

FIDE Chess in Education (EDU) Commission Report 2020

With no proper budget, 2020 has been a difficult year. However, much has been achieved. Scroll to the end of this document for what we hope to achieve in 2021 (budget permitting).

1. ACTIVITIES – Commission as a whole (see below – 2 - for the Groups)

After many of the Chairman's meetings, materials have been sent to help those federations.

From January 30 to February 1, Smbat Lputyan in Cyprus met with the director of Secondary Education of the Ministry of Education Dr. Kyprianos Louis , as well as the president of the European Chess Union Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili, chairman of Educational Commission Mr. Jesper Hall and Emil Sutovsky, to discuss the activities and future plans of "Chess in Education".

Feb 23-26-ECU EDU chairman Jesper Hall's visit to Armenia, where he had a meeting with "Chess" Scientific Research Institute (CSRI) representatives and school chess teachers and gave a course on 24-25 February. Discussions were held with S. Lputian on the possible cooperation for CIE activities.

On February 26-29, Smbat Lputian participated in the 90th FIDE Summit in Abu Dhabi.

Meeting with Min. of Educ. Representative (Dr. Hamad Mohamed Al Yahyaei- Assistant Undersecretary for Curriculum and Assessment Sector)

Letters of intent signed in Abu Dhabi with 15 federation representatives where they express their readiness to collaborate toward boosting the activities related to Chess in Education.

1.A. ZOOM MEETINGS

- April 24 – online meeting with Sergio Panno and Oscar Panno from Argentina re cooperation and ideas for Chess in Schools.

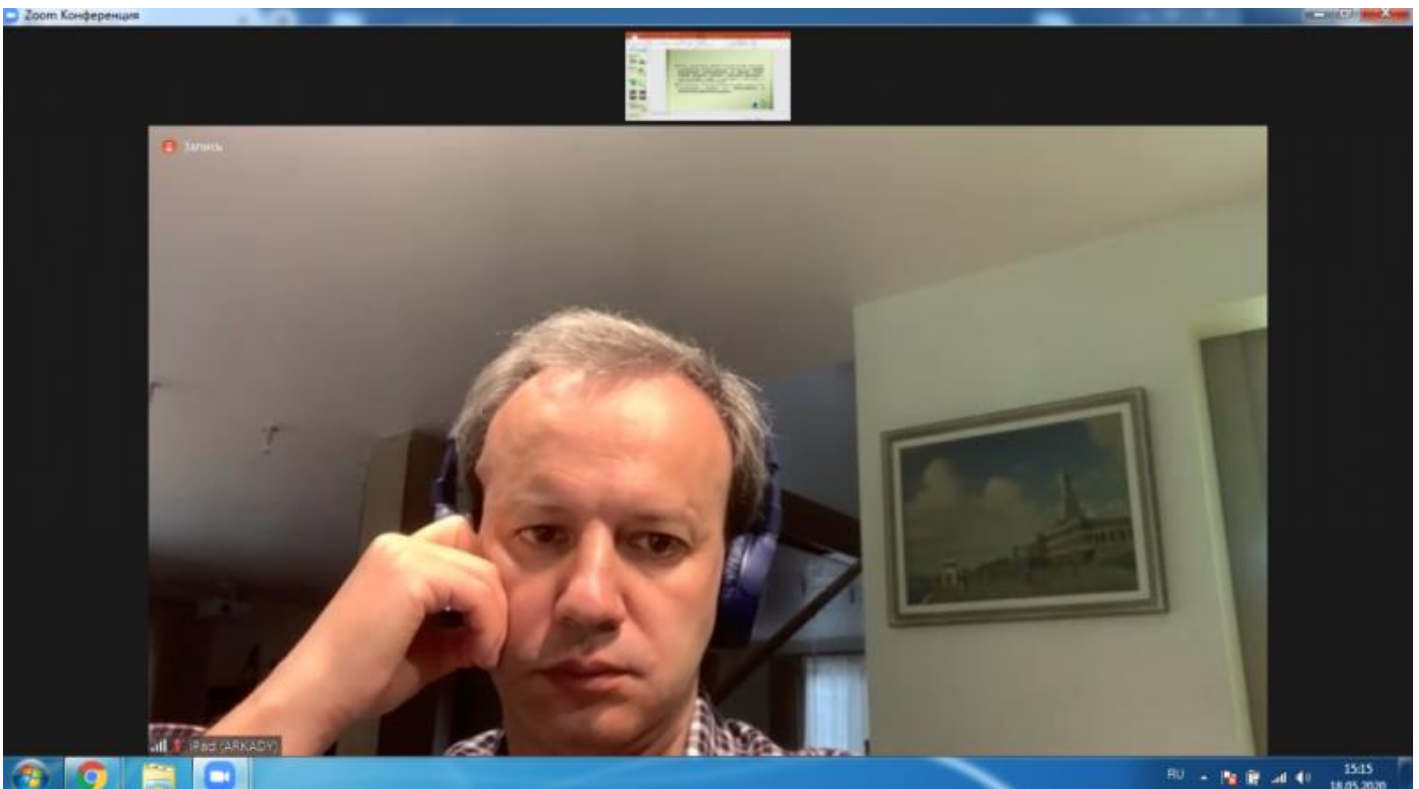
April 30 - online discussions with CCA - Confederation of Chess for Americas EDU commission representatives-Darcy Lima, Esteban Jaureguizar & Charles Mourra Neto.

