizing a great expansion of "Chess in Schools" in Europe.

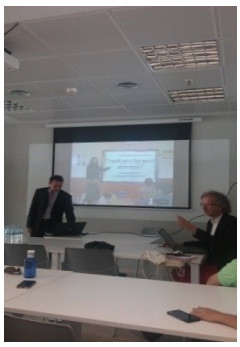
CASTLE project- Official Website

ECU adopts Madrid Chess Conference

Madrid Chess Conference 2018, organized by Madrid Chess Academy under the auspices of European Chess Union, will take place from 23rd-25th March in Madrid, Spain.

The Conference is conceptualized as the Educational Conference with main themes Scholastic chess and Educational chess, as well as resources how to improve Chess in Schools project. The Conference will comprise three days of interactive presentations and work groups.





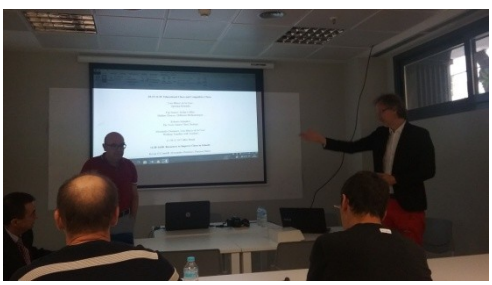
Last year, the conference featured several tutors, highly educated professionals, who spoke about methodologies of educative and competitive chess, methodologies and importance of working together with chess teachers. The speakers also pointed on the significance of making the childrens' competitions more friendly, hot to construct valuable chess projects and how to fund them and how Scholastic chess in Spain is progressing.

Along the last year's speakers of the Madrid Chess Conference were also the members of the ECU Educational Commission: Mr. Luis Blasco de la Cruz, Mr. Alessandro Dominici, Mr. Kevin O'Connell and the ECU Treasurer, Mr. Martin Huba.

The full program of the Madrid Chess Conference 2018 will be published on the Official Website of the event. The registrations for participants and applications for interested to be the potential speakers of the Conference can be send on the official e-mail address.

Official Website of the Madrid Chess Conference

Official e-mail address







Aleksandar Indjic wins Portugal Open 2018

The strongest tournament ever held in Portugal gathered 272 chess players from 42 federations in the second pavilion of the Municipal Sports Complex of Vistoso Casal, in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal.

Aleksandar Indjic (SRB, 2612) made 7.5 points in 9 possible, the same as Anton Demchenko (RUS, 2671) and Nikita Petrov (RUS, 2573), but had a better tie-breaker to claim the title, after being a runner-up in the 2017 edition of the event.

Bulmaga Irina (ROU, 2411) was crowned as the best women player with 6.5 points and 18th place, while the best Portuguese in the Open was the IM Rui Damaso, who scored 7 points and achieved the 12th place.






On the last day of the event, the Portuguese Chess Federation organized an optional Rapid tournament, which took place on 10th February. The rapid event participated 172 players from 24 federations.

IM Gomez Ledo Roberto Carlos (CUB, 2462), 15th seed at the start of the competition, became the winner of the Rapid Open with 7 points out of 8 games. Roberto Ledo tied for the first place with Grandmaster Federico Ponsa (ARG, 2610), but won the title due to better tie-breaks. The third place went to Aleksandar Indjic (SRB, 2544) who again stood on the throne of the Portugal Open,but this time to take the bronze medal with 6.5 points.





Open Portugal 2018, organized by Portuguese Chess Federation, took place from 3rd-9th February in Gym of Sports Complex of Casal Vistoso, as the official venue of the event.

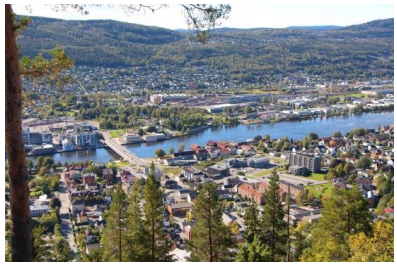
Photo Gallery

Official Website

European Senior Chess Championship 2018- Norway

The 18th European Senior Chess Championship will be held from 3rd-13th August 2018, in Drammen, Norway, in 4 stars hotel Scandic Ambassadeur as the official venue and the official hotel of the Championship.





