



Education Commission

# Chess Education in the ECU

Alexander Kostyev  
Russia

FIDE Chess Conference

Yerevan  
7/8 May 2019



Founded 1985, currently 54 countries

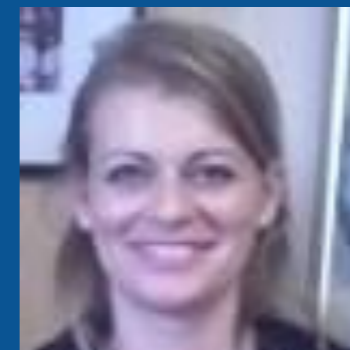
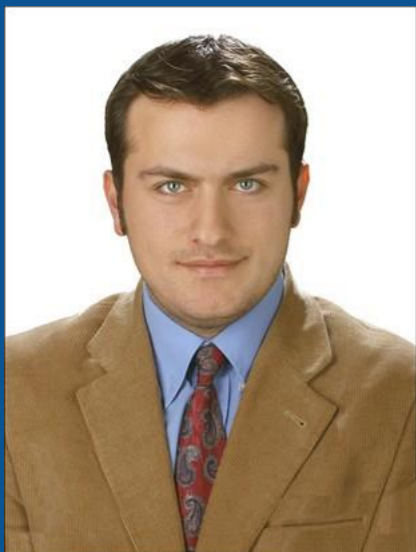
President: Zurab Azmaiparashvili  
(Georgia)

**2012: EU Parliament declared that Member States should encourage chess in schools**

**2014: ECU Education Commission was created to lead the development of chess in schools (CiS) in Europe**

- **for educational purposes**
- **to develop social and intellectual skills**

# ECU Education Commission





# Advisory Board

Education Commission



**Prof. Agnieszka Bron**  
Sweden



**Prof. Seyhan Nisel**  
Turkey



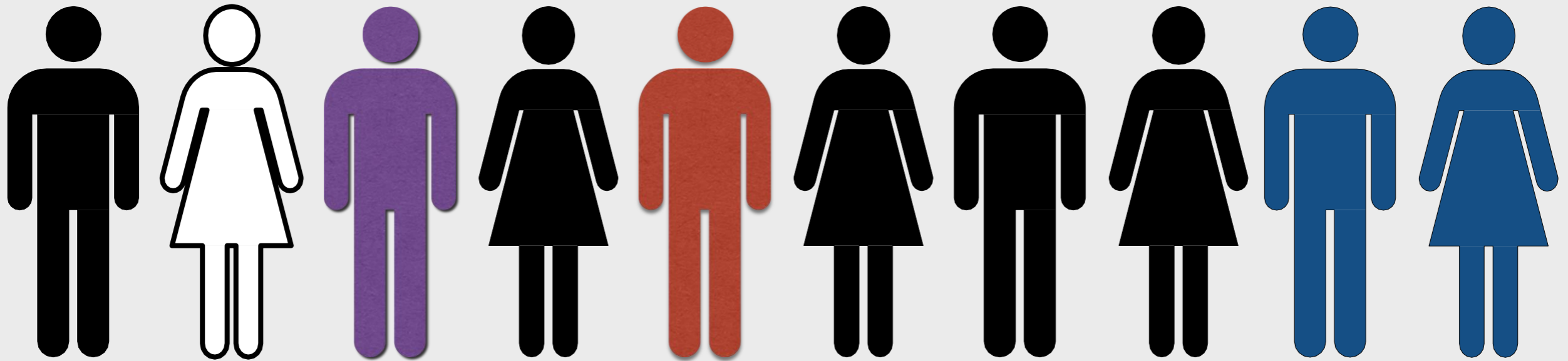
**Prof. Roberto Trinchero**  
Italy



**Prof. Fernand Gobet**  
UK/Switzerland



**Prof. Jorge Silva**  
Portugal



- **Talking to Federations**
- **Chess in Schools organisations Networking**
- **Conferences**
- **Survey**





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# Survey Conclusions

- **Chess in Schools is a rapidly growing movement**
- **There is huge diversity in how CiS is implemented**
- **ECU should create a European standard for CiS**
- **Important to establish chess as a pedagogic tool**
- **Need for training and certification in didactic skills**

# National Chess Curriculum

- **Each country determines its own national curriculum**
- **Curricula differ according to the didactic styles, education system and national chess culture**
- **All curricula cover chess basics and include teacher resources and pupil workbooks**
- **Most curricula lack insight into didactical methods**



