



Chess in
Education
Commission

FIDE EDU Report

January - March 2024

All of the following programs and activities are aligned with the Strategy Action Plan (SAP) developed by FIDE and FIDE EDU in 2021-2022 as a result of the global Chess in Schools Survey conducted in 2021 as a partnership with FIDE and the ECU.

FIDE EDU Mission

To make chess an essential tool for educating students around the world.

Caribbean and Central American Visits

Jerry Nash, Chairman of the FIDE Chess in Education Commission was invited by the national chess federations of Trinidad-Tobago, Costa Rica, and Honduras to tour their countries and to assist in building awareness for chess as an educational tool. One goal for each country was to meet with stakeholders in order to create proposals for chess in education (CIE) initiatives. The tour was arranged with the support of Confederation of Chess for Americas (CCA) President Jose Carillo Pujol and Secretary Mauricio Arias Santana. The tour took place from February 20th to March 2nd, 2024.

School visits as well as meetings with government officials and education leaders revealed not only a great interest for the game but a willingness to include it as a vehicle for skill building. In Trinidad-Tobago and in Costa Rica, chess federation leaders are now preparing proposals for large scale chess in education programs.

In Honduras, the Ministry of Education and the National Pedagogical University Francisco Morazan (NPUFM) both agreed to create a Memorandum of Agreement for a three-year pilot that includes the training of teachers and the inclusion of chess both as an after-school activity and as a vehicle to introduce academic and 21st century skills within the curriculum using both interdisciplinary and transversal methodologies.

The tour opened doors for the federations to access key decision-makers and to generate momentum for scalable and sustainable chess in education projects. Federation leaders are now

working with FIDE EDU to develop proposals and the needed infrastructure that allow the creation of programs that will impact future generations of students.

II International Congress on Chess, Education and Health in Menorca, Spain

The II International Congress on Chess, Education and Health was held in Menorca from March 22-24, 2024. Directed by Pep Suárez, the Congress was designed to “reflect on the role of chess as an educational and therapeutic tool, as well as to explore new ways of integrating this discipline into education and health systems.” Attendees had the chance to “participate in keynote lectures, round tables, practical workshops and networking activities, with the participation of leading international experts and professionals.”

Jerry Nash and Rita Atkins represented FIDE EDU at the Congress, which was supported by FIDE and designated a FIDE 100 event. Both Mr. Nash and Ms. Atkins delivered presentations and participated in numerous meetings with conference speakers, teachers, and leaders from the ECU Education Commission as well as the Continental Chess Association.

Prior to the Congress, Mr. Nash and Ms. Atkins spent two days outside Barcelona visiting school chess programs under the direction of Marta Amigo. These visits and the resulting meetings centered around how best to highlight these excellent programs and make many of their classroom resources available on the EDU website.

The partnership of FIDE EDU and the Congress created positive public relations for FIDE with both the organizers and the participants. The partnership was cost effective for FIDE, saving significant funding while increasing visibility. In addition, FIDE and FIDE EDU gained important content for both websites.

FIDE School Awards

The first cycle of applications began in February 2024. In the present cycle applications are accepted until April 30th, 2024. The FIDE Chess School Award has a multi-dimensional purpose to enhance the quality and position of chess in the wider education system. The first objective is to provide recognition and motivation of existing Chess in Education activities and programs in schools by a certification process. The second objective is to serve as a quality assurance tool for the improved and established standard of educational chess delivery.

The 2021 Global Survey identified thousands of schools which promote chess activities. For many of these schools, chess is a sign of prestige and used for school promotion. FIDE EDU acknowledges the need for recognition of existing schools as well as the opportunity to encourage other schools to begin or increase their level of involvement. The FIDE Chess School Award provides an effective means of achieving these goals.

Schools that obtain the award demonstrate high social awareness in their communities. The list of award winners will be listed on the FIDE Chess in Education website, for recognition and

increased connectivity to one another. Our plan is for FIDE Chess Schools to form a wider community: share educational resources, best practice, and make themselves visible to organisations who are looking for reliable partners for social activities. Being part of our network opens opportunities for collaboration with other FIDE Chess Schools and participation in broader chess events.

