



ECU2030 Program:

Development Projects & Federation Support

Vision

Development is not a slogan; it is a system. ECU2030 will strengthen federations through practical support that is measurable, accessible, and easy to implement—so every federation, regardless of size or resources, can grow participation, improve standards, and build sustainable programs with credible partners.

What we will deliver (2026–2030)

1) A combined Development Fund of €200,000 (ECU + PDC)

We will establish a Development Fund that combines €100,000 from FIDE Development fund for Europe and €100,000 from ECU, creating a total of €200,000 dedicated to development projects in:

- social chess and inclusion initiatives
- training and capacity-building actions
- school and education projects
- institutional projects with municipalities, ministries, universities, and public partners

This fund will be built around transparent criteria, clear categories, and simple procedures, prioritizing practical delivery and measurable outcomes—not bureaucracy.

2) Institutional and financial support to regional federations' events

Based on the combined Development Fund mentioned above, as well as with partners, sponsors, and foundations already announced, **we will support traditional and historic federations' events in Europe** that can be included in the ECU affiliated calendar.

A memorandum will be signed with the following established regional events:

2.1 Small Nations Team and Individual Championships

Increase of financial support for Team Championships.

New financial support to ESNA Women's Chess Championship

2.2 Mitropa Cup

Institutional and financial support according the needs and memorandum of cooperation to be signed.

2.3 Balkan Championship

Institutional and financial support according the needs and memorandum of cooperation to be signed.

2.4 Glorney and Gilbert Cup

Institutional and financial support according the needs and memorandum of cooperation to be signed.

2.5 Additional regional events, that may apply, as **Baltics, Iberia, Nordics Championships**. Main criteria the National federations (of the region) involvement.

3) Training programs for talented players (federations-first access)

We will support structured training programs and camps for talented players by ensuring that every federation has the opportunity to be represented in development activities. The goal is simple: talent support should not depend only on geography or budgets—it should be part of a European development pathway that is open and fair.

4) Federation Support Toolkit (reduce workload, raise standards)

We will deliver a Federation Support Toolkit that federations can use immediately: project templates, school-program starter packs, sponsor and communications materials, and simple reporting formats. The objective is to help federations run development actions with professional standards even with limited staff.

5) “Project Lab” mentoring (turn ideas into fundable projects)

We will introduce a recurring “Project Lab” format—short, practical online support sessions where federations bring one idea and leave with a structured project plan, a budget outline, a partner map, and a measurable reporting framework. This will help federations move from isolated initiatives to repeatable, fundable models.

6) Digital model for all federations (replicating the Romanian EU-funded blueprint)

We will promote a digital-first development model that any federation can adopt—using proven structures already validated through major institutional funding. The Romanian Chess Federation’s EU-funded C.E.S.S. project (€4.5 million) demonstrates that chess can attract serious resources when it is presented as a modern, skills-based, digital program with clear governance and measurable outcomes. ECU2030 will use this as a blueprint: sharing methodology, project structure, reporting standards, and implementation know-how so that federations across Europe can modernize their development systems and build credible partnerships with public institutions.

7) Recognition + support that federations can feel (Best Practices + Support Desk)

To maximize adoption, we will combine practical support with visible recognition. ECU2030 will establish a simple Federation Support Desk model (clear contact point, recurring online office hours, and fast guidance) to help federations turn ideas into structured projects, use the Federation Support Toolkit effectively, and complete reporting with minimal administrative burden. In parallel, we will launch an annual Development Best Practices recognition that highlights federations delivering measurable impact in schools, social chess, training, and institutional partnerships—sharing their case studies across ECU channels so successful models are promoted and replicated across Europe.

8) What has already been addressed for federations (through Development, Social Chess, Education, and Women in Chess programs)

Federation support is not starting from zero. ECU has already advanced practical, federation-usable development work through three program areas that directly strengthen national capacity: Social Chess (shared frameworks for inclusion and community-based growth), Chess in Education (digital training services, recognized methodology, and ready-to-use school resources), and Women in Chess (policies, structured support actions, and a clear development pathway that increases participation and visibility). These initiatives provide federations with tools they can implement immediately—reducing cost and distance barriers, raising standards, and creating measurable outcomes that can be reported to institutions, partners, and sponsors.

Simple, comparable KPIs

- Number of federations supported through development actions each year
- Number of projects funded and successfully reported (social, training, schools, institutional)
- Number of trained participants reached through funded projects (where tracked)
- Adoption rate of the Federation Support Toolkit
- Satisfaction and completion rates for Project Lab support cycles
- Number of federations adopting a digital-first development pathway and reporting framework (based on the shared blueprint)
- Number of federations using the Support Desk / office hours per year
- Number of Best Practice case studies published and replicated by other federations

Resume

ECU2030 will strengthen federation capacity through a federations-first development model: inclusive access to talent training, a €200,000 combined Development Fund, and practical tools that reduce workload and raise standards—supported by a digital blueprint that federations can replicate. We will drive adoption through direct support and visible recognition, with one priority: delivery that can be measured, reported, and scaled across Europe.