# Objectives

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**Chess accepted as an educational tool for all**

- **New standards for how to teach chess**
- **Improved academic performance (per research)**
- **Chess within the timetable (but not compulsory)**
- **Transversal chess (integrate into other subjects)**
- **Chess as a specialist profile for schools**



# Full Educational Concept

**Teacher Books**

**Instructional  
Videos**

**Teacher Training  
Certification  
registered online**

**Pupil Workbooks**

**Chess Teacher  
Newsletter**

**Classroom  
Materials**

- **Teacher**
- **Children**



# ECU Work Groups

**Training  
Courses**

**Newsletter**

**School  
Competitions**

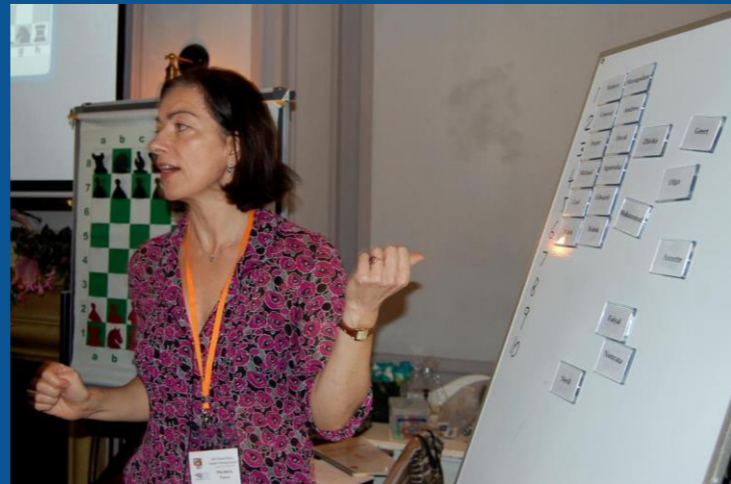
**Conferences**

**Media and  
Marketing**

**Special  
Advisors**



# School Chess Teacher Course



# ECU Certificate



The image shows a certificate template for the European Chess Union (ECU). It features a decorative blue border with ornate corner designs. At the top center is the ECU logo, which consists of a stylized chessboard icon followed by the letters 'CU' and the text 'European Chess Union' below it. The main title, 'THE ECU SCHOOL CHESS TEACHER CERTIFICATE', is centered in a large, bold, blue serif font, flanked by decorative horizontal lines. Below the title, the text 'is Awarded to' is centered. A horizontal line follows, leading to a paragraph: 'Who has undertaken and successfully completed a programme of study, approved & monitored by an Advisory Panel of Academics leading to the Certificate in Teaching Chess in Schools & Educational Organisations'. In the center, there is a row of blue chess pieces: a king, queen, rook, knight, bishop, and pawns. Below this is a red ribbon graphic. To the left of the ribbon is a signature and the name 'Jesper Hall, Chairman' with 'ECU Educational Commission' below it. To the right of the ribbon are two fields: 'Certificate No.: \_\_\_\_\_' and 'Date: \_\_\_\_\_'. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text: 'The European Chess Union (ECU) is the International Governing Body for Chess in Europe with 24 affiliated Chess Federations recognised by their National Governments. The objective of the ECU Education Commission is to safeguard and promote the use of chess for educational purposes within the jurisdiction of its constituent members.' Below this is the ECU contact information: 'EUROPEAN CHESS UNION', 'Rahnstrasse 2, CH-6333 Bonenberg See, Switzerland', 'Email: ecuoffice2014@gmail.com • Webpage: www.europechess.org'.

  
European Chess Union

THE ECU SCHOOL CHESS TEACHER  
**CERTIFICATE**

is Awarded to

Who has undertaken and successfully completed a programme of study,  
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Jesper Hall, Chairman  
ECU Educational Commission

