

EDU Commission Report  
January – April 2022  
Prepared for FIDE Council – April 28, 2022

Chess in Education (CIE), that is, chess as an educational tool, continues to attract interest globally. The pandemic has heightened the need for educators to find approaches that engage students and help them recover from the learning loss experienced over the past two years. Many in the field of CIE have demonstrated the importance of chess as an interdisciplinary and transversal activity to positively impact academic and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

In this context, the Chess in Education Commission (EDU) continues its efforts to:

- Improve Communications with Key Stakeholders
- Expand Human & Financial Resources
- Encourage & Enable CIE-related Research
- Increase Quality Professional Development Opportunities
- Assist Federations & Organizations to Expand CIE

As noted below, the International Advisory Board (IAB) proposed significant changes to the EDU titles and certifications. The change in titles reflects the need of the Chess in Education Commission to adapt to the expectations of the education community. This includes updating the preparation of those who will train teachers as well as those who provide CIE instruction to students. In regard to the certification of courses, the goal is to encourage a broad range of service providers to present first-class products integrating chess into the education system for the cognitive and social development of children.

The following outlines current and upcoming efforts to expand the work of chess in education around the world.

## **Current Work**

### **FIDE EDU Courses – Current and Upcoming**

01/28-30 – First Preparation of Teachers Course in Spanish - 33 participants; 30 SI titles  
Course leaders - Pep Suarez and Juana Martinez Fernandez

02/25-27 – Preparation of Teachers Course in English - Asian Online Seminar – 13 participants;  
7 SI titles  
Course leaders: Serob Khachatryan, Tamara Sargsyan, Razan Al Shuibee

03/09-11 – Preparation of Teachers Course in English – Lesotho offline Seminar – 19  
participants, 7 SI titles.  
Course leaders: Anzel Laubscher

04/15-17 – Fourth Chess in Education Lecturer Course (English)  
Course leaders: Tamara Sargsyan, Atanu Lahiri

05/ TBD – First Preparation of Teachers Course (Arabic) - Asian Online Seminar – beginning of May.  
Course leaders: Ali Abbas, Sami Khader, Razan Al Shuibee

05/20-22 – Second Preparation of Teachers Course (Spanish)

05/27-29 – Third Preparation of Teachers Course (English)

### **EDU Consulting for Federations/Organizations**

Chairman Smbat Lputian met online with chess leaders from the following countries to help them approach governmental bodies with plans for chess in schools: Bahrain, Malawi, Senegal, and the Ambassador of Kazakhstan.

Chairman Lputian participated in a chess educational conference in Yekaterinburg, Russia. Chairman Lputian had several meetings with pre-school, school institutional representatives in Chelyabinsk, Russia, where a great deal of work is being implemented towards chess in education development and progression.

Kenya – Members of the Chess Scientific Research Institute (CSRI) along with Jerry Nash provided documentation to assist Chess Kenya in making a case to the Kenyan parliament to legislate chess in schools.

### **EDU Workgroups and EDU Partnerships with Other Commissions**

International Advisory Board (IAB) – The IAB, with members from five countries, developed the changes in regulations for EDU Titles and Certifications, approved a course certification application from the first pilot project, and developed the rubric for future applications.

Fundraising – Jesper Hall (Sweden) is leading a workgroup to develop fundraising events in partnership with federations and/or organizations that allows FIDE to receive a share of the sponsorship money and recoup FIDE's initial investment.

Marketing Materials – Kevin O'Connell (Ireland) has begun revising *Chess: A Tool for Education and Health*.

Research – Mark Nowacki (Singapore) is leading a workgroup to develop a research proposal to explore the benefits of chess as an intervention to address learning loss due to the pandemic.

Women's Chess Awards – Sophia Rohde (USA) has led a group to develop criteria for a Women's Chess Educator Award in partnership with the Commission for Women's Chess.

EDU Universities - Bartek Macieja is working with the FIDE Events Commission to develop the online World Universities Championship.

### **Upcoming Work**

CIE Ambassadors – Led by Leontxo Garcia (Spain), plans are currently in development to create an initiative designed to improve communications and partnerships with the education, chess, and business communities, as well as the culture at large.

CIE Research Journal – plans are underway to create the workgroup which will oversee the publication of the first issue by the end of 2022.

Strategy Workshops – Led by Boris Bruhn (Germany), plans are underway to create the workgroup which will host online informational and strategy workshops later in 2022.

EDU Website – Led by Luis Blasco de la Cruz (Spain), changes have been made to the EDU website and planned improvements include the addition of CIE research and other resources needed by educators as well as those who work with the education community; also anticipate an update in formatting.

Future EDU Courses - Teacher training courses in Persian (materials translation into Persian is complete). Lecturer preparation courses in Spanish, French, and Arabic (materials translation into these languages is complete, Arabic will be ready in approx. 10 days). Plans to have training materials translated into Russian and later into Portuguese. We are in the final stage of preparation and testing of the preschool model. Plan to hold an Early Years Skills (EYS) pilot course with Alessandro Dominici (6 hours of self-learning +12 hours of training) later this year.

### **Upcoming Conferences – Organizing, Supporting, Partnering**

April - Educational chess scientific event in Cuba within the framework of Capablanca memorial  
April - 26-28, Cuba

May - Erasmus+ Chess in Education Conference, Switzerland

June – World Schools Chess Championships – Chess in Education Conference, Panama

June - FIDE Chess in Education Commission (EDU) and "Chess" Scientific Research Institute of ASPU - International online conference, “Chess in Education,” June 26-27, 2022, via Zoom video conferencing.

June – Pan American Youth Chess Championships - Chess in Education Conference, Uruguay

July – Madrid Chess in Education Conference, Spain

December – London Chess Conference, England

Dates to be Determined – Three separate EDU conferences covering pre-school, school, and universities directions.

### Conclusion

We believe that chess in education is an important companion to competitive chess. We also see CIE as a source of significant growth for Federations. As the pandemic revealed in many countries, when schools had to decide what was critical for their students, chess was often one of the first programs to be cut. The result was that competitive chess decreased significantly during this period.

Chess as an educational tool offers a two-fold benefit: 1) A potentially significant source of growth in the number of chess players as more teachers introduce the game to their students, and more importantly, 2) a ground-breaking way to change the lives of students by helping them gain the academic and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills needed in and beyond the classroom.

The Chess in Education Commission is committed to assisting educators and other key stakeholders to realize the game's potential to improve the lives of students.

### Report Submitted by

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