



FIRST EUROPEAN JUNIOR
OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS
SOFIA • BULGARIA • 2017



NEWSLETTER

No. 2 - Saturday
9th September 2017

CHIEF ASSISTANT BISERKA YOVCHEVA:

“EJOI IS A DREAM BECOMING TRUE!”

- WHY EJOI IS IMPORTANT FOR BULGARIA? AND WHY IS IT JUNIOR?

Bulgaria is an initiator and founder of the very first International Olympiad in Informatics. Our competitors in informatics are on the 5th place in the unofficial all time worldwide ranking list. There are 4 Bulgarians in the top 20: Hristo Venev (he's on second place!), Roumen Hristov, Encho Mishinev and Rostislav Roumenov. Our successes are due to the very good preparation of our competitors and the established system for detection and preparation of young talents in the field of programming. All this shows quite well why we initiated eJOI. Moreover, this idea again puts Bulgaria in the elite of the countries preparing excellent professionalists in the IT field.

Over the years it became clear that in order to prepare a good competitor (and in particular - a good programmer) are needed about 4-5 years of hard work, both of the student, and his teachers and coaches. This requires a great devotion, the preparation is difficult, and the child's psyche is such that if you it doesn't see real results, he very soon becomes disinterested. Although there are many international competitions for students in higher classes, besides the International autumn tournament in Shumen, and the Junior Balkan Olympiad in Informatics, there are no other international competitions for "small" students (up to 15 years). This Olympiad will motivate them and help with their better preparation.

- What do you hope to achieve with the establishment of the Olympiad?

We will provide the smaller students a new platform to show up, thus increasing their motivation. We will also elevate the prestige of Bulgaria among the European and global IT

community.

- What's the secret behind Bulgaria's achievements in informatics?

Above all - the excellent work of the people who are involved in the preparation of our national teams. These are enthusiastic people who, together with their knowledge and abilities, could otherwise find realization in many prestigious and highly paid positions in various IT companies, but they have taken as their mission working with young people - future programmers and ambassadors of our country around the world.



Biserka Yovcheva is a chief assistant at the Shumen University and head of the School of Informatics "A & B" in Shumen. She teaches programming, algorithms and object oriented programming, she also an author of more than 70 scientific articles and over 20 textbooks. In her dissertation on the topic "Spiral Teaching of Programming" B. Yovcheva displays her own methodology in preparing 10–11 Year-Old Pupils, which subsequently applies as a basic methodological concept in the preparation of beginner competitors in Bulgaria. Chief Assistant Biserka Yovcheva is the leader of some of the best Bulgarian contestants in programming. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, she is the head leader and deputy leader of the junior national team of Informatics.

If you look at the rankings of the Bulgarian national competitions, you will see that there are several training centres in the country - Varna, Shumen, Yambol, Sofia, Plovdiv, Plevan, etc. Only here, in Bulgaria, there is a program for preparation of young students (10-11 years old) in programming, although it is not included in the curriculum of the local schools. It's used a unique methodology known as "Spiral model of software development and enhancement", which was presented in my dissertation back in 2008. Everything listed, as well as the support of IT business and Ministry of education, are a prerequisite for our excellent performance. However, let's not forget our excellent, tireless, smart and ambitious children who are actually making all this possible.

