

Report of Chess in Schools Commission Chairman Kevin O'Connell

Our mission:

- Chess for Education (CFE) not Education for Chess (EFC).
- Using chess within the educational framework to improve educational outcomes rather than using the educational environment to produce chess players (although that is an inevitable and very welcome by-product).
- The main focus of CiS is a social educational programme in primary and secondary schools, with particular emphasis on the ages 7-11.
- 'CiS' now provides a social educational programme for pre-schoolers at home or in kindergarten (EYS).
- 'CiS' is also important at third level, in further education, especially aiming to encourage research and to develop the professionalization of chess teaching.

The main areas of activity since the last General Assembly in Tromso:

1. Promotion of chess in schools through multiple means, such as the Chess and Education conferences (started in Istanbul 2012 – we have been represented in Cuneo & London 2015, Brussels in 2016 and should also be in Geneva and Montevideo in before Baku) and the ongoing visits, especially by the FIDE President, to many federations, the promotion of chess in schools being the main unifying factor of these visits.
2. Budget cuts, austerity & consequences. It has been very difficult to adapt to a sudden 50% budget cut well into the year, having already committed to expenditures. One instant cut was to use Skype for the Council meeting on 7 May; it was very unsatisfactory with little possibility of useful discussion and I sincerely hope that next year's budget will enable us to revert to a physical meeting (in respect of which, I thank the Spanish federation, FEDA, for offering to host next year's Council meeting, although travel costs will still be substantial given the wide geographical spread of our Council members).
3. The budget cut further increases our need to offer the School Instructor title by Distance Learning (retaining the examination in a physical exam hall) and this is a central part of the proposals that we are making, with support from many federations, to the GA in Baku.
4. The new Diploma for FIDE School Chess Leader (FSCL), approved by Sochi PB, was confirmed by Abu Dhabi EB. It is expected that some financial help from the IOC will enable us to complete the online support and development platform for FSCL.
5. The Early Years Skills (EYS) programme was also approved by Abu Dhabi EB. Financial assistance received from the IOC has enabled us, in partnership with the EU Erasmus+ CASTLE project, to make this syllabus available. There are 50+ explanatory videos on our dedicated web site (eys.fide.com) which show teachers how to implement the lesson activities for kindergarten children.
6. We must move more and more to the use of Distance Learning, delivered electronically online, by direct download or by email. The EYS platform, FSCL platform, FIDE Student Magazine (FSM), Planet Chess course in multiple languages, *Chess in Schools – Our Global Future* and many more are examples of this. It is essential that School Instructor also be delivered in this way (see the Commission's Proposal document).

7. Multi-lingual web sites, launched in January 2012, to support both our chess in schools work and FIDE-CiS Student Membership (a synergistic part of the whole), are now available in 12 languages, having added Chinese at the end of 2014. Regrettably, budget cuts are threatening several of these.
8. We have now produced a variety of class books and teacher guides in multiple languages. One series is available in 3 languages, another in all 12 of our supported languages.
9. We have produced more than 130 magazines (1000+ pages of FSM, all in a choice of languages) for our FIDE Student members, more than two issues each month. As I write, FSM136 is being translated and FSM144 should appear during or shortly after our Congress in Baku. We have also produced 'specials' for the Premium members, with PSM03 due to appear during or shortly after Baku.

The development of chess in schools is a two-way process, with the Commission learning from developments around the world and then sharing that information to facilitate the programmes in other countries.

1. Chess in Schools – Our Global Future

This full colour 48 page booklet has been the cornerstone of our promotional materials. A revised, second edition of 1,000 copies was distributed in Tromsø during the Congress. It proved so popular that a reprint of a further 1,000 copies was made at the end of the year. It is an important support for the President and others outside of the Commission to help promote the worldwide implementation of chess in schools projects. The current edition is available for free download from our web site. You are free to use it to promote chess in schools in your country. The budget cuts have prevented us from producing a new edition (with some translations) for 2016.

2. Global sponsorship of FIDE-CiS

The objectives laid out at the time of the Rosneft 2011-2012 global sponsorship:

Under the agreement, Rosneft will be involved in World Chess Federation international educational projects to encourage children and teenagers to play chess. Cooperation envisages seminars and training sessions in schools, as well as educational conferences.

Their support meant that we were able to extend our support of chess in schools to many more federations – see our report for the year 2012 (2012 CiS Annual Report).

Rosneft were pleased and impressed by our work and by the publicity generated, including TV, press and internet coverage amounting to more than 5,000,000 page views.