The European Senior Chess Championship is open to all players representing ECU Chess Federations which comprise European Chess Union (FIDE zones 1.1 to 1.10) who have been born in the year 1968 or earlier, regardless of their title or rating. There is also no limit in the number of participants per federation. However, applications have to be sent by the National federations or to be approved by the National federations. Registration is done online on the Official Website of the Championship.

European Senior Chess Championship will be played in two categories, men and women separately: 50+ (for players born in 1968 or earlier) and 65+ (for players born in 1953 and earlier). Players who have reached the age of 65 by the 31st December 2018 are allowed to participate in the category for Seniors 50+ if they request it. If there is less than 9 women players in any category, women category will be merged with Open section.





The Championship will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 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 will be 10.000 EUR. Top three players of each category will be awarded with cups and medals.

According to FIDE Handbook, the top 3 players from each category of the European Senior Chess Championship 2018 are qualified with personal rights (free board and lodging) to the World Senior Chess Championship 2019.

Official Website of the Championship
Official Regulations- European Senior Chess Championship 2018

European Amateur Chess Championship 2018-Montenegro

Montenegro Chess Federation in association with City of Niksic and under the auspices of the European Chess Union are organizing European Amateur Chess Championship 2018 which will be held from 14th-21st June in Niksic, Montenegro.

The event will be held in Onogost hotel which will be the official playing venue of the event, as well as the official hotel of the event.

The Championship will be held in 3 categories: Under-1700, Under-2000 and under-2300. In each rating section, a separate championship for women shall be organized only if there are at least 10 women entries, otherwise the women's event will be merged with open section.





European Amateur Chess Championship 2018 is open to all players registered by their national federations, listed as members of European Chess Union. The registration deadline is 18th May 2018. Registration shall be done online through the e-mail address.

All the categories are specified for the certain titles, so the players who are holding the title of the CM or WCM shall participate only the groups U-2000 or U-2300, while the players who are the holders of the WFM or FM title shall participate only U-2300 category. Players who have upper titles of the WFM or FM are not allowed to participate the Championship according to the ECU Tournament Regulations.

The Championship will be played in 9 rounds, Swiss system, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves + 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from the move one.

The total prize fund of the event is 5.000 EUR. Top three players of the each category will be awarded with cups and medals, while the Winners of the event will receive the title of the European Amateur Chess Champion for 2018 for the category the player participated.

The Official Website of the Championship will be: http://sahcg.me/

Official Regulations European Amateur Chess Championship 2018

European Club Cup 2018- Regulations

The 34th European Club Cup and the 23rd European Women Club Cup will be simultaneously held from 11th-19th October 2018 in Porto Carras, famous Greek seaside resort in Halkidiki.

The playing venue of the Championships will be the Congress Center of the Porto Carras Grand Resort and the official hotel of the event will be 5 stars hotel Sithonia.





Any national federation, listed as the member of the European Chess Union, that intends to participate the event, with one or more clubs, must inform the Organizing Committee before the 30th June of its acceptance of the invitation. A copy should be send to Tournament Director, Mr. Petr Pisk, and afterwards, fully completed entry forms must be send to the Tournament office not later than the **registration deadline- 10th August.**

Teams shall be composed of six players and two reserves in Men's competition, while in the Women's competition teams shall be composed of four players and one reserve.

The Championship will be played in 7 rounds, Swiss system, according the ECU Tournament rules, including the draw offering rule, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves+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 will be 40.000 EUR with 22.000 EUR reserved for the Men's competition and 13.000 EUR reserved for the Women's competition. The rest of 5.000 EUR will be distributed to the best individual players with the best board results. The first three teams of each category will receive cups and medals.

Official Website of the Championship will be: http://eurochess2018.com/

Official Regulations of the European Club Cup 2018 can be downloaded bellow or here.

European Club Cup 2018- Official Regulations

European Youth Team Chess Championship 2018- Regulations

German Chess Federation, under the auspices of European Chess Union and Mr. Bodo Ramelow- Minister- President of the Free State of Thuringia, is organizing the European Youth Team Chess Championship 2018, which will take place from 11th-19th July in Bad Blankenburg, Germany.



The European Youth Team Chess Championship will be played in two categories, U-12 and U-18, boys and girls separately. Each national federation, member of the ECU, has the right to enter unlimited number of teams made of 4 players and 1 reserve for the Open section and 2 female players and one reserve for the Girls section.

All the teams shall be registered only by the national federations who are kindly requested to fill in and return to the organizer application forms not later than the **registration deadline- 10th May 2018**.

