Corsica, land of Chess

Corsica: **320 000 inhabitants**

**45 000 schoolchildren** initiated into chess the last 17 years during the school time

25 chess teachers including 18 employees by the Corsican league

2015-2016...

**5 619** schoolchildren concerned

**243** classes in **70** schools - **6 800** theoretical teaching sessions per year

But also **800** secondary school pupils and **50** students (University of Corsica)

Many **bilingual instructional books**
a monthly magazine, 4 learning manuals, several workbooks

Around **400 tournaments** a year.
Among which the largest mass event in the world in June to Bastia (3 500 players)

**Corsican elo**
200 points for under 6, 300 for under 8 etc. Immediate evolution
http://elo.corse-echecs.com/
Our means

- Agreements

with the « Rectorat » authorizing intervention in school time
with the « Collectivité Territoriale de Corse, » unanimous vote of the corsican Assembly
with the 2 « Conseils départementaux »
with the most important municipalities of the island

- Sponsors

many companies (more than 100 for all our tournaments) and an official partner
oscaro.com (mondial leader in the sale of car parts on the internet)

Total Budget : 1 M €

- Communication

Strong communication: all newspapers, radio and tv Corsica regularly treat events.
A program devoted to chess : « échec et mat »
A very popular website : corse-echecs.corsica

- International Events

Corsican Circuit : 100 000 € of prizes
International Open of Calvi (10 000 €) - Purticciu (15 000 €)
Porto-vecchio champions Match (Karpov, Spassky, Carlsen, Radjabov, Judith Polgar,
Hou Yifan, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Vishy Anand, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave etc…
European Youth tournament in Bastia
Blitz tournaments in july (18 000 € of prizes)
How to explain this success?

- The first reason
  we start from almost nothing so…we could easily avoid an elitist conception

- The most important reason
  we have developed a strategy based on the synergy between clubs and schools
  with the effect of developing chess economy

As we have significantly broadened the base of the pyramid, our summit is much higher
15 years ago we were pleased to have a young player in 20th position in the french championship, now we have several titles and podium.

Today Chess is the first sport in Corsica for children aged 5 to 16 years old before football!