The FIDE Chess School certificate and logo can be displayed in school, used in school publications, and promoted on the school website. National Chess Federations will be notified about all FIDE Chess Schools in their country. As they become available, additional incentives for schools participating in the FIDE Chess School Award will be provided.

Schools should carefully consider their long-term benefits of receiving the award versus cost before applying. Schools that don't meet the necessary criteria for the award will be given detailed guidelines about how to improve their chess educational practices. They will be able to reapply free of charge in the next cycle of applications.

We have received 23 applications so far. Applications will be assessed by esteemed members of our Commission: Boris Bruhn will examine English applications, Nina Bodenchuk Russian ones, and Uvencio Blanco will be in charge of Spanish applications. Awards of this cycle will be announced in June 2024.

Preparation of Teachers (PoT) courses

In the past three months we have run three online courses in English, two in-person courses in Hamburg, Germany, and one in Ghana held in conjunction with the African Games. Out of 97 participants 80 have qualified for the FIDE School Instructor title.

Our members of the Commission, and lead lecturers of PoT courses, Anzel Laubscher and Boris Bruhn did a tremendous job lecturing these courses.

Translations are on the way for PoT courses to Portuguese, Greek, Russian, and Kazakh languages. There is a great demand for Spanish PoT courses, and we are currently looking for course organisers wishing to host Spanish courses and also to assist in the translation.

Preparation of Lecturers (PoL) courses

The first PoL is ready to go and will be conducted online in May 4-5. We are looking to train many lecturers who then can either train their colleagues or run PoT courses for the FIDE School Instructor title.

Report by Hanif Qureshi about FIDE Managers Visit to Pakistan

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich, President of FIDE, H.H Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, President of the Asian Chess Federation, Hisham Al Tahir, Secretary General, Dana Reizniece-Ozola, FIDE MD, Grandmaster Nigel Short, FIDE Director of Chess Development, and Miss Rita Atkins, Secretary of FIDE Chess In Education Commission to visit

Pakistan on my invitation, gracing the launching ceremony of the National Mind Sports Initiative in Pakistan by the honourable Prime Minister.

Special thanks are owed to FIDE President, Sheikh Sultan, and Miss Dana for generously sparing their valuable time to join us in Pakistan amidst their demanding schedules.

Their presence has been instrumental in placing Pakistani chess on the global stage. I also express my gratitude to honourable President of Pakistan Mr. Arif Alvi to meet visiting delegations upon my request, affirming his full support for the advancement of chess.

Additionally, I am thankful to Federal Minister of Sports Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad and honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Anwar ul Haq Kakar for their encouragement and support in our efforts to promote chess, especially within schools. I must acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all my colleagues and friends at CFP who have played pivotal roles in advancing our shared vision.

When I embarked on the journey towards securing the Grandmaster title for our unsung hero Mian Sultan Khan a year and a half ago, I never imagined that Pakistan would achieve this milestone in this fashion where the chess world would be watching with admiration and hopes. Today, it is a moment of pride for Pakistan as we celebrate this historic achievement under the leadership of the Chess Federation of Pakistan.

Furthermore, I am honoured to announce the launch of the world's largest Chess in Education program, under the auspices of FIDE, ACF, and Pakistan's highest leadership. Our primary focus now lies in nurturing future Grandmasters through this program. The support we've garnered from global chess leadership is heartening, and it is incumbent upon us, as a chess community and as a nation, to wholeheartedly dedicate ourselves to the successful implementation of this groundbreaking initiative. It will undoubtedly demand perseverance and unwavering dedication.

Hanif Qureshi is a National Chess Master, President Chess Federation of Pakistan, and Member of FIDE EDU.

Report by Boris Bruhn about Social Media Activities

The Social Media Workgroup of the Chess in Education Commission (CIE) of FIDE has undertaken a series of significant activities in recent months to promote chess as an effective educational tool and to support teachers and students worldwide.

The CIE's presence on social media has been enhanced, utilizing platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn to share articles, updates, and information on chess in education. Special thanks are due to Councilor Dijana Dengler for managing our commission's Instagram channel. Additionally, the CIE Commission has established its own LinkedIn account, which is still being developed and primarily posts regularly in LinkedIn groups.