As we all know, getting (and retaining) sponsorship is difficult, even when it results in impressive returns. FIDE, especially through our President, is actively seeking a new global sponsor for chess in schools. This search is ongoing.

In the meantime, our support materials have been of assistance in getting local sponsorships and some 100 sponsoring companies help individual countries.

We seek the backing of Congress as we look to formalize a coordinated method of approach for sponsorships.

3. Multilingual web sites

Perhaps the most important function of the original site (cis.fide.com) is to be a repository of the teaching materials that FIDE-CiS has made available for Chess in Schools projects around the globe. Those materials, for both children and teachers are all provided free of charge. The essentials for any chess in schools programme are all to be found there.

4. Class and Teacher books

The *Planet Chess* series (mini curriculum) is available for free download in English, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

The English edition of both a Russian class book and workbook has been completed: *Chess: The First Year of Study* by Elvira Umanskaya and Ekaterina Volkova.

The class books for years one and two and the teacher guide by Dr Olgun Kulaç, which are at the core of the highly successful Turkish programme, have been translated into English, French and Arabic.

The latest development is the creation of the Early Years Skills curriculum, teacher e-book and series of how-to videos. See eys.fide.com.

5. Magazines

The FIDE Student Magazine (FSM) is freely available to all children of all federations. Until the end of 2013, we sent 12 magazines (96+ pages total) each year to our Basic (free) members, while Premium members received 32 magazines (256+ pages total) each year. Now FSM magazines are available, free, to all and with our multiple languages, almost all children on the planet should find one that they can enjoy.

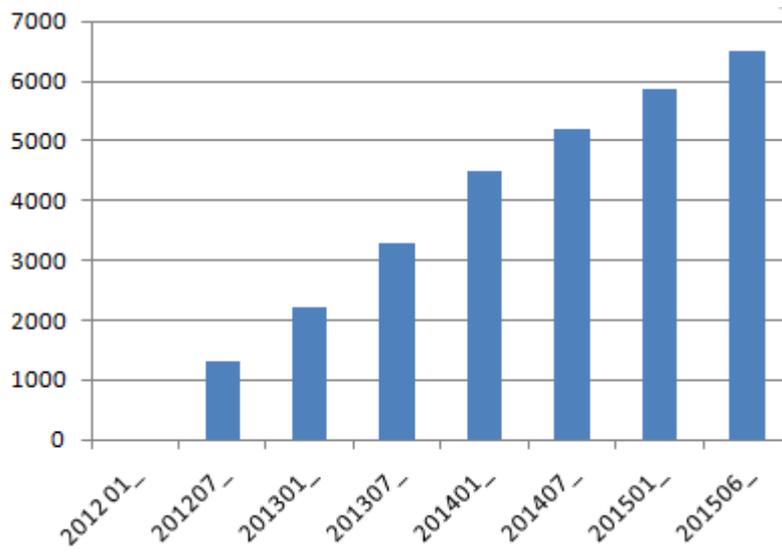
6. FIDE Student Membership

The main features of FIDE student membership can be found in the Handbook. We would like to stress two things:

- Membership is open to all (under-18) and free of charge.
- The FSM magazine is free for all.

Premium Membership costs a maximum €10 per year. New in 2015 is that, as we develop more partner federations, so they will benefit from 80%-95% of the revenues.

We stress the free Basic membership because it can attract a huge number of members, at no cost whatsoever to the federations. Those are the numbers we want in order to impress sponsors, both global and local to you! They are also a rich source of potential future paid-up members of your federation – follow in Slovakia’s footsteps! Here is how our FSM membership has grown since it started in 2012:



Now (11 June 2016) – 7966 members, a greater than 20% increase year on year.

7. Teacher Training

Teachers have been trained in Algeria, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Malawi, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Trinidad & Tobago. To maintain this momentum, we must develop Distance Learning delivery systems!

8. Documents & Statistics

We would also like to draw your attention to some documents at cis.fide.com. They are full of useful statistics about CiS. We ask you please to look at them ensure that information from your federation is both present and correct.

- *CiS Worldwide Statistics* – this gives information about where there are CiS programmes, who runs them, how many schools, children and teachers are involved, all on a country-by-country basis.
- *School Year Worldwide* – this allows you to see at a glance the school year (start and finish) for each country. Most schools work from September/October until June, but there are variations around the world, especially in the Southern Hemisphere, where something like the calendar year is common.
- *Chess in Curriculum* – this is our first attempt (late 2014) at compiling a complete list of those countries and/or regions that have introduced chess into the curriculum. We have tried to detail whether chess is a compulsory or optional part of the curriculum and the year of introduction. We need your input to build this information.