May 1- video conference with the chess community of Turkmenistan headed by the chairman of Turkmenistan Chess Federation Muratdurdy Hashayev. Main focus was

on educational processes, the training of chess teachers and trainers, as well as exchange of experience on the methods of online chess teaching.

- May 1 An online meeting was held on May 1 with the participation of Arkady Dvorkovich, Judit Polgar, Dana Reizniece, Victor Bologan, Smbat Lputian, Kevin O’Connell, Uvencio Blanco, Leontxo García, Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, Jesper Hall and Yervant Zorian. The main subject of discussion was an eventual FIDE-ECU Project “Chess in Education 2020” that aims to work on those chess teaching programs, which in their different formats are being applied, both in initial and primary education, in the vast majority of countries with national chess federations affiliated to FIDE.

- May 18 On the initiative of Smbat Lputian, Director of Chess Academy of Armenia and “Chess” Scientific Research Institute, Chairman of FIDE Chess in Education



Commission (EDU), an online meeting was held with the participation of Institute’s researchers, FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich, FIDE Director General Emil Sutovsky and Secretary General of FIDE EDU commission Kevin O’Connell.

-- May 22. Meeting with President Dvorkovich. The Commission work programme, future activities and cooperation perspectives were discussed. Those present: EDU Council : Chairman Smbat Lputian, Honorary Chairman and Secretary Kevin O’Connell, Councillor Leontxo Garcia, Councillor Uvencio Blanco, Councillor Yevgennij Vladimirov, Webmaster Luis Blasco. FIDE Deputy President Bachar

Kouatly, FIDE Vice President Lukasz Turlej, FIDE Executive Director Victor Bologan, FIDE Assistant to President Konstantin Kiselev, FIDE Secretariat : Sava Stojisavljevic.

May 26, 2020 – Smbat Lputian hold an online meeting with Iranian representatives of the field Mr. Seyed Mostafa Hashemi Taba (Director of Tehran State Chess College and member of FIDE’s EDU Commission) and Mr. Mohammadnaghi Ebrahimzadeh (Chairman of the Educational Commission of the Iranian Chess Federation), where they discussed on ongoing activities in chess education field.

June 12, 2020 – EDU Commission online meeting. Items on the agenda: commission strategy, activities, structure.

June 16, 2020 - zoom meeting with Syria chess federation president Ali Abbas, where projects about teaching chess in school were discussed.

