

Status Report for the FIDE Council meeting of August 1-2, 2023

Dear FIDE Council members

FIDE's Social Commission (SOC) underwent different changing in the last months:

1. Geir Nesheim stepped down as Chairman of FIDE Social Commission by March 1st and as project leader of our flagship „Chess for Protection“ project. He was replaced by André Vögtlin in his role as chairman and by Sonja Johnson as head of Chess for Protection.
2. Additionally Prabitha Urwyler took over the lead of the new projects „Chess for the elderly“ and „SOC research“.
3. The announcement of these three new assignments has unfortunately not been made. We would recommend to do a short internal mail to FIDE's officials. A proposal has already been sent for some time.
4. The commission has a challenge with his website and social media. Our secretary or someone else from the commission should be enabled to post articles and manage the website. This is at the moment not possible. We need support from IT in this respect. An other issue is the renewal of this website which has been postponed to a later moment.
5. At the moment all SOC projects are well underway.
6. SOC Project „Research“: The head of the project is at the moment screening all research paper of Infinite Chess and Chess for Freedom. Our goal is to compile all available research results in one document to get a better understanding of the benefits of chess in our key projects. The project leaders welcomed the initiative and made research documents available.
7. SOC Project „Chess for Freedom“: After a very successful conference in Chicago in May the preparation of the upcoming online championships in October successfully started. 10 countries are registered for now (12 male teams, 1 female)
8. SOC Project „Chess for Protection“: The flagship program in Kakuma has to be reevaluated. After taking over her new assignment Sonja Johnson is setting up a new strategy for this project with the commission's chairman taking into consideration the new financial situation. The midterm strategy shall be sustainable and will be discussed in depth with the team in Kakuma. For June to August the expenses are covered.
9. SOC Project „Infinite: The 3rd phase of the pilot project (February-June 2023) included simultaneous implementation of the chess training for 120 kids children with autism spectrum disorder, based on the methodology developed by FIDE. The project is currently running in 12 countries: Spain, France, Latvia, Gibraltar, Albania, South Africa, Morocco, Malaysia, Turkey, Taiwan, Cyprus and Mongolia. It is co-financed by the IOC's Recognized International Federations' Development Program. As a next step of the project development, FIDE is planning to expand the implementation of the program in African and American continents.

10. NEW SOC Project „Chess for Elderly“: The project leader plans to pilot a first event in an elderly home and a chess club in the region of Northwest of Switzerland with a little group of participants between September and December. The goal is to later grow this pilot to other centers and countries.

11. NEW SOC Project „Chess for Life (drug addicts)“: The project team is launching a first event in August. The main FIDE partners are the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC) and the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities (EFTC). The next step is launching the project in 4 countries.

12. NEW SOC Project „No Box (children-at-risk)“: This project will soon be started with a pilot in Durban (SA) and a few more cities. The main project's goals are:

- To teach kids how to play chess: knowing all the basics about chess, being able to continue chess education by themselves online and offline: tournaments, online resources.
- To show kids that they can be successful in life and reach their own goals with different starting conditions and show how their lives could be changed and looked like in the future.

13. Thanks to the engagement of a dedicated group of SOC project leaders as well as our commission's secretary we build a social chess environment with the long-term goal to get world wide scope of activity.

14. The next SOC full commission meeting is planned mid September 2023.

André Vögtlin, chairman of FIDE Social Commission, July 19th, 2023