



Educational Commission Survey

General Guidance

The European Chess Union (ECU) (<http://www.europechess.org>) is conducting a survey of its member Federations. We are grateful for any assistance that you can provide for us to make the results of this exercise accurate and reliable. This will enable the ECU to plan its projects in support of the education of children and young people in Europe.

Objectives

The survey has two objectives:

- To obtain basic information about the member Federations of the ECU
- To understand the place of chess in the education system of the Federation countries

Survey process

The person conducting the survey (the Investigator) of a country is responsible for gathering the data from the Federation and from the Chess in Schools (CiS) organisations. The methods used will be at the discretion of the Investigator but are likely to include online research, telephone and Skype calls, emailing the questionnaire and engaging in email correspondence with the key individuals in each Federation and CiS organisation. The information obtained will be gathered into a questionnaire prepared by the ECU. The working language is English.

The emphasis of the survey is on gathering information about CiS projects. Therefore it is important to find out the names of the major CiS organisations in each country, the names of the key individuals and the website and contact information.

Each survey should be completed as soon as possible and in any event by the 16th August 2015.

Survey detail

- 1) The ECU will send an introductory e-mail to all Federations notifying them that a survey is to be conducted, explaining the purpose of the survey, and asking them to co-operate with the Investigator.
- 2) The Investigator will then contact the Federation, introducing themselves and informing them that he or she will be conducting the survey. The Investigator will then contact a key person at the Federation to discuss the survey and get the basic information required regarding the Federation. The Investigator will be provided with the initial contact details for the Federation by the ECU but will be expected to find out who are the key people at the Federation and the CiS organisations. It is anticipated that at least three people will be contacted in each country in order to be able to complete the survey and to obtain a diversity of views.
- 3) The key people at the Federation and the CiS organisations should be interviewed. Ideally this should be done in the form of a telephone or Skype conversation. The Investigator does not need to ask the full set of questions to everyone. Some respondents will be able to answer only some questions. The Investigator can ask who would be the best person to answer some specific questions.
- 4) It is best to start by requesting the basic statistics first. The Investigator should carefully examine the data obtained to ensure that it is as accurate and reliable as possible. The Investigator should not be afraid to ask further questions about the background to the answers. The questionnaire has a column where comments can be made regarding the assumptions or special situations behind the answers. For example, if data is only available for the previous year then this should be used and a comment made to explain this.
- 5) It may be difficult or impossible to get answers to some of the questions or to collect data. This should be explained in the comments. If it appears that an answer may be inaccurate or unreliable, then this should also be mentioned in the comments column.
- 6) The final stage in completing the survey is to get authorisation from the key person at the Federation that the contents are truthful and as accurate as can be obtained.

Commentary on the survey

Before you submit the completed survey, you need to complete some basic data about your work including your name and contact details, the dates during which the survey was conducted, whom you contacted, whom you spoke to and the sources of the information.

In the comments column you can write down the problems you face in getting answers, the various opinions you get from different people and any other relevant information that will help us to interpret the answers. Note that we expect you to find some difficulties in completing this survey and it is not a reflection on your performance as an Investigator.

The last part of the questionnaire includes a section for you to comment on the work you have done for that country and to include any observations on the subject of chess in schools.

Submission of Results

Once you have completed the survey you should send it to Jesper Hall (jesper.hall@comhem.se).

If you have any queries about the questionnaire during the process please contact Jesper.

Processing the results

Each country will have to be making different assumptions and definitions and so the task of producing a summary report will be to try to ensure that we are comparing apples with apples. For this reason, you may be asked to clarify some of the answers that you submitted. We would ask you to respond as quickly as possible to these follow-up queries in order not to delay the production of the summary report.

Summary report

The information from each submission will be collated and a summary report will be produced in English. The report will set out how the results were gathered. This information is necessary for the scientific credibility of the survey. The published report will contain summary and detailed information about the ECU countries and their chess federations and CiS projects. The comments column will not be published. Its contents will be integrated into the main report or used internally by the ECU to interpret the data and to assist with designing a future survey. The report will most likely be available on the ECU website. Jesper Hall and John Foley will conduct the work on the summary report. The language will be English.

Important considerations

- 1) There may be internal conflicts in the countries between the Federations and the CiS organisations and projects. It is very important that the ECU Investigator is neutral. The Investigator should bear in mind that ECU represents the Federations of the countries, and so we must act according to their wishes. The completed survey must be authorised by a key person from the Federation.
- 2) A chess project is classified as CiS if its main purpose is to improve either the general academic performance or the social behaviour of the pupils. If the main purpose is to improve the chess-playing ability of the pupils, then it is not classified as CiS but instead is regarded as a junior training project. CiS projects are usually associated with a curriculum and teaching materials and the tutor will have some training or expertise in teaching chess.
- 3) Chess in Schools projects fall into different categories, including:
 - Some are well defined and are known to the Federation. Others may be conducted without reference to the Federations;
 - Some are integrated into the school time-table, others are lunchtime or pre-school or after-school clubs which only involve a few children;
 - Some projects are mandatory for children whereas others allow chess to be optional;
 - Some emphasise competitions as a way to learn chess whereas others have a strong pedagogic component;
 - Some are Education for Chess projects which improve the chess ability of children, but are outside the general education system;

You should try and distinguish between these different categories so that we can make meaningful comparisons.

- 4) Many individuals or small groups give private chess lessons in schools and there is no central record of their activity for CiS purposes. In these circumstances, it could be mentioned whether this is believed to be a significant number compared to the national totals.

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