

# ECU 2030 Elections Campaign Program (2026–2030)

## Women in Chess: Participation, Safety, Visibility, Leadership

We will strengthen women's inclusion in chess by increasing **participation, safety, visibility, and leadership**—through consistent policy, stronger event support, and year-round development actions across Europe.

### 1) What we delivered (policies already delivered or running and will be continued)

- **Safe Play Policy:** strengthening safeguarding, trust, and professionalism across ECU activities.
- **Cooperation with the Women's Chess Foundation:** expanding impact through credible partnerships and Safe Play seminars.
- **European Women's Trophy:** creating additional competitive opportunities, an additional Prize fund and visibility
- **Financial support for women's tournaments:** helping federations deliver stronger events and increase participation
- **Special lectures, webinars, and seminars (free participation):** supporting education, leadership, and community building
- **Free training through the ECU Academy for talented girls:** targeted development support to help promising players progress.
- **Support of the European Futures tournament in Prague:** strengthening international opportunities for emerging young female players
- **European Women's Rapid & Blitz Championship in Monaco (annual):** a stable flagship event with a minimum prize fund of **€45,000**
- **Support of women's national teams for the Chess Olympiad:** assisting federations strengthen representation at the highest level.

## 2) What we will strengthen (2026–2030)

- **Elite Chess:** Developing the European Women's Chess Super league in 2028, creating another top competition with high standards and prize fund.
- **Gender Balance:** Proposing to amend Article 34(b) of the ECU Statutes so that at least two male members and two female members are included in a ticket of six persons. This proposal has already been implemented by the ECU 2030 team.
- **Leadership:** A dedicated ECU Women's Leadership Program — annual cohort of a limited number of young women (18-30 years) selected across federations, trained in chess governance, federation management, and advocacy. Building on the excellent Norwegian model but European-wide and women-focused.  
The goal: more women in federation boards and ECU commissions by 2030
- **Participation growth:** support federations with practical toolkits, guidance, and targeted financial mechanisms to increase women's participation at national and European level
- **Support where it is needed most:** dedicated assistance to European Small Nations and any federation that needs support to develop women's chess and strengthen national representation
- **Event excellence and visibility:** raise promotion and media standards for women's events (storytelling, interviews, highlights, consistent communications)
- **Development pathway:** strengthen the competitive pathway from youth to elite level, including better continuity of opportunities and recognition of emerging talents
- **Education:** expand accessible learning opportunities for players, arbiters, trainers, organizers, and officials
- **Partnerships:** build long-term sponsor and patron partnerships dedicated to women's chess, with clear deliverables and measurable outcomes
- **Synergies:** with social programs aiming on increasing the female chess population.

## 3) How we will measure progress (KPIs)

- **Participation:** year-on-year growth in women's participation across ECU women's events and supported tournaments
- **Federation engagement:** increased number of member federations receiving and using ECU support mechanisms (financial support, toolkits, education)
- **Visibility:** measurable growth in media output for women's chess (minimum standards for event coverage: previews, daily updates, highlights, and post-event reporting)

More information and ongoing initiatives:

- <https://wom.europechess.org/>