

# EVERY LESSON COUNTS



**Chess in  
Education  
2026**

## Activity Plan: Year of Chess in Education – 2026

### Aligned with Year of Chess in Education Concept note adopted by FIDE Council' s Q3 Meeting

#### Prepared by

FIDE Commission for Chess in Education (EDU)

In consultation with FIDE Taskforce, ISCF, and FIDE Continental Representatives

#### Contacts

- Jerry Nash, Chair – edu.chair@fide.com
- Rita Atkins, Secretary – edu.secretary@fide.com

#### 1. Mission

To champion chess as an educational tool that enhances cognitive, social, emotional, and creative skills, strengthening both formal and informal learning worldwide.

#### 2. Partners

- International School Chess Federation (ISCF)
- Ministries of Education
- Universities & Research Institutes
- NGOs, foundations and philanthropic actors
- Private and public partners supporting educational chess globally

#### 3. Project Description

The Year of Chess in Education 2026 is a global initiative designed to expand educational chess through research, teacher development, national implementation models, networking, and international events. It builds on the FIDE–ECU Global Educational Chess Survey showing 25 million children and 237,000 teachers currently engaged, and it advances FIDE’s policy goal to double the number of children involved in educational chess between 2021–2026.

#### 4. Goals & Objectives

1. Build global partnerships across education systems.
2. Strengthen teacher training and international certifications.
3. Expand research and [create FIDE’s official educational research journal].
4. Support strategic national and regional pilot projects.
5. Promote awareness and visibility globally.
6. Prepare a FIDE Educational Strategy 2030.

#### 5. Task Force

- Mario Antonio Ramirez Barajas – FIDE Vice President
- Dana Reizniece – Deputy Chair of FIDE Management Board
- Jerry Nash – Chair, FIDE EDU
- Rita Atkins – Secretary, FIDE EDU
- Anzel Laubscher – EDU Africa

- Kamila Kaluzna – EDU Europe
- Abhijit Kunte – EDU Asia
- Mauricio Arias Santana – Chair, Americas CiE
- Pep Suarez – Olimpia Academy
- Abel Talamnatez – FIDE EDU

ISCF:

- Dilda Nauryzbayeva – Director of Educational Projects
- Nadzeya Krauchuk – Director of International Relations

## 6. Structured Plan 2026

### Building Networks & Global Reach

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
High-level MOUs on CiE	Dec 2025–2026	MOU signed with at least 10 ministers/public or international bodies  At least 10 ministers/ high-level education policy makers attending FIDE Educational Summit	Mario Ramirez Barajas, Dana Reizniece
University Network established	Feb–Oct 2026	University participation network created. Initial list of participants - Women’s University (Kazakhstan), Chess Scientific Research Institute (Armenia), Webster University (USA), Tennessee Tech University (USA), UNTREF (Argentina), University of Alcala (Spain), University of Sciences of Physical Culture and Sport (Cuba), Greece University of Aegon (Greece)  University chess program guidelines developed  Declaration with 40+ universities signed	Mario Ramirez Barajas, Rita Atkins, UNTREF

### Global Survey

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
Global Survey launch & analysis	Nov 2025 – Sep 2026	Data collected & analyzed  Results presented to FIDE GA & International Organizations	Jerry Nash, George Chitiyo

## Teacher Development

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
PoL/PoT Courses	Jan–Dec 2026	Up to 10 courses across continents organized  The final list of the countries to be agreed with Continental leadership.	Rita Atkins, Anzel Laubscher
Promote/extend non-FIDE certified courses	Jan–Dec 2026	Certified courses for title renewal established	Rita Atkins
Teacher Curriculum (30 lessons)	Jan 2026	Curriculum developed	Anzel Laubscher
Optimizing Minigame Strategies E-book	Jan 2026	New methodological material published	Rita Atkins
Chess & Mathematics book	Nov 2026	New methodological material published	Rita Atkins
Chess history book	Nov 2026	New methodological material published	Pep Suarez

## Pilot Programs

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
CiE projects prioritized in Development Fund	Jan–Dec 2026	20% of Continental funding advised  Higher FIDE development fund co-funding rates for CiE projects  40+ national/supranational CiE projects implemented	Jerry Nash, Rita Atkins
CiE Implementation Plan	Jan–Feb 2026	Guide for national large-scale CiE introduction developed  Federation training organized (a conference in Jamaica)	Jerry Nash, Leontxo Garcia, Rita Atkins