Sustainable growth in follower numbers is also evident on the two main accounts of the CIE Commission. The Facebook account (posts by Rita Atkins, Alla Khachatryan, and Boris Bruhn) now has

over 4700 followers (4393 in December 2023), while the Twitter account has 1475 followers (1305 in December 2023).

Teacher training remained a central focus, with the 16th preparation of teacher courses conducted online. These courses were actively promoted.

The Chess in Education Commission continues to passionately advocate for the promotion of chess in education and works to inspire teachers and students worldwide. Their efforts contribute to imparting social, emotional, and intellectual skills through chess.

Boris Bruhn is a Member of FIDE EDU, co-author, and lecturer of the FIDE Preparation of Teachers course.

Report by Dr. Uvencio Blanco Hernández

Here is the summary of the activities that I carried out during the first quarter of 2024.

I. Participation in workgroups

Workgroup	Leader
FIDE Chess School Award	Rita Atkins
EDU Book Revision	Dijana Dengler
Curriculum Guidelines	Adriana Salazar

II. Participation as lecturer in seminars, courses, etc.

Training Seminar for School Chess Instructors - Level I, Online. February 2024 from Caracas, D.C. – Venezuela

III. Projects

During this period, I have presented:

A proposal for a Draft Bill for the recognition of chess as a pedagogical strategy in the educational system of the Republic of Chile. Before the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Venezuela, a project of "Chess literacy for educational institutes of the Capital District". A document "General guidelines on how to teach skills in the framework of an educational chess project" addressed to UNESCO and ministries of education of countries affiliated to FIDE.

IV. Promotion of EDU Courses

During this period, training courses for instructors, etc. have been promoted through various platforms such as ChessBase and directly - electronically - to the FIDE continental presidents, the presidents of the FIDE working commissions and the national chess federations affiliated to FIDE.

V. Published book

Blanco, U. (2024). American Chess Greats. El Paso, TX. USA



VI. Publications on the ChessBase website

1. Would you like to become a school chess instructor? (29/03/2024)
2. Chess in Education: Methodology and Perspectives (26/03/2024)
3. Alfonso Raúl Ferriz Salinas: chess player, founder and leader (22/03/2024)
4. Why is chess not part of the Games Programme (19/03/2024)
5. Impact of the new FIDE Grading and Titles Regulations on the chess ecosystem (15/03/2024)
6. FIDE Chess Schools Award established (12/03/2024)
7. Fischer: a legend, a cultural myth (08/03/2024)
8. 15th EDU FIDE "Teacher Training Course" (05/03/2024)
9. Mirror Neurons, Imitation and Learning (01/03/2024)
10. Exceptional talent: Julio Granda Zúñiga (27/02/2024)
11. FIDE Arbiters' Commission approved new tie-breaking regulations (23/02/2024)
12. Do amphetamines improve chess performance? (20/02/2024)
13. VII Virtual Congress on Chess and Education (ajEdu) has ended (16/02/2024)
14. Why teach chess to children at an early age? (13/02/2024)
15. Some technological tools used in chess education (09/02/2024)
16. The 4Cs: critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity (06/02/2024)
17. Raúl Carlos Sanguinetti, member of the "Silver Generation" (02/02/2024)
18. The EDO 1924 and Elo 2024 rating systems (II) (30/01/2024)
19. The EDO 1924 and Elo 2024 rating systems (I) (26/01/2024)
20. An experience of Social Chess in Kenya (23/01/2024)
21. Importance of the rating systems of chess players (19/01/2024)
22. Inductees into the "Mexican Chess Hall of Fame" 2024 (16/01/2024)
23. New work: Chess Greats of America (12/01/2024)
24. Attention and general memory in children (09/01/2024)
25. Freedom, Free Will and Decision Making (05/01/2024)
26. What is forbidden in 2024 according to WADA (02/01/2024)

I have also published fifteen articles on the Ajedrez Latitud Sur website.

Dr. Uvencio Blanco Hernández is a Member of FIDE EDU. He is a FIDE International Arbiter and a distinguished author.

Report Submitted By

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