Chess in Schools in Italy

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Today

Chess instruction and activities **are not mandatory**
They are an optional extra
and chess can only be added to the curriculum
(during lesson hours) on a year-by-year basis.
This decision is made by school teaching staff

About **50,000 children are involved** (most at primary school)
and mainly with chess instructors.
We cannot determine exactly **how many school teachers**
conduct chess activities during lesson time.
**Around 800 schools are involved**
There are **7,000 participants** in national School tournaments (GSS)
An agreement
between the Education Ministry (MIUR)
and the Italian Chess Federation (FSI) was signed in 2015

50 free training courses for school teachers in Italy during 2015/2016

Free supply of chess material to 350 schools

Free access to the Junior Arena website given to all Italian students

FSI Budget € 20,000
Relevant past projects

2005-2010: Chess in schools in Piedmont
organised by the Piedmont Committee of the Italian Chess Federation

Each year 20,000 students participated
in activities carried out by chess instructors during school hours

Supported by:
Compagnia di San Paolo Bank Foundation, Piedmont Region
Many municipal governments and other bank foundations
The schools involved in the project

Annual budget € 300,000
Relevant past projects

2013: CIS towns project

Thanks to the agreement signed between ACES Europe and FIDE

In Italy 20 towns involved, with 2,200 students, and 110 teachers trained via the Internet

Budget € 10,000
Relevant past projects

2014: From schools to chess clubs project
MSP-Italia (national sports promotion body) with CONI and the Italian Chess Federation.

700 teachers participated
15 training courses throughout Italy
Free supply of chess material to 150 schools

Budget: €150,000
Research

2005-2015: 11 research projects on the effect and results of Chess in Schools
Most of these co-financed by the Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation at both a regional and national level, with the participation of:

Turin University (Prof. Trinchero)
Palermo University (Prof. Spagnolo)
Liverpool University (Prof. Gobet)
Italian National Research Centre (CNR Rome, Prof. Parisi)
Italian Ministry of Education (MIUR, Dr. Scala)
National Institute for Education Evaluation (INVALSI, Dr Cipollone, Prof. Martini)
Current projects

2016: Chess in schools action

Organized by Obiettivo Risarcimento and Messaggerie Scacchistiche

Free supply of 4,000 chess books to schools

Budget: € 20,000
Current projects

2014-2017: The CASTLE project - Erasmus +
In Italy, Spain and Germany there are 900 students, with 50 teachers involved in training and tutoring 3-year research project
Development of chess curriculums by school teachers
Main partners:
Italian and Spanish ministries of education (regional offices)
Turin University
Alfiere Bianco (coordinating group), Club 64 Villalba Madrid, Deutsche Schulschachstiftung
3 schools (plus 9 stakeholders)

Budget: €246,300
CIS: What is needed for the future

Currently in Italy we have not been able to involve more than 2% of the student population. To follow up on the progress achieved as a result of the written declaration of 2012 and the Erasmus + programme, more direct EU funding for Chess in Schools will be a crucial factor for continued growth and further success.

Thank you!