

CHESS IN EDUCATION (EDU) REPORT & PROPOSALS

Doc ref: *EDU REPORT to FIDE Council Q3 2020*

Ongoing Activities

The most important of these are:

- ◆ Preparation of Lecturers (POL) for the certification of Chess in Education Lecturer (CEL) qualifying them to give the new seminars for the School Instructor title.
- ◆ Preparation of Teachers (PoT) – development of the materials to be used by the Lecturers for the online seminars for teachers (OTT) to acquire the title of School Instructor.
- ◆ OTT overall is almost complete, final details should be added this month.
- ◆ Preparation of a programme module for universities (especially those with pedagogical studies) to use in their preparation of general teachers.
- ◆ Chess Science Research Institute (CSRI). The road map for a detailed *Research on the Current State of Educational Chess in the World* (see EDU Report to FIDE Council Q2 2020) awaits FIDE go-ahead. CSRI continues its research work and will be presenting to the 2nd Chess Researchers International Meeting, a teleconference (24-26) hosted in Parana, Brazil by their Center for Excellence in Chess.

Further details are given below in the sections relating to the relevant groups.

Meetings

The following Commission meetings, in addition to regular discussions between Chairman and Secretary, were held:

June 12 EDU Commission

New members introduced themselves. Commission then reviewed our strategy, our activities, our structure and the proper way for the Commission to work. Minutes:

<https://cloud.fide.com/s/fFaPR9NmBR7zkwL>

June 24 COM group (Communications)

The main theme of the meeting was the need for a strong two pronged communication plan regarding educational chess. One element targeted at those outside FIDE, the other inside FIDE. *The misconceptions we need to address: (outside) most people think we mean that 'playing' chess is educational, but that is only partial truth, but we have scientific evidence showing that chess is a powerful educational tool, especially when taught as an academic subject or in a transversal or inter-disciplinary way; (inside) the great majority of chess people believe that educational chess is simply playing chess inside the classroom. We must communicate to both groups, especially the 'inside' the huge differences between educational chess and sport chess and that the best way to develop the 'massification' of chess is through the promotion of educational chess (Armenia, Spain, Turkey and Uruguay providing classic examples in different ways).* Many other matters were discussed and proposals made how to move forward.

Minutes: <https://cloud.fide.com/s/sRLPabMPo7kLck5>

June 26 WEB group

Apart from detailed discussion about the web sites, their appearance, stylistic questions, YouTube, links with other educational chess web sites and possibly hosting online conferences or webinars, an important topic was that of collaboration with ChessTech.

Minutes: <https://cloud.fide.com/s/S3dq8SmimXM6jmy>

June 30 UNI group

Probably the most important item of discussion revolved around the development of a model curriculum, FIDE approved, to be shared with universities. This matter has been subsequently progressed by the UNI-curriculum sub-group.

We should develop the Research section of our web site with the aim of building up a complete list of all the research that has been done on chess in education.

Minutes: <https://cloud.fide.com/s/C9R25ZaEbfTPAzp>

July 2 HQS group (High Quality Standards – content development)

This meeting (and follow-ups) was devoted mainly to finalizing the organization, structure, programme and necessary documents for OTT, PoL (including content) and PoT (progressing content), the updated system leading to the School Instructor title.

Minutes: <https://cloud.fide.com/s/GcrxtdJfwm6Ksnr>

September 1 UNI-curriculum (sub group)

There was much discussion about what course(s) we should have. Most members argued *against* a Chess ‘101’ type course (single semester), as used by several universities around the world. It was decided to concentrate on a course for university students who would go on to become chess teachers. Three possibilities are being considered: Alexander Kostyev’s 2 semester course, the 51 lesson (3-4 semesters) course from Armenia and Atanu Lahiri’s outline (4 semesters). Details of the three will be submitted by 25 September and then we will attempt to combine them, failing which one will be selected.

Aside from EDU Commission meetings and the EDU workgroup meetings (HQS, WEB, UNI, COM) there have been important online meetings with others (the period up to May was covered in EDU’s last report to FIDE Council):

July 13 DIS (FIDE Commission for the Disabled)

This was an initial meeting to consider possible cooperation, especially with regard to the visually impaired (see August 7).

August 3 FIDE Online

This was a meeting between several EDU members and Anna Burtasova and Ilya Gorodetsky for FIDE to discuss how we can work together. It was largely agreed that we need a clear, even simplistic message, although Ilya is convinced that “nobody reads any text these days!” Perhaps, therefore it might be best to develop our YouTube channel. Ilya also believes that we cannot reach people outside the chess world; while accepting that it is difficult to do so, others disagreed.

EDU Chairman Lputian summed up: We should identify people (around world) who can help amplify our message. Want to collaborate with entities inside (federations) & outside (UN, UNESCO, ...) - important to continue in parallel, both inside & outside. Kindergarten, primary, secondary, university all have their place & importance.

August 7 DIS

This was a more detailed discussion and involved the expert Dora Leticia as well as Thomas Luther. Dora will contact experienced visually a impaired user in Germany and will gather details of available platform software that might be suitable. In any event, teaching materials will be needed; such works could be a series - visually impaired, cognitively impaired, ..., starting with visually impaired.

September 2 CSRI

This meeting was devoted to finalizing PoL details. Aspects included: basic skills required (good English, chess knowledge, technical IT), application process, CEL certificate to be valid for three years.

Ongoing works are being implemented towards activation of continental EDU commissions, formation of strong team to work with.

Suggestions

We repeat our suggestions (previously made to PB Q3 2019 & to FIDE Council Q2):

(1) We recommend that FIDE address to all national federations the desirability of the creation of their own national EDU commissions. [We are, of course, happy to provide a draft for the Secretariat to circulate]

(2) We suggest that DEV allocations to the continents for CiS/CiE be discussed with EDU so that we may advise which projects may be effective in our area of expertise.

EDU Chairman, GM Smbat Lputian, 2020 0917