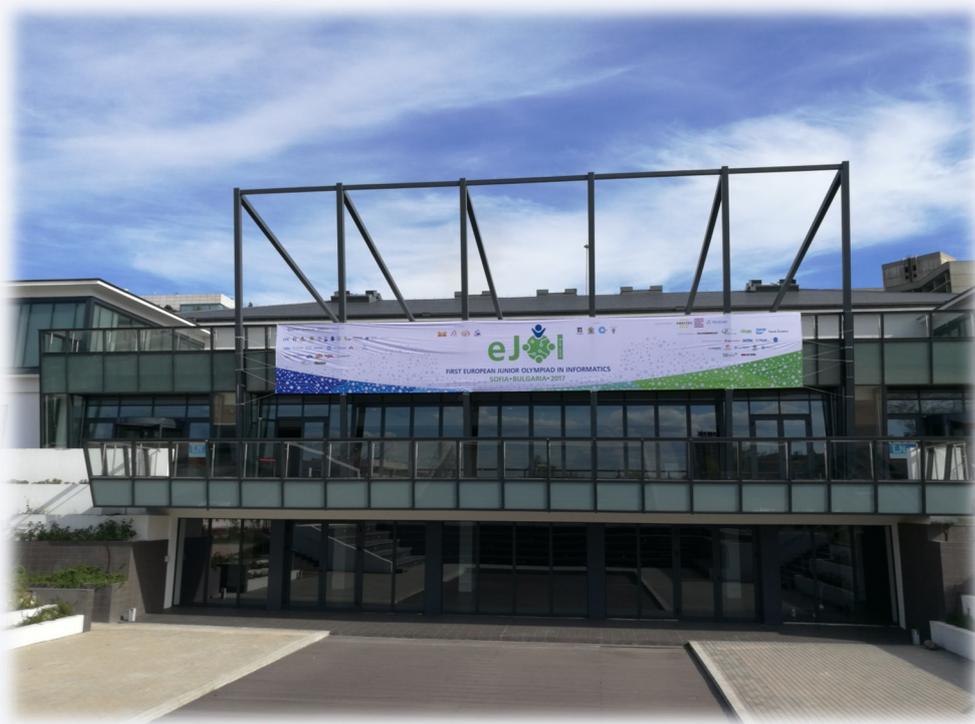
- How are the preparation and organization going?

Sticking to the plan for now :) We are preparing an awesome competition for the participants. We have received such a powerful support from the business and from numerous public institutions. I do not want to enumerate, so as not to miss anyone, but we are grateful to everyone, especially our Golden sponsors - America for Bulgaria Foundation, Abrites and

Telelink, as well as the Ministry of Education, for standing behind the idea and taking it as its own. All ministers in the period of organization, starting from Meglena Kuneva, who made the launch of the Olympiad possible, through Prof. Nikolay Denkov, and to the current Minister Krasimir Valchev, they all have supported our endeavor and have cooperated as fully as possible for its realization.

- What's in front of you - in private and academic plan?

eJOI is one of the big projects in my life. I'm so happy to see its realization already! But I have other goals in front of me, so right after this one, I take up the realization of my other projects. Right now I do not want to share them because they are at a very early stage. In general, I remain true to what I have devoted my life to, the children and their training in informatics. Of course we will continue the work to work together at School A & B together with my colleagues, with whom we are together in eJOI as well.



WE ANNOUNCE EJOI NOW OPEN!



Sofia, Bulgaria, 8th September 2017.

The start of the very first edition of the European Junior Olympiad in Informatics - eJOI was given on the official Opening Ceremony yesterday, 8th September. On an unusual Friday evening our eJOI contestants, team leaders, guests and partners were warmly welcomed in the magnificent Aula Magna of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", the oldest university in Bulgaria.

The event was opened under the beautiful sounds of a flute and a piano, then the Bulgarian national anthem and the anthem of Europe. Solemn atmosphere stood all around the University - and so you can tell from the attendance of the Patrons of eJOI - the President of Republic of Bulgaria - Mr. Rumen Radev, The European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society - Mariya Gabriel, and the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria - Krassimir Valchev. The European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics sent his greetings to all participants from Brussels, wishing them success in this fundamental undertaking. Amongst the official guests were the ambassa-

dors from the participating countries as well as representatives from the institutions and businesses who supported the event.

"You don't know the significant role you're playing. With your programs and operating systems you're not only setting up technical progress, you're modeling the future, relationships. That is an incredible ability and you should always keep that in mind.", Mr. President assured the young contestants, being himself an ex-maths student.

In her speech, Mrs. Gabriel showed her enthusiasm for the Olympiad as well: "Whatever the technology and society would see, what we must not lose out of focus is our humanity. This is what I see in you - minds, talents and people - all questing new challenges. You're all winners, keep the memories shared together and those connections close. From today onwards, all participants in this Olympiad have a new mission - you are the ambassadors of the future!"

