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**Project name \*** The Central Go School  
**Organisation/Project holder name (only if not the same as contact)** Moscow Go Federation  
**Starting Date\*** 2017-10-02

**Thumbnail\***



# THE CENTRAL GO SCHOOL

FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN  
FROM 10 KYU TO 3 DAN



**GOSCHOOL.MFGO.RU**

## **Project description \***

### **Please provide a general description of the project.**

The number of Go players in Russia has increased steadily during the last five years, especially outside of major cities. At the same time, access to learning is not good enough. We don't have a lot of strong Go-teachers in such a vast country as Russia. There is just one way to study Go for people from small cities – the internet. However, the EGF academy limited the number of participants from one country a year ago.

This situation motivated Russian Go-teachers to join forces and create an internet Go school – The Central Go School.

We split our students into groups of six people each. There is a lessons + tournament system: in each group, two top performers go up, two bottom places go down. All students can join any lessons in the school and watch videos after lessons. Students also get weekly home assignments and all group winners get bonus classes with teachers.

Our participants are children and adults with strength ranging from 20 kyu to 3dan. Students come from all parts of Russia – from 9 time-zones! There is special group for the Far-East with convenient time for lessons. Russian Youth National Team under 9 y.o, 12 y.o. and 16 y.o. have special access to the School, with support by the Russian Go Federation.

At the same time there is an effect in a lot of cities and go clubs in Russia. We invite all Russian-speaking participants, for example there are Israeli and Spanish students in our School who speak Russian

Most of our Masters are well-known teachers of children: TimurSankin 6 dan (Moscow), ElvinaKalsberg 4 dan (St. Petersburg), GuselSurma 3 dan (Kazan). Their pupils are leaders in Russia and Europe under 9 y.o, 12 y.o and 16 y.o. One of the teachers is a young Go talent – KaiminVyacheslav 6 dan, who is the champion of Europe under 16 y.o. and under 20 y.o. Sometimes we invite IlyaShikshin 2-dan pro for master-classes with top-group students.

### **Aim\***

#### **What is the aim of the project and what are the intended target groups?**

Main aims are:

- ✓ To make Go more popular in Russia
- ✓ To increase the level of Go players in Russia, including supporting the Russian Youth Nation Team improvement
- ✓ To make a financially successful Go-project

A teacher becomes successful when a student surpasses the teacher. We hope it will often happen in our school.

We believe that it is very important to organize helpful and financially successful Go projects. This will make the work of our teachers more professional and will show that working with Go can be profitable. More Go professionals means more Go fans.

Current intended target groups: children and adults with strength ranging from 20 kyu to 3dan.

### **Timeline or dates with milestones (if applicable)**

Please state all relevant deadlines or dates, e.g. when will preparations be ready, when will important meetings take place, etc.

Project started: 2017-10-02

First season (Autumn): from 2017-10-02 till 2018-01-10

Second season (Spring): from 2018-01-22 till 2018-05-16.

To be continued... We are planning to have at least two seasons per year.

### **Location \***

Where do the activities take place and where will we see the effect? (schools, clubs, street, internet, publications etc.)

Our web site: <http://goschool.mfgo.ru/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/centralgoschool/>

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### **Tools / Means / Instruments\***

Which tools / means / instruments are used? (physical infrastructures, technologies, media, social networks).

We use several instruments:

- ✓ Web site <http://goschool.mfgo.ru/>  
There is all information and game statistics;
- ✓ Data storage <https://vimeo.com/>  
All lessons are recorded by teachers themselves and stored;
- ✓ Telegram, WhatsApp chats and e-mail for announcements;
- ✓ Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/centralgoschool/> and VK (most popular in Russia) social networks for internet advertising;
- ✓ Roll-ups, handouts and our discount certificates during offline tournaments for advertising;
- ✓ KGS <https://www.gokgs.com/> for playing and Google Hangouts <https://hangouts.google.com> for speaking;

### **Result(s) of the project\***

Please describe the (potential) results of this project, e.g. a go-board, financial revenues, publicity, a tournament, etc

Some results after Autumn and Spring seasons:

- ✓ 170 students from 29 different cities;
- ✓ We started with 48 participants in November, 2017 and have 75 participants in May, 2018;
- ✓ 2300 games in tournaments;
- ✓ 250 online lessons (250 hours of video, 2600 views and 1300 downloads);
- ✓ Participants from Kaliningrad to Magadan (Russia), Spain and Israel;
- ✓ 7 well-known teachers from Kazan, Samara, St.Petersburg and Moscow
- ✓ 3 medals in European Youth Go Championship 2018 had got by the School students

### **Human Resources\***

Please describe the Human resources, i.e. a description of all involved and their time expenditure.

Seven teachers who spend 2-3 hours per week each

One administrative person – spending about 10-15 hours per week.

### **Financial Resources \***

Please describe the Financial resources, i.e. sponsorships, subsidies, gifts, crowdfunding, own budget, etc.

The School doesn't have any sponsors yet. Each student pays for himself.

The Russian Go Federation pays for 20-25 students.

We have progressive scale of education fee depending on duration of studying and Go-level. After two seasons, revenues and expenses are about equal

### **Public exposure\***

Please describe the (potential) Public exposure, i.e. awareness of the project and results in media, etc.

We hope that we are giving a good quality of Go-education for students.

- ✓ Student feedback and rating increases are good
- ✓ Our single largest client – Russian Go Federation has good reviews of the teaching effect.
- ✓ In one year our School has become one of the biggest internet Go-school in Europe

### **Perspective \***

Please describe the perspective, i.e. expected future development of the project.

- ✓ Changing the highest level of our students from 3dan to 5 dan. It means that we have to find a pro-level teacher;
- ✓ Upgrading website: add account system and make a lot of automation like putting home assignments go-problems into web site, uploading sgf files, and so on;
- ✓ Education plan of teachers should be more well-defined;
- ✓ Organizing annual summer Go-camp.

### **Wishes \***

Please describe the wishes, i.e. the kind of support or cooperation needed for progress or continuation of the project.

Improving skills of our teachers are important. We need extend Japan, Chinese and Korean experience in education, Go books, training our teachers in the Orient and master-classes of Oriental professional players in Russia.

### **Additional comments**

Please state any additional comments.

If we win 2018 Worldwide Iwamoto Awards, we will use 50% of prize-money for web-site upgrading and 50% for inviting special guests – high level Go players for master-classes with our students.