June 26, 2020 - on the initiative of Smbat Lputian, an online meeting was held with WGM Dana Reizniece-Ozola, the Vice-President of the European Chess Union (ECU), with the participation of Institute's researchers.

- July 13: An initial meeting with DIS (FIDE Commission for the Disabled) to consider possible cooperation, especially with regard to the visually impaired.

- 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.

- August 7: A more detailed discussion with DIS, involving the expert Dora Leticia as well as Thomas Luther. Dora will contact experienced visually an 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.

- Sept 17 – meeting between EDU and ChessMatec for the presentation of the platform and program and exchange of ideas.

- Sept 29 - meeting between EDU and Chessity for the presentation of the platform and program and exchange of ideas.

- October 23 : Presentation by Kevin O’Connell to ECU/FIDE CiE meeting.

- Chairman met with UN Ambassador H.E. Mher Margaryan. He chaired the United Nations virtual event in Observance of World Chess Day, *Chess for Recovering Better** on 20 July . In 2019, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 74/22 designating the 20th of July as World Chess Day. The resolution acknowledges the important opportunities offered by chess in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, such as strengthening education, promoting empowerment of women and girls, global cooperation and culture of peace through chess as an affordable and inclusive activity. *Chess for Recovering Better can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KAXgvV2y5E>
- Chairman met with Abigail Tian Hongwei (China).
- ISF (International School Sport Federation) Chairman met with Sports director Josip Košutic and Ozgur Solakoglu, discussions on the ISF activities and possible cooperation.
- Chairman met with Zef Tillman (President of Timor Leste CH (East Timor)) and GM Ziaur Rahman (Bangladesh
- Chairman met with Inthava Vilavane (Laos).
- Chairman met with Mariano Ortega (Cape Verde) – will have support of MinEd to change their CiSQ program to a curriculum subject. Implementing a pilot in one school, then will extend to all schools.
- Chairman met with Carlos Rivero, the President of Cuban Chess Federation - in Cuba, a new agreement was signed between the National Sports Institute and the Ministry of Education related to all sports and also to resume with greater interest the development of Chess in Schools.
- Chairman discussed with Pakistan their pilot in four regions – chess to be included in 25 schools in each region.
- Chairman discussed with Jamie Kenmure and Leonid Sandler (Australia) the perspectives of CIE development in Asian countries.

1.B. SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR (SI) SEMINARS

This year's program of School Instructors has been curtailed while program improvements have been worked on by the HQS group. However, several seminars have been held:

- Lomé, Togo (25 titles)
- Freetown, Sierra Leone (0 titles – unfortunately, Coronavirus intervened badly : the lecturer was only just able to leave Sierra Leone but was stranded for weeks in West Africa, examination papers could not be marked)
- Mauritania Online (20-23 November by Zoom, open to francophones anywhere in the world)

The 1 completed provided income of €1250+ for FIDE-EDU.

The revised course for Teachers, for the SI title, is complete except for final proof-reading.

The new course for Lecturers is complete.

1.C. CONFERENCES

- Association Internationale des Echecs Francophones (AIDEF) Visioconférence 1. 6 June.
- Association Internationale des Echecs Francophones (AIDEF) Visioconférence 2. 3 July.
- Association Internationale des Echecs Francophones (AIDEF) Visioconférence 3. 16 October. Kevin O'Connell made a detailed presentation of the newly improved SI seminar system and expressed the hope that a French version would be in place by mid 2021.
- Brazil Online – 17 November II Chess Researchers International Meeting - Vahan Sargsyan, Serob Khachatryan, Anzhela Sargsyan, Armine Khachatryan attended. There was a big audience for this meeting between the Conference organizers and CSRI.
- Brazil Online - II Encontro Internacional de Pesquisadores em Xadrez (2nd International Conference of Chess Researchers) 24-26 November. Chairman and Honorary Chairman been invited to make presentations.
- London Online ChessTech2020 5-6 December. It clashes with the FIDE Online Congress but EDU will be represented.
- Madrid Online 19-20 December. Organized by EDU member Luis Blasco.
- 1 Congreso Internacional de Ajedrez Pre Escolar 20-21 February 2021. EDU Councillor Leontxo Garcia will be the main presenter.