The contribution to education, information and the future digital society was not missed by Mr. Valchev's greetings as well. Another very special and interesting guest was Mario Bakalov - pilot of the world's largest passenger aircraft, the Airbus A380, who wished many happy and safe landings to all:

"The fascination to fly has been there all my life. All of you - you have a goal. You came here to be the best and meet new challenges, and i know the next days will be hard. I encourage you to fight, to follow your goals and to never give up. Many people have told me I would not succeed. Prove that you're the best team, act as an individual but also as a strong team. I admire you."

eJOI's four initiators - Prof. Krassimir Manev, Biserka Yovcheva, Alexey Hristov and Elena Marinova - didn't hide their great excitement about the realization of the Olympiad, and together with the Patrons, announced the official start of this year's competition.

Today is a big day - Contest Day 1, for the junior programmers from 22 countries who will show what they're capable of. Good luck to all and don't forget to follow the live results! / <http://ejoi.org/>



Saturday, September 9th

Contest Day One

Time	Contestants	Leaders	Observers/Guests
06:30 – 08:00	Breakfast at Suite Hotel Sofia	Free time	Free time
08:00 – 08:45	Transfer from Suite Hotel Sofia to Sofia Tech Park	Breakfast at Suite Hotel Sofia	Breakfast at Suite Hotel Sofia
08:45 – 09:00	Entering Contest Hall at Sofia Tech Park	Transfer from Suite Hotel Sofia to Sofia Tech Park	
		Entering Contest Hall at Sofia Tech Park	
09:00 – 11:00	Contest at Sofia Tech Park	GA Meeting 4 at Sofia Tech Park	Cultural Program
11:00 – 13:00		Free time	
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch at Sofia Tech Park		
14:30 – 15:00	Transfer from Sofia Tech Park to Muzeiko		
15:00 – 18:00	Muzeiko visit		
18:00 – 18:30	Transfer from Muzeiko to Suite Hotel Sofia		
18:30 – 20:00	Dinner at Students' Dining Hall		

WHAT'S UP FOR TODAY AT EJOI ?

TOMORROW'S SIGHT: PLOVDIV CITY

BEFORE YOU GO THERE...

Plovdiv is the second largest city in Bulgaria with a population of 368,469 people, accounting for 4.6% of the total of the country. The city is built at the foot of the seven hills, which is why it is often called "The City in the hills" or "seven hills". Throughout history Plovdiv bore different names: Kendrissos, Evmolpias, Philippopolis, Pulpudeva, Trimontsium, Ulpia, Flavia Julia, Plapdiv, Puldin Ploudin, Filibe and others.

Situated in the west of the Bulgarian part of Thrace, passed through it largest river in Bulgaria - Maritsa. So naturally the city is divided into two parts. North of Maritsa is located only region "North", also known by its old name Karshiaka and to the south is the main part of the city, including the other five regions.

[/ visitplovdiv.com](http://visitplovdiv.com)



GYŐZŐ HORVÁTH, TEAM LEADER OF HUNGARY:

We came early here and we really like it so far! Our selection phase was during spring, not only for eJOI but for CEOI and IOI, so we had a plenty of time to prepare, as the practice session was in August. Even though students at that age in Hungary are not very interested in Maths and Informatics, these contestants come from specific mathematical schools. I assume that it speaks good for the region as they come from all over the country, not only the capital.

REASONS TO VISIT PLOVDIV:

1. Allegedly the oldest continuously inhabited city in Europe; and also one of the oldest cities in the World – Plovdiv is contemporary of ancient Troy and Mycenae still standing proudly by the 7 hills;
2. The rich cultural heritage which cumulated for 8 millennia – sites like the Roman Stadium in the heart of the city; the Ancient Theatre – one of the best preserved in the World; Roman mosaics in the Small Basilica and the Old Town of Plovdiv with its splendid Bulgarian Revival-style wooden-frame houses dating back to 18th and 19th c;
3. The warmth and hospitable people –

hanging around with locals will surely immerse you in the great, carefree atmosphere of Plovdiv;

4. “Kapana” district – the area in the city centre dedicated to the creative industries;
5. Cultural calendar – Plovdiv presents its touch of art & history.
5. Outdoor activities – whether it’s visiting the sports base near the Rowing Canal, climbing on top of one of the hills, or enjoying a walk in one of the parks. Plovdiv has it!

Already can't wait!

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