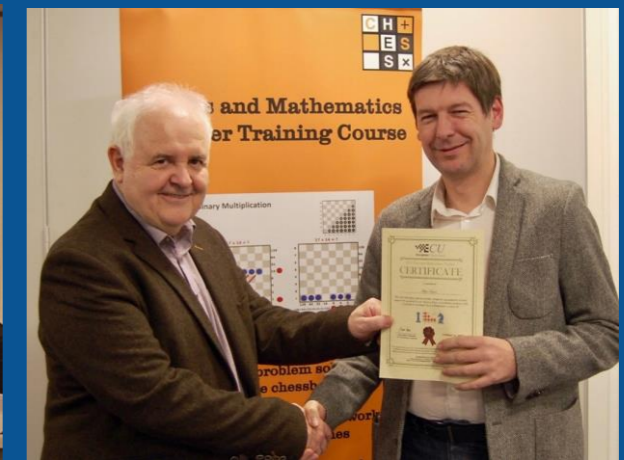
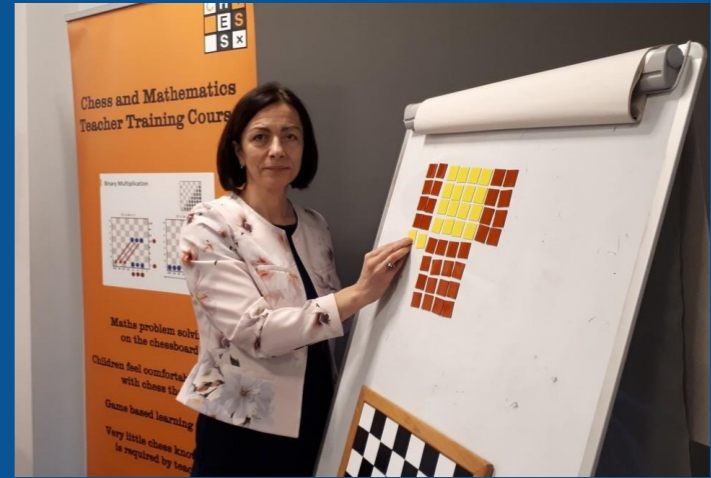
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Chess and Mathematics Course



# ECU Certificated Teacher Training Courses

2017			
July	Madrid	Spain	
Oct	London	England	
Nov	Budapest	Hungary	
Dec	Budapest	Hungary	
2018			
Mar	Hamburg	Germany	
Mar	Vysoke Tatry	Slovakia	Seminar
April	Durres	Albania	Seminar
June	Toledo	Spain	
Aug	Munich	Germany	
Sep	Uppsala	Sweden	
Sep	Munich	Germany	
Oct	Batumi	Georgia	English
Nov	Ingolstadt	Germany	
Nov	Ingolstadt	Germany	English
Dec	London	England	
Dec	London	England	Maths
2019			
Feb	Hamburg	Germany	
Mar	Galicia	Spain	
Mar	Gran Canaria	Spain	
May	Albacete	Spain	
May	Gran Canaria	Spain	
May	London	England	Maths
June	London	England	



# Course Feedback

Enjoy Course?

Meet expectations?

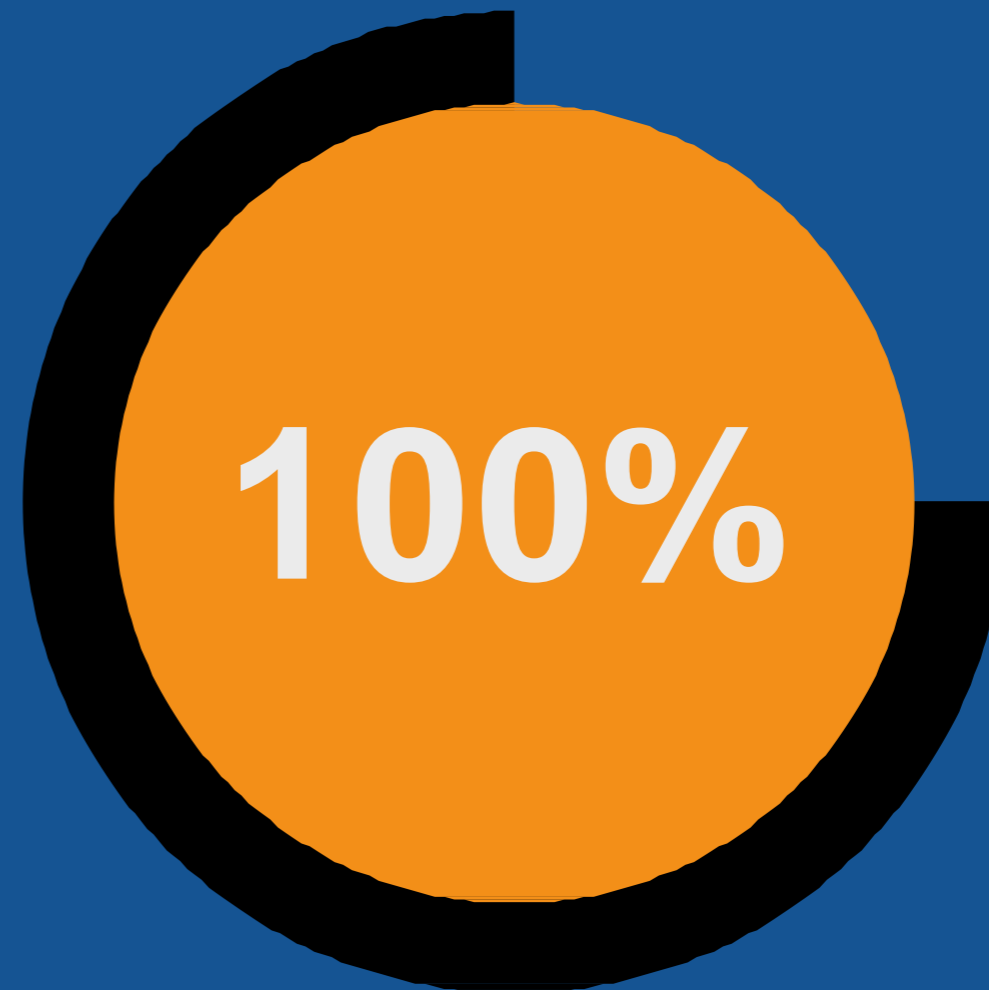
Recommend?

