



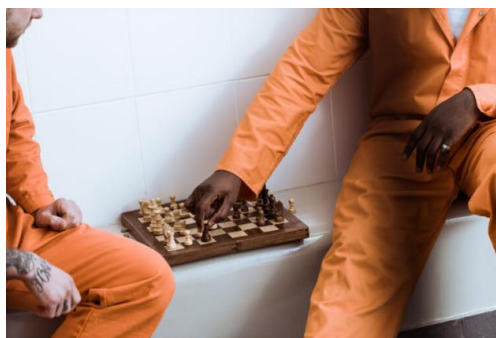
*FIDE Council Meeting April 27-29, 2022*

FIDE Social Commission - Informative Report, April 2022

## 1. Introduction

The FIDE Social Commission (SC) is currently in a process to develop its portfolio of core activities. Major examples include:

- a. In 2021, The Chess For Freedom project (CFF), focusing on chess in prisons, held a major seminar and an exhibition tournament in the spring, followed by an intercontinental tournament with participation from more than 30 countries from all continents in the autumn.



*1 The Chess For Freedom project will have its second Intercontinental Tournament in October 2022*

- b. Also in 2021, the Infinite Project, focusing on Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), conducted two major international seminars,

- c. And in the summer of 2021, the major Kakuma Kenya Chess for Refugees (CFR) project was launched, offering chess activities for 1600 learners in 40 schools, and also including a special Girl Club project in 3 Girls boarding schools within the Kakuma camp, including chess training but also life skills training, visits by female chess role

models, a book club and more. In Kakuma, FIDE collaborates with many partners, including UNHCR, LWF and Chess Kenya.

In the autumn of 2021, SC also conducted a FIDE-wide survey to map ongoing local chess projects with social aspirations, and in the process making all FIDE federations aware that social chess projects is a big priority for FIDE going forward.

Since the survey was launched, many federations and others have approached SC with information about local chess projects with social content, focusing on many different aspects of life, including asylum seekers in western countries, people with systems abuse issues, mental health, elderly care, children in slums, and other.



*2 The Chess for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder project has applied for Erasmus funding for a major research project starting later in 2022*

## 2. Social Commission: 2022 activities

In 2022, SC continues to develop the three core activities from 2021, with some interesting development elements for each:

- a. CFF has already started to prepare for a second instalment of its Intercontinental Tournament, in October 2022, and targeting participation from 64 countries, more than doubling the number from 2022.
- b. In the spring of 2022, The Infinite project for children with ASD has or is about to launch trial projects in a number of countries, including Turkey, Spain, France, South Africa and Norway. In parallel, now in the spring of 2022, an application has been submitted for Erasmus funding for a major Infinite project the next 2-3 years, with research at its core,
- c. The Kakuma CFR project entered its second year, and is planning to conclude the rollout of chess training for 1600 children by the end of the year. In februar 2022, FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich and FIDE Managing Director Dana Reizniece-Ozola both visited the Kakuma project, and met with learners, girl club participants, facilitators (chess teachers - themself refugees), school representatives and project partners to discuss the project and get first-hand information about lessons learned. Currently, a program is under development to ensure that the Kakuma project remains sustainable after the ordinary project period expires late 2022. This includes continued chess activity managed by local resources and with an agreed level of support from FIDE. Also, plans are being developed to launch a next major Chess for Refugees project by the end of the year, most likely in a neighbouring country to Kenya.



*3 In February 2022, FIDE visited the Kakuma Chess for Refugees Project in Kenya. Here Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Arkady Dvorkovich and Geir Nesheim with project facilitators outside the FIDE project office in the Kakuma camp*

- d. In Q2'22, a development project is ongoing to launch a fourth major core SC activity, namely Chess and Brain Aging. Around the world, many projects designed to bring chess to senior citizens are ongoing, and with an array of different approaches. The Social



Commission will indeed endorse all such varied approaches to Chess and Brain Aging. But SC will also select and develop one prioritized Chess and Brain Aging approach, and roll this initiative out in relevant countries as feasible. SC is working to launch its Chess and Brain Aging initiative during the Olympics/Congress in India in the summer of 2022.

- e. The SC also aims to identify and support a portfolio of local chess projects with various social angles and supported by SC, typically run by the local federation or other good forces. This part of the SC program will be developed further during 2022.
- f. SC seeks to work closely with other commissions and FIDE bodies, and also other external partners, including financial support, to strengthen its reach and footprint wherever relevant. Examples this year include TRG, Chess in Education, Womens Commission, PDC and the Norwegian Refugee Council.



*4 Next major initiative from SC: Chess and Brain Aging*

### 3. Social Commission operations

In March 2022, Paris Klerides decided to step down from his role as chairman of the FIDE Social Commission, after having been part of the commission since 2014. Geir Nesheim of Norway, and already an SC member, was appointed new chairman. Geir has been president and secretary general for the Norwegian Chess Federation, and has broad experience including a long business career within international finance and also with launching and delivering major chess projects including social ones.

### 4. Concluding remarks

The FIDE Social Commission acts to promote chess as a tool for the benefit of good social causes. This is an endless aspiration, but chess proves again and again its relevance for our time and our current challenges. SC will continue to develop exactly how FIDE best can use chess to do good for those in need. All ideas and other contributions from FIDE Council members and others are always welcome. Please contact us on [socialchess@fide.com](mailto:socialchess@fide.com).

*Oslo, April 2022*

Geir Nesheim  
FIDE Social Commission  
Chairman