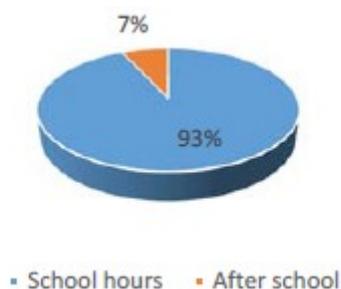


The tiny principality of Andorra (population 78,000) has a long-established chess in schools program, which started way back in 1987. The current *Programa d'Escacs Escolar* has an annual budget for the program of about €90,000. FIDE's development fund will this year contribute about 5,5 % of that spend.

Chess lessons in Andorran schools have significantly changed in recent years, following the guidelines proposed by the Ministry of Sport. The main changes started in the 2007-2008 academic year. At that time, the Andorra Chess Federation (FEVA) had three full-time teachers and worked in 21 education centres belonging to three educational systems (Andorran, Spanish, French). A balance was maintained between chess lessons in school hours and those after school, the latter being slightly more.

The Ministry of Sport suggested a clearer separation for chess lectures given during school hours, since those fell under the competence of the Ministry of Education. FEVA was requested to reach agreements with the three educational systems in order to assume the necessary competences to carry out these lessons.

Then FEVA started the proceedings to validate its "*Programa d'Escacs Escolar*" ("*Chess in Schools Program*") with the three educational systems which coexist in the country, with the aim of regularizing the situation at the request of the Ministry of Sport. As a result, FEVA started to modify its criteria. In the following academic years, chess was gradually introduced in school hours in those education centres which requested it. Eventually they arrived at the current situation: the percentage of chess lessons in school hours has soared over after school hours, as shown in the following chart.



FEVA is working together with the Education Ministry to convert this figure to 100%, and also to cover all the primary schools, currently chess is taught in 19/23 primary schools. The total number of students is just 4,246.

This year they will add a new item to their objectives, as with the agreement of the Ministry they will start a new formation course for the teachers of very young children (age 4 to 5), in order to use chess as an educational resource for the early years.