Know benefits of chess?

More confident to teach?

Clear on methods?

Tutor presentations?



# Planned Extension Courses

**Chess  
Didactics**



**Mathematics**



**Early Years**



**Special Needs**

**Social Integration**

**Chess Training**

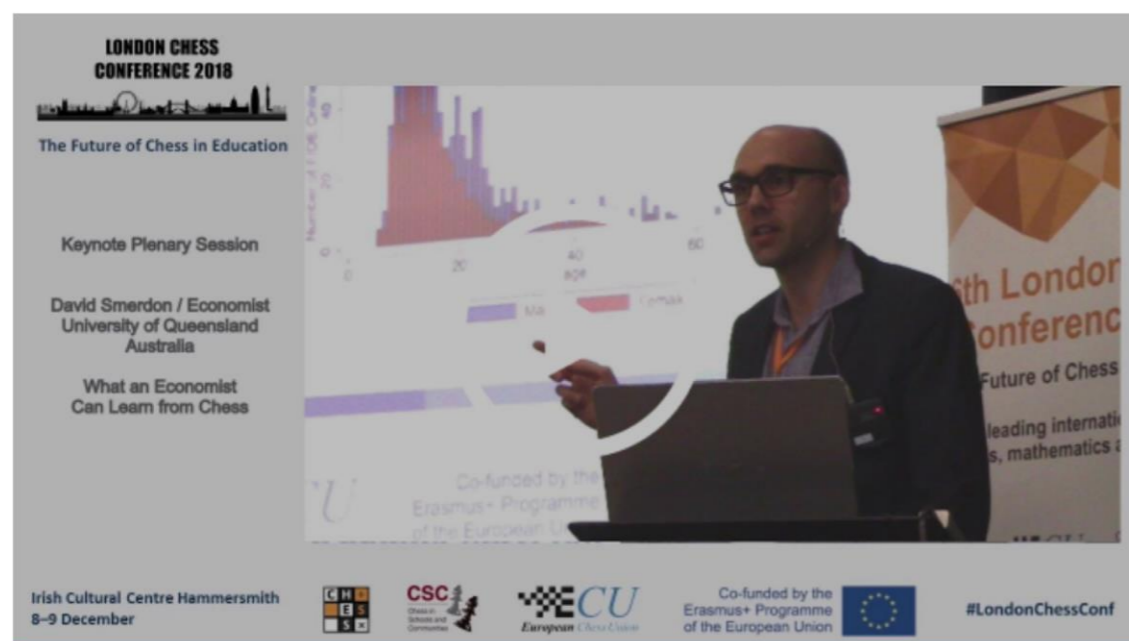


# First Rank



## Introduire le jeu d'échecs dans d'autres disciplines scolaires

First Rank est un bulletin hebdomadaire pour tous ceux et toutes celles qui s'intéressent aux échecs comme outil dans l'enseignement. Dans ce numéro, nous vous présenterons quelques idées pour se servir des échecs dans d'autres disciplines scolaires. Comme d'habitude, vous y trouverez aussi l'anecdote et le puzzle de la semaine.



### Les échecs, l'économie et les femmes

Pendant la conférence sur les échecs à Londres, David Smerdon, un économiste et grand-maître australien, a animé un exposé fascinant intitulé: "Ce qu'un économiste peut apprendre des échecs." Une nouvelle approche sur l'emploi des échecs comme objet de la recherche en sciences de l'éducation.