The official venue as the official hotel of the event will be Landessportschule.







The event will be played in 7 rounds, Swiss system, according to ECU and FIDE Tournament rules, with time control 90 minutes for 40 moves+ 30 minutes for the rest of the game + 30 seconds increment for every played move starting from the move one. Draws before the 30th move are strictly forbidden.

The first three teams of each competition will receive trophies and medals, while the organizer provided in-kind prizes for the best board results.

Besides the chess activities, players will have the opportunity to enjoy in various sports activities, since the venue of the tournament is compatible for sports such as: free use of indoor pool, sports hall for soccer, badminton and table tennis, outdoor soccer, beach volleyball and tennis.

Official Regulations- European Youth Team Chess Championship 2018

Upcoming events in March 2018:

- ## ECU and FIDE events:

Candidates Tournament of the FIDE World Championship	Berlin, Germany	10th-28th March	Official Website
European Individual Chess Championship 2018	Batumi, Georgia	16th-29th March	Official Website
European Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2018	Tbilisi, Georgia	19th March-2nd April	Official Website
European Fischer Random Cup 2018 Reykjavik Open 2018 - Fischer Memorial	Reykjavik, Island	6th-14th March	Official Website

- ## Other events:

Tal Memorial Rapid&Blitz 2018	Moscow, Russia	2nd-5th March	Official Website
34th Cappelle la Grande International Open 2018	Cappelle la Grande, France	3th-10th March	Official Website
Karpos Open 2018	Skopje, FYROM	24th-31st March	Official Website
Grenke Chess Open 2018	Karlsruhe, Germany	19th March-4th April	Official Website
2nd Rottal Chess Open 2018	Pfarrkirchen, Germany	30th March-2nd April	Official Website

FUN ZONE

Interesting facts:

- **Blindfold chess is an impressive skill that many stronger chess players possess. It certainly requires a keen ability to see the board clearly, which can get difficult after many moves. The record was set in 1960 in Budapest by Hungarian Janos Flesch, who played 52 opponents simultaneously while blindfolded. He won 31 of those games.**

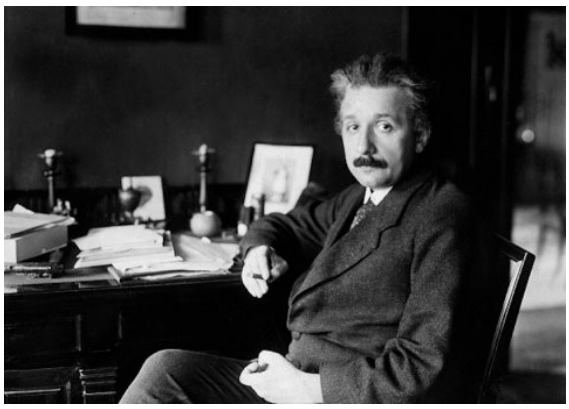
- **Before Janos Flesch, the record of the biggest number of simultaneously played games while blindfolded kept Miguel Najdorf. Najdorf played against 45 opponents in a simultaneous blindfold exhibition given at Sao Paulo in 1947, winning 39, losing 2 and drawing 4 games (after a similar display in Rosario, Argentina, in 1943, against 40 players).**





- **Albert Einstein was a good friend of World Chess Champion Emanuel Lasker. In an interview with the New York Times in 1936 Albert said, "I do not play any games. There is no time for it. When I get through work I don't want anything which requires the working of the mind." He did take up Chess in his later life.**





For this edition of the ECU Newsletter we prepared four position where white mates in 2!









Solutions from the ECU Newsletter January 2017:

Puzzle #1:
1. gf7+! Rxf7 2. Bxf7+ Kf8 3. Rh8 Ke7 4. Nd5!!+ Kd6 5. Nc4!#

Puzzle #2:
1. Qd7!! Bxd7 2. Nd6++ Kd8 3. Nf7 Kc8 4. Re8!+ Bxe8 5. Rd8#

Puzzle #3:
1...Qxb2 2. Kxc4 Ba6!!+ 3. Kxc5 Qb4+ 4. Kc6 Qb5+ 5. Kd6 Qd5#

Puzzle #4:
1...Bf3!! 2. gxf3 gxf3 3. Kg1 Qh8!! 4. Bh2 Rxh2 with unstoppable mate Rh1#