



**ARCADY DVORKOVICH**

**FIDE President**

Dear friends, it's my honored pleasure to welcome you at the opening session of the "Chess in Education" international online conference. The first major conference FIDE has organized in the context of educational chess.

I want to start my speech with gratitude to everyone who contributed a lot to the organization of this conference and generally to the development of educational chess.

I would like to note Kevin O'Connell, Smbat Lputian, Leontxo Garcia, Bartek Macieja and others for their invaluable investment in the methodology for educational chess. My appreciation to our managing director Dana Reizniece-Ozola for coordinating this event together with the Chess in Education Commission. You have carried out a great project by bringing together all these people around the world and let me express my gratitude and appreciation for your efforts.

I want to mention the European Chess Union and our collaboration last year that let us collect the best educational chess practices and lessons worldwide and now we are more skilled to conduct projects with better understanding of various approaches of educational chess: whereas it's a curriculum or extra curriculum chess, transversal chess in schools or something else.

Thanks to all the people who have submitted their thesis and papers sharing their experience with us. Also, to people who were unable to submit their papers because of language barriers or time limitations but were eager for the meeting. I have read some papers we have received and came across to the same conclusions that we discussed based on our theoretical and methodological experience. I think we should give these people an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Today you will hear both keynote speakers and authors' presentations regarding the education chess experiences around the world in two languages – English and Spanish. Of course, this will expand our capacity to reach a major chess community around the world. I find it very important and for the future we will try to include even more languages in our projects.

I would like to mention that we use educational chess as a contribution to our developmental, social goals as well (e.g. to reach convicts in prisons, children with autistic spectrum disorders, etc.).

I don't want to take too long as we have lots of speakers today including one of the chess world champions Viswanathan Anand and many other great people. I wish good luck to this conference and all the participants: enjoy it and have a great insight to implement in your further practice.

Thank you, stay safe and healthy.



### **VISWANATHAN ANAND**

**INDIAN CHESS GRANDMASTER AND A FORMER WORLD CHESS CHAMPION  
(2000-2002, 2007-2013)**

Hello everyone at the “Chess in Education” International online Conference.

What is the role of chess in education?

- I believe that it taps a giant unique urge to compete and uses it to improve and practice good habits, to enhance the skills one will need both in-game and in life.

What are the habits of chess training? – Here are some of them.

Chess trains memory. - You need to see lots of games, process this information, understand, and sort it out and recall it as needed on the board. But the impact is not only the memory but the ability to apply that information in new and challenging situations. We don't just memorize something in chess but try to discover the essential ideas and implement them in new situations. That's why I believe that chess in education is a simple path to a healthy mind.