

Dear Friends,

20 years ago, I thought why not if FIDE will provide not only World Youth Championships but also FIDE can provide World School Championships too.



It means School Events will be not for National youth champions or for very strong chess players but School Events became good practice for chess champions from any school in the World.

And new Event was arranged. It happened in FIDE Congress-2003 (Kallithea, Greece). My idea was supported by FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, he announced "School Chess Year in all FIDE countries" and since 2005 World School Chess Championship has started.



Unofficial was in Bulgaria but then Events were in Czech Republic, Turkey, Greece (many times), Poland, Romania, Russia, Albania, also Brazil, Thailand, next will be in Peru...

For 20 years period about 10 school champions became IG. I am sure that future IG is sitting in this hall.

Beside competitions more seminars for teachers were arranged during Events, majority during European Events. As result, in ECU was created commission "Chess in Schools" (now "Chess Education").



My special Thanks to Romanian Chess Federation which tried to do Romania as the leader in the field of school chess. I remember my first visit to Iasi in 2010 where I was invited as consultant for future important chess competitions. Two chess brothers, Vlad Ungureany and Vlad Danilov, with Mr. Yacoban and Vasile Manoly became the great organizers. My friend Ion Dobronauteany is the very strong pusher for important school events in Europa.



I would like to say many thanks to Theodoros Tzorbatzogloy which give me start many years ago in Kallithea and continue to support my ideas.

And, of course, I am very glad that President of European Chess Union IG Zurab Azmaiparashvili fully support school chess in Europe, he gave us possibility to create commission "Chess Education", the best school commission in FIDE.



I wish to all participants of Conference "Education through Chess" many interesting discussions, exchange experience, new ideas in the field of chess education.

Best Regards,

Alexander Kostyev

ISCY President