1.D. CHESS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CSRI)

Although the Journal has had to be put on hold (budget), the CSRI continues to work closely with EDU, especially the HQS group.

CSRI now has its own informative web site : <http://chesstudy.com/>

2. ACTIVITIES – by Group

There were many meetings during the year of the four workgroups : assessing and improving the quality of materials (HQS), tertiary level education (UNI), communication (COM), and maintaining our web sites – (WEB).

2A. COM

A first EDU Newsletter was produced, now to be brought in line stylistically with the main FIDE newsletter. The target group for the EDU Newsletter is almost completely separate from that of the FIDE newsletter. It is targeted specifically at those in the field of educational chess. Our database (300+) was provided for the World Survey of Chess in Schools.

2B. HQS

This group has concentrated on examining, assessing and improving the materials relating to the School Instructor seminars.

- July 2 : This meeting (and follow-ups) was devoted mainly to finalizing the organization, structure, programme, and necessary documents for the preparation of lecturers (PoL) and preparation of teachers (PoT), the updated system leading to the School Instructor title.

2C. UNI

Probably the most important item of the discussion revolved around the development of a model curriculum, FIDE approved, to be shared with universities.

- 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.

- 1 September : Voluminous discussion about a model curriculum.

- November 9 : Proposals and regulations for University World Rapid and Blitz Championships, with entries from Universities (not just countries). Chairman has discussed the matter with ECE Commission and this is almost ready to be made as a formal proposal. Chairman to discuss how to proceed with FIDE management.

- EDU approves a FIDE University course for teachers. It is based on the course developed by Samvel Misakyan and is readily adaptable by any University to fit their teaching schedules.

- A Chess 101 course. This will be for university students in general, to improve their critical thinking.

2D. WEB

Without any budget, the web site has been limited to basics, not the ‘all singing, all dancing’ site that had been anticipated.

3. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Methodological improvement of training materials, especially PoL & PoT for the SI Online Seminar program.
- Great deal of work preparing for Early Years Skills (EYS) online course implementation in 2021.

4. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO KPIs noted in 2019 Budget

4.1. List of approved Chess materials for teachers

New materials are being prepared by CSRI.

4.2. List of approved Chess materials for students (by age)

2nd grade structure sent to several federations.

4.3. Delivery of On Line Training programmes and certification for teachers

The OTT (Online Teacher Training) program is 99.5 % complete.

4.4. CiS plan by Continent

- Europe : Extensive discussions.
- Africa : Chairman has held discussions with African Chess Confederation leading to the establishment of a continental EDU commission chaired by Mothokomedi Thabano (Botswana)
- Americas : Several online meetings and discussions were held with Darcy Lima, Charles Moura Neto and others.
- Asia : There have been continued difficulties in progressing matters with Asian Chess Federation.

5. WHAT WORKED WELL

Internal cooperation activities have become more effective.

6. WHAT CAN BE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS

Encourage members to follow up with ideas and suggestions. These have been in short supply. And that has reduced the effectiveness of the many meetings held.

Cooperation with continental bodies should be more activated.

More finances should be invested to implement more effective projects and activate people in their work.

7. PLANS FOR 2021

Emphasis will be on :

- Introducing and widely promoting the SI system. PoLto capacitate Lecturers & PoT to qualify teachers for the SI title.
- Early Years Skills – still awaiting signature by FIDE of the contract with Le Due Torri.
- Universities courses ; complete FIDE endorsed course & develop Chess 101 course.
- Universities Championship (see 2C above)
- One or two Conferences to be organized (budget permitting)
- With FIDE support to increase the number of EDU committees in national federations.

GM Smbat Lputian
EDU Chairman
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