

President Candidate MANJA MARZ

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Prof. Dr. Manuela Marz (née Lindemeyer)
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WORK EXPERIENCE

10/2022-09/2025	Institute Director of the Institute for Computer Science
since 07/2015	Full Professor for Bioinformatics/Computer Science at FSU Jena
2001-2006	Student of Computer Science in Leipzig, Edinburgh
2001-2004	Student of Mathematics in Leipzig
1999-2005	Student of Biology in Leipzig, Darmstadt, Edinburgh

GO ACTIVITIES

since 2018	Managing director of Jena International Go School
since 2018	Board member of Go Feder. Brandenburg-Saxony-Thuringia (LV-BST)
since 2014	Advisory board of European Go Federation (EGF)
2005–2017	Board member of German Go Federation (DGoB)
2004–2019	President of Go Federation Brandenburg-Saxony-Thuringia (LV-BST)

GO ACHIEVEMENTS

German Championship	6 th Place: 2018
German Female Championship	1 st Place: 2007, 2009–2010, 2013–2016, 2018–2019, 2023–2024 2 nd Place: 2012, 2017, 2022 3 rd Place: 2006, 2008
European Female Championship	1 st Place: 2017 2 nd Place: 2008, 2020, 2024 3 rd Place: 2010, 2013, 2022
World Female Championship	Participation: 2013, 2017, 2020
SENKO Cup	Participation: 2021 2 nd Place: 2023 3 rd Place: 2025
German Pairgo Championship	1 st Place: 2012, 2018–2020, 2024 2 nd Place: 2005, 2008–2010 3 rd Place: 2007, 2013–2014, 2022
European Pairgo Championship	1 st Place: 2023 2 nd Place: 2008, 2014 3 rd Place: 2016, 2019, 2021
Open European Pairgo Championship	1 st Place: 2012, 2014, 2016, 2023 2 nd Place: 2015, 2017
World Amateur Pairgo Championship	Participation: 2012, 2014, 2016
European Female Student Championship	1 st Place: 2005–2009
World Student Championship	Participation: 2008
MLILY Cup	Participation: 2013
World Mind Sport Games	Participation: 2008, 2017

MOTIVATION TO BECOME EGF PRESIDENT

I am deeply committed to the European Go community and have a long history of volunteering and leadership experience within Go organizations. Over the years, I have witnessed both the incredible potential of our community and the challenges we face. My motivation to become EGF president stems from a strong desire to bring transparent communication, financial stability, and effective governance to the federation. I want to help the EGF grow its visibility, strengthen youth engagement, and establish a sustainable structure that empowers both members and organizers.

The EGF needs modernization to keep pace with the evolving landscape of sports and digital engagement. Embracing transparency, innovation, and member participation through democratic voting is crucial for shaping the future of European Go. The upcoming elections represent an important opportunity for our community to choose a leadership that will guide us through these necessary changes and ensure that the federation remains vibrant and relevant.

Looking ahead to the next five years and beyond, I envision the European Go community becoming recognized worldwide for its excellence and vibrant culture. I am dedicated to fostering real sportsmanship and sustained excellence by supporting players with professional coaching, training opportunities, and a structured competitive environment. Central to this vision is launching concerted youth programs across member countries that provide educational resources, mentoring, and inclusive spaces to nurture new generations of players.

I believe in an open, future-oriented leadership style that listens to members, supports youth programs, and promotes European Go as a recognized, world-class sport. Now is the time to implement a clear budget plan, improve communication between the board and member countries, and enhance the federation's public representation. By expanding Go's visibility, strengthening grassroots initiatives, and securing financial independence, we can build a resilient and thriving community that benefits all members across Europe.

AIMS FOR THE FIRST 3 YEARS

Transparent Communication and Interaction

- Establish clear, open communication channels within the board and with member countries.
- Regular updates via email, min. quartely meetings with all members (e.g. Zoom), and interaction by digital platforms.
- Encourage member participation in decisions and feedback loops.

Financial Stability and Independence

- Develop a stable budget plan not overly reliant on sponsors.
- Income to be taken from EGC, membership fees (restructured, with max. 25% of yearly member budget)
- Remain open and proactive in seeking additional funding through sponsorships.
- Introduce transparent financial policies with member involvement in budget decisions.

Strengthening Internal Structure

- Define the board's role clearly as an executing body for the EGF members.
- Create transparent rules for European Championships and qualification systems.
- (Re-)set up the youth commission and develop targeted programs, see below.
- Support infrastructure improvements for tournaments and training.

Expanding External Presence and Impact

- Promote the European Go Championship (EGC) more effectively to attract wider interest.
- Enhance coaching, training, and facility quality.
- Engage fans and expand visibility through projects and outreach.

FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS AND PLANS

In preparation for this position, I have received several questions, which I would like to address here:

General Principles

- Focused on making the federation more open and democratic.
- The board will make decisions initially; if members disagree, decisions can be challenged or voted on differently.
- Members should always retain the ultimate right to decide.
- I am committed to a long-term vision, but understand that each term is subject to re-election and member approval.

Board Composition

- Should I be elected, I plan to work alongside Milena Bocle (Vice-president), Damir Medak (Candidate for vice-president) Li Ting (Vice-president), Harry van der Krogt (Treasurer), Oksana Nevostruyeva (Executive Officer), and Paul Smith (Candidate for secretary) on the board.
- I support an extended board (around 15 additional members) who do not have direct voting rights but influence decisions. Suggested roles include:
 - Budget stabilization (initial years)
 - Membership management and fees
 - EGD/Rating
 - Legal affairs
 - Anti-Cheating Committee
 - Team Championship
 - Youth development
 - Website management
 - European professional players
 - European Championships / Top players
 - Twitch / Streaming / OGS / Announcements
 - Rules committee
 - EGC coordination
 - EGF materials
 - European Grand Prix

EGF Funding

- Dedicated budgets will be established for the different topics.
- The new EGF board will propose an initial allocation aimed at reducing wasteful spending (e.g., ineffective sponsor trips). Ultimately, members will retain the right to reallocate funds if they disagree with the board's proposal.
- Membership fees should be adjusted fairly; it is unsustainable that some countries contribute 50% of their yearly budget to the EGF.
- EU cultural grants applications could bring in up to 0.5 million euros.
- Income improvements of approximately 6,000 euros are expected from restructuring the European Go Championship (EGC), based on a more efficient use of player fees—without increasing registration costs, as explained in detail in previous Zoom meetings.
- Professional players should receive regular contracts with base income (which might initially be zero) plus payments per activity. These contracts would resemble those used for Asian professionals, providing a small fixed income and additional compensation for teaching, promotional events, and tournament involvement.

Youth Development

- Current youth situation needs improvement through:
 - Clear communication and addressing past issues transparently.
 - Clarifying unresolved matters to build a solid foundation for future work.
 - Developing clear strategies and goals in collaboration with extended board members.
 - *Proven measures from other sports to strengthen youth programs include:*
 - * Mentoring systems pairing experienced players with young talents for guidance and support.
 - * Regular youth leagues and tournaments to provide competitive experience in a supportive environment.
 - * Scholarship programs to support talented youth with financial aid for training and participation.
 - * Coaching workshops and certification programs to improve the quality and availability of youth coaching.
 - * Outreach initiatives in schools and local communities to attract new young players.
 - * Creating safe, inclusive spaces encouraging diversity and equal opportunity in especially youth participation (but also for adults).