## Research

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
Development of FIDE Research Journal	Jan-Jul 2026	Mechanism/model for research database/journal	Mario Ramirez Barajas
CiE Research Call	Jan-Dec 2026	Call for research proposals	Mario Ramirez Barajas

## Flagship School Competition

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
World School Teams Championship	Jan-Dec 2026	4 continental events& CiE side activities + Grand Final organized. Indicative (TBC) locations & time:  Europe: Turkey, November 2026 Asia: Kazakhstan, March 2026 America:: Costa Rica, July-August 2026 Africa: South Africa, May-June 2026 Finals: TBC	ISCF, Jerry Nash, Rita Atkins

## Policy Making

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
Continental CiE strategies	Jan-Dec 2026	All 4 continents have developed their CiE strategies/action plans	Jerry Nash, Continental Presidents/ Continental CiE leaders
FIDE 2030 CiE Strategy development	Jan-Dec 2026	Draft FIDE CiE Strategy developed	Jerry Nash, Rita Atkins

### Conferences & Educational Summit

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
Educational Summit & CiE Conferences/Workshops	Jan–Dec 2026	<p>At least 10 events organized, covering all continents, including:</p> <p>Asia:</p> <p>Educational Summit 24 September 2026, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Social and Educational Chess Conference in cooperation with KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, India, 14-17 January 2026</p> <p>Americas:</p> <p>Conference in cooperation with Ministry of Sports of Costa Rica, Costa Rica, 20-22 March 2026</p> <p>CiE Conference in Cooperation with UCCFD, Cuba, 19-24 October 2026</p> <p>A conference/training session/workshop, targeted to Caribbean Countries [Guide to introducing CiE at national level], Q4 2026 Jamaica TBC</p> <p>A CiE workshop along with South American Games, Rosario, Argentina Q3 2026 (TBC)</p> <p>Africa:</p> <p>TBC, 3 events – North, Central, South</p>	Dana Reizniece, Rita Atkins, Mauricio Arias Santana, Abhijit Kunte

		<p>Europe:</p> <p>CiE &amp; AI Conference in cooperation with Olympus Academy, 24-26 April 2026, Spain</p> <p>Cooperation with Judit Polgar's Festival September/October 2026</p> <p>Educational Chess workshop with Louis Blasco, Madrid, November 2026 (TBC)</p>	
--	--	--	--

### Awareness & Storytelling

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
Weekly CiE posts	Jan-Dec 2026	A weekly CiE storytelling challenge organized	Abel Talamantez & TBD
PR campaigns	Jan-Dec 2026	Flagship PR activities incl. contests organized	TBD

### Awards & Recognition

Activity	Period	Deliverables	Responsible
Outstanding Contribution medals	Mar-Dec 2026	National-level medals awarded	Alla Khachatryan, Yana Sidorchuk
CiE Awards	Dec 2025 – Sep 2026	Concept developed by CiE Awards Working Group & awards delivered during Education Summit	Jerry Nash, Abhijit Kunte, Abel Talamantez
FIDE School Awards expanded	Jan-Dec 2026	40+ new school awards granted	Abel Talamantez, Uvencio Blanco, Nina Bodenchuk

## Annex I – Month-by-Month Calendar (2026)

### January

- 14–17 Jan – India: Social & Educational Chess Conference
- PoT/PoL courses begin globally
- Survey data collection begins
- University Network development starts
- Weekly CiE stories launch

### February

- Survey data collection
- Teacher materials development
- National pilot projects start
- University network formation
- Awards concept development

### March

- 20–22 Mar – Costa Rica CiE Conference
- Survey data analysis begins
- Training courses
- CiE Award nominations launch

### April

- 24–26 Apr – Spain: CiE & AI Conference
- Survey analysis continues
- Teacher material publication
- University framework development

### May

- Survey analysis completed
- University workshop (Argentina)
- Awards nominations continue

### June

- Survey results published

- Pilot projects continue
- University framework preparation
- Awards nominations close

### **July**

- 20 July – Geneva event (TBC)
- Training programs
- Award selections begin

### **August**

- Pilot programs
- University framework finalization
- Award selections continue

### **September**

- 24 Sept – Uzbekistan Educational Summit
- Rosario CiE Activity (TBC)

### **October**

- 19–24 Oct – Cuba Conference
- Judit Polgar Festival CiE activities

### **November**

- Europe School Teams – Turkey (TBC)
- CiE books published

### **December**

- Pilot project review
- FIDE School Awards
- Year-end CiE campaign