## La transversalité des échecs



La Commission Education a mis en place un [comité](#) académique consultatif. Pendant la conférence de Londres, celui-ci s'est réuni pour discuter des derniers résultats de la recherche scientifique sur les bénéfices éducationnels des échecs. Les professeurs ont accentué qu'il importait de ne pas se concentrer uniquement sur les performances aux examens scolaires. En effet, il existe pas mal de preuves que les échecs ont un impact sur bien d'autres domaines que sur les seules performances intellectuelles - il suffit de penser au comportement social et à la confiance en soi.

J'ai entraîné des enseignants pendant plusieurs années. Ils m'ont fait part de tout un éventail d'expériences où les échecs avaient un impact positif sur les enfants. Je savais déjà que les échecs vont très bien avec les mathématiques. Et traditionnellement, le jeu d'échecs est un emploi de temps productif pendant les pauses de midi et les moments libres. Bien sûr, tout ce qui permet aux enfants de développer leur concentration est la bienvenue.

Mais, j'ai également entendu des remarques du genre "Ce trimestre, nous aurons dix leçons sur l'histoire et les échecs" et "Nous commençons un projet sur les échecs et l'artisanat de bois - les enfants vont fabriquer leurs propres pièces et nous construirons un set de pièces géantes pour la cour de récréation." J'ai même entendu: "Nous jouons aux échecs pendant dix minutes pendant nos cours d'éducation physique, car il s'agit d'entraîner aussi bien le corps que le cerveau".

Utiliser les échecs dans différentes disciplines scolaires peut être désigné par le terme "échecs transversaux". Je suis curieux de voir quelles autres formes d'échecs transversaux la créativité de nos enseignants pourra produire.

Jesper Hall,  
Président ECU Education



# Newsletter

Education Commission

**Targeted at Chess Teachers, Tutors and Schools in Europe**

**Published fortnightly during the school term 7**

**languages:**

**English**

**German**

**Dutch**

**Swedish**

**French**

**Spanish**

**Italian**

**[Russian planned]**

**10,000 on circulation list**

**A network for Europe**



# London Chess Conference





# London Chess Conference

Dec 2018

- **A Role for FIDE in Education**
- **Chess in Education Strategy**
- **Chess Mathematics Exercisers**
- **Chess and Intuition**
- **The Future of Chess Clubs**
- **The Benefits of Chess for Children**

# CASCADE Project

- **Target age pupils 3-11**
- **Supports a virtuous model of school activity**
- **Share, improve & implement good practices**
- **Can be used by each EU country**
- **Train teachers to teach chess or “psychomotor education on a giant chessboard”**
- **Within school hours**
- **Led by Italy**



With the support of the  
Erasmus+ programme  
of the European Union

# Chess Projects in Russia

# White Rook

Largest school team Tournament in Russia

400 children (100 teams from Russia and other countries)

Sochi, June 1-10 each year



# Project “Chess at Schools”

Sponsored by  
Timchenko’s Fund  
since 2014



**2,139 school teachers graduated with certificates from Russian Chess Federation**

**70,343 school pupils have FIDE ID after studying chess on the first level**



**11 regions of Russia include chess in school curriculum**

**1,124 schools received chess equipment**

# Annual Sochi “Chess Education” Conference

- **1,000 school teachers participate in the contest for the best chess lessons**
- **200 best teachers were invited to Sochi for conference**
- **20 winners were awarded Diplomas from Ministry of Education in Russia, money, and laptops**
- **70 best chess lessons were published on the RCF site**

# “The Best School Chess Teacher”

- **RCF annual contest for “The Best School Chess Teacher”**
- **6 winners will be awarded total sum about €7,000**
- **All participants will be awarded certificate from RCF and Ministry of Education in Russia**
- **Regulations of Contest sent to all Russian schools**

# Distance Learning Course for School Teachers

- **RCF Agreement with Russian State Pedagogical University**
- **Distance learning for school teachers in Primary Schools**
- **Program has several levels: 18, 36, 72, 108, 144 hours**
- **Techniques for teaching chess in primary schools**

# Tigran Petrosyan, 9<sup>th</sup> World Chess Champion



[VIDEO](#)

# Chess Education in European Chess Union

Alexander Kostyev

Member of ECU Education Commission  
Chess Education Subcommittee Chairman  
Russian Chess Federation

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