



FIRST EUROPEAN JUNIOR
OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS
SOFIA • BULGARIA • 2017



NEWSLETTER

No. 4 - Monday

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ELENA MARINOVA:

"WHO SAYS THAT PROGRAMMING IS NOT FOR GIRLS?"

HOW DID MUSALA AND ELENA GET INVOLVED IN THIS WONDERFUL PROJECT eJOI?

Krasi Manev came up with the idea of an international children's olympiad about two years ago. It turned out that they had been speaking about this together with Biserka Yovcheva for many years. These two people are high class teachers - in the last decades they have sculptured most of the medalists in Bulgaria, and their "kids" are successful IT professionals and managers in our country and everywhere else in the world. We have been working on various projects together for years - Krasi is a honorary chairