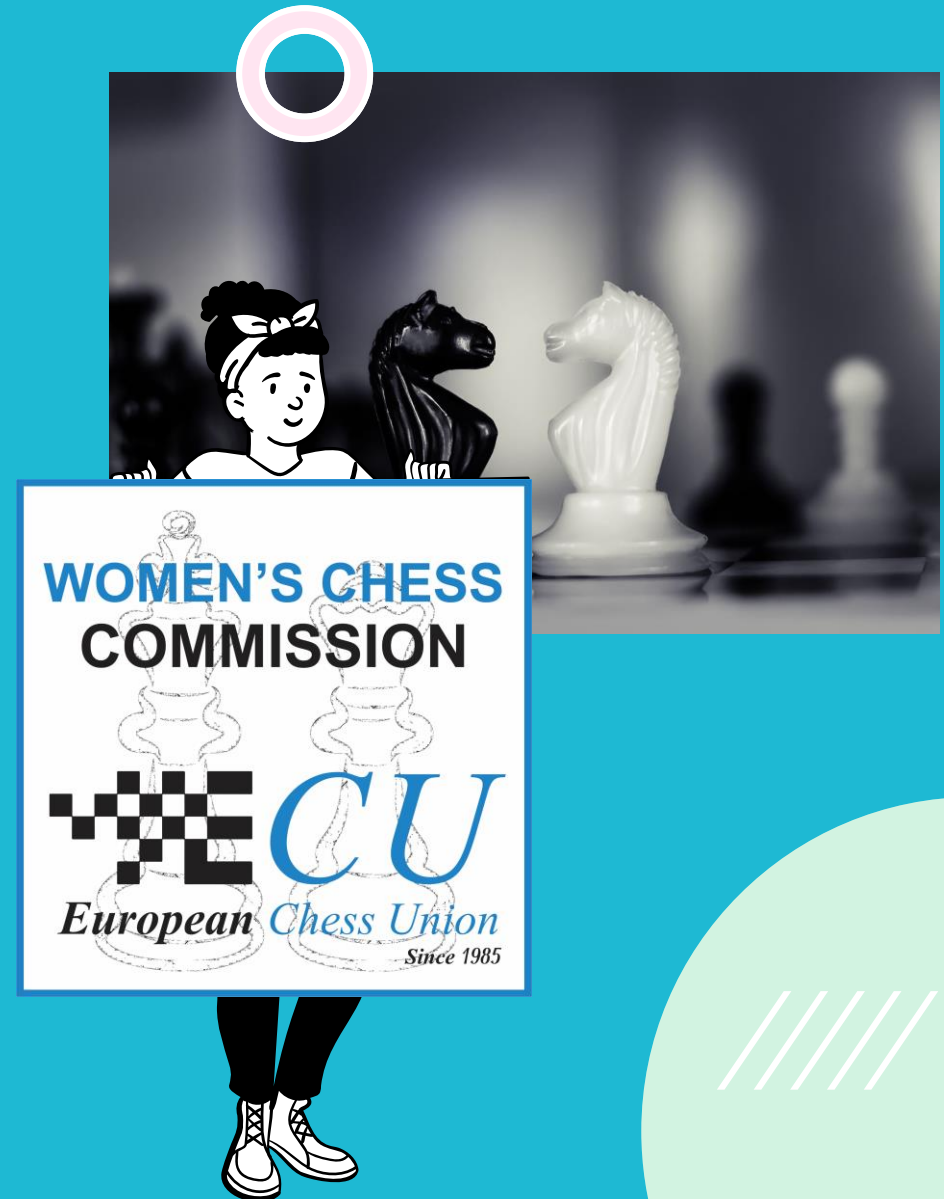


"Playing against weaker and/or stronger opponents"

Lecture and discussion with
GM Ján Markoš

Date: October 11, 2023 (Wednesday)
Time: 17:30 – 18:30 CET

European female chess players of all ages and all rating groups are welcome to join our online lecture which will take place via zoom. Zoom link will be released after complete registration. To save your **free place** please send your full name and your country to womenchess@europechess.org Everyone is welcome!





How shall we play against weaker or stronger opponents? What kind of mindset do we need?

For many players, a game against much **weaker opponent** is nothing more than an annoying duty. You are supposed to win, and any other result is considered as a failure. Moreover, you will probably not learn much in the encounter. However, in the lecture I will try to convince you that with a **proper mindset a game with someone much weaker can be both fun and helpful to your chess growth**. We will also discuss what strategies might improve your results against weaker players.

On the other hand, when playing against someone much **stronger**, often **we fight not only the mighty player, but also our fear**. In the lecture and subsequent discussion, we will have a look at how to overcome this fear. We will also speak about purely chess aspects of playing against such a player: for example, the opening choice.

Let us look for the answers together!



Ján Markoš is a Slovakian chess author, trainer, and grandmaster.

His book "Under the Surface" was the English Chess Federation's 2018 Book of the Year. His last book, "The Secret Ingredient", co-authored with David Navara, focuses on the practical aspects of play, e.g. time-management over the board, how to prepare against a specific opponent, or how to use chess engines during the training process, and was awarded the FIDE Averbakh-Boleslavsky prize in 2021.

Markos was the U16 European Champion twenty years ago. At present he helps his pupils from several continents to achieve similar successes. Apart from focusing on the royal game, he is also the author of several non-chess books, focused on critical thinking, moral dilemmas, and phenomenology.

