

## Successful start of the European Women Championship

The European Women Chess Championship 2022 just started in rainy Prague. The amount of 123 players from a total of 28 countries sat down at the chessboards in the Don Giovanni Hotel in Prague. These players will fight in the next 11 days, not only for a prize pool of €60,000 but also for advancement to the Women World Cup 2023. The home Czech Republic is represented by 14 players, who also account for the largest group at the championship. However, there are also significantly competing delegations from Ukraine and Poland, which arrived with 13 and 12 participants.



Playing hall

Nevertheless, you can also meet one player from countries such as Turkey, Denmark, Lithuania, and Estonia in the playing hall. The biggest favorites to win one of the medals are the members of the silver team from the Olympics that took place recently in Chennai - Georgians Nana Dzagnidze, Lela Javakhishvili and Nino Batsiashvili. Though the front of the starting field is extremely balanced, after all, 13 players have a rating higher than 2400.

The playing hall is accessible to spectators only during the first ten minutes after the start of the round, but you can watch all the games, along with the commentary of GM Martin Petr and his guests, live and from the recording on the YouTube channel of the Czech Chess Federation. The first guests will be present on Sunday 21.8., they are renowned chess players GM Sergei Movsesian and IM Lukas Vlasak. In one of the final broadcasts, you can look forward to the Czech number one GM David Navara. During the broadcast, you can ask the presenters questions, which they will surely be happy to answer. The progress of the tournament is presented, among other things, by innovative

shots from cameras located in the playing hall, but also directly at the first five chessboards. It is thus possible to follow the expressions on the faces of the favourites.



Opening ceremony

The top-seeded players managed the first round flawlessly, but there were some surprising draws here and there. Some players were even able to catch their paper-stronger opponents by surprise and scored a very valuable point at the start, such as Anna Lhotska, who dealt with the Ukrainian grandmaster, or the second-to-last seeded Portuguese Sara Joana De Moura Pe Soares. However, the tournament is still in its beginning and the decisive battles are yet to come...



First move on the top table was made by the ECU president Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili

And what will we expect in the next rounds? Will the longest game last more than 6 hours? Will any of the players take a huge lead? Will there be a mascot?

AVE CHESS team