

FIDE · EDU RESEARCH PROGRAM

Chess & Education

FIDE Research Program 2026–2030

Building the world's first scientific evidence base on the social and educational impact of chess — in schools, families, and communities across 180 countries.

2026 · AÑO DEL AJEDREZ EN LA EDUCACIÓN

fide.com · International Chess Federation · EDU Commission



THE MANDATE

We declared it. Now we must prove it.

**FIDE & ISCF
declared 2026
Year of Chess in
Education.**

That declaration needs a scientific foundation — or it remains words.

*"Chess is a proven and powerful tool for education." —
FIDE President Dvorkovich*

25M+

children playing chess in schools

237K

teachers trained in educational chess

180

countries in FIDE programs



THE RESEARCH GAP

Chess has 100 years of cognitive research. Its social & educational impact? Zero.

Only FIDE can answer what comes next.

WHAT EXISTS

✓ Studies on memory & attention improvement

✓ IQ & cognitive benchmark research

✓ Single-country academic performance studies

✓ Cognitive gains for gifted students

WHAT'S MISSING

? Impact on school retention & attendance rates

? Chess in low-income school environments

? Teacher training effectiveness at scale

? Curriculum integration across 180 countries

Only FIDE — with 25M+ players in 180 countries — can answer these questions at global scale.



THE PROGRAM

Chess & Education is the core. Championships amplify it.

PRIMARY LINE

Chess in Schools & Educational Programs

School Impact & Retention

Social & educational outcomes across income groups

Teacher Training at Scale

Curriculum integration 180 countries

Equity & Access in Schools

Chess in low-income & underserved schools

Global Survey 2026 Baseline

First FIDE-wide evidence database

COMPLEMENTARY · FIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS AS RESEARCH LABS

- Social development biographies of elite junior players
- Family dynamics & school support systems
- Social mobility & access in chess

POLITICAL MILESTONE

**High-Level Summit
Chess & Education
Samarkand · Sep 2026**



PRIORITY RESEARCH LINES

NOT cognitive scores. NOT test results.

Social science applied to schools — how chess transforms families, communities, and lives.

Open calls published May 2026. Only FIDE can study this at global scale.

RL-1

How does a school chess program transform family communication and parental engagement?

Family dynamics · cross-cultural · qualitative + survey · 3 language groups

RL-2

Does chess in a multicultural school generate social cohesion and cross-cultural peer bonds?

Social cohesion · inclusion · UNESCO priority · 10+ countries

RL-3

How does chess education shape adolescent emotional self-regulation across cultures?

Cross-cultural developmental study · impossible without FIDE's global access

RL-4

What social mechanisms allow children from low-income families to use chess as a mobility pathway?

Social capital · equity · longitudinal · Gates Foundation / Open Society priority

RL-5

Does a school chess program generate measurable social capital beyond the school — in the community?

Community impact · social cohesion · Horizon Europe / UNICEF funding line



THE DELIVERABLES

6 concrete products. By September 2026.

APR-JUN 2026

01 — Global Survey on Chess in Education

First FIDE-wide baseline: school programs in 180 countries.

MAY 2026

02 — 5 Priority Research Lines Published

FIDE defines the international agenda on chess & education.

JUN 2026

03 — Open Call for Research Proposals

International scholars invited to submit studies — FIDE as funder.

BY AUG 2026

04 — 5+ University Partnerships

Signed MOUs — Education Research Network active.

SEP 2026

05 — Journal — Vol. 1 Issue 1

Inaugural peer-reviewed issue. FIDE as published authority.

SEP 2026

06 — High-Level Summit at Olympiad

Chess & Education summit with senior education officials — Samarkand.



PRODUCT TIMELINE

Six products. Six months. One accountability moment: Samarkand.

APR — Global Survey Launched
|Baseline · 180 federations

1

2

MAY — 5 Research Lines Published
Open Call for Proposals

JUN — 5+ University MOUs Signed
Research Network active

3

4

JUL — Survey Results & Proposals
First proposals selected

— Journal Vol. 1 Published
Inaugural issue open access

5

6

SEP — Chess & Education Summit

- Journal Vol. 1
- 5+ University MOUs
- Survey Baseline
- Research Proposals

Every deliverable feeds Samarkand. Every result validates the program for 25 million children in schools worldwide.



STRATEGIC PRODUCT

Journal of Chess in Education & Human Development

Peer-reviewed · Open Access · FIDE-
indexed

- ISSN Registered
- Open Journal Systems (OJS)
- International Editorial Board

Vol. 1 · Issue 1 · August 2026

First journal in chess history.

What this unlocks for FIDE:

Scientific Credibility

FIDE stops claiming chess is educational.
FIDE proves it — in peer-reviewed literature.

Policy Leverage

180 education ministries respond to
evidence. The journal makes FIDE impossible
to ignore.

Major Funding Access

Horizon Europe, UNESCO, UNICEF require a
publication track record. This opens that
door.

Educator Legitimacy

237,000 teachers gain an internationally
validated framework for their work.



THE FIDE RESEARCH NETWORK

Open to universities and researchers worldwide — backed by FIDE.

No FIFA. No NBA. No UCI. No other sports federation has ever built this.

FIDE will be first.

The only sports federation in the world with a formal scientific research program.

Researchers

- Scientists submit proposals via Open Call
- Accepted researchers earn FIDE Research Fellow status
- Findings published in the FIDE Journal
- Global network grows each year

Universities

- Institutions sign MOUs with FIDE
- Joint research projects co-branded
- Co-authored publications in FIDE Journal
- Priority access to FIDE global data

Impact Chain

- Evidence feeds 180 national federations
- Governments respond to FIDE-backed science
- Opens doors: UNESCO, UNICEF, EU grants
- Chess becomes policy — not just activity

The FIDE Research Network transforms FIDE from a governing body into a global scientific institution.



THE VISION - 2026-2030

FIDE: The World Authority on Chess & Education

1

Global Evidence Base

First peer-reviewed body of research on chess in schools across 180 countries

2

Policy Change

Chess integrated in national school curricula — backed by FIDE scientific evidence

3

International Funding

UNESCO, Horizon Europe, UNICEF partnerships — tens of millions in research grants

4

Historic First

The only sports federation in the world with a formal scientific research program — ever.

2026 is the Year of Chess in Education. The window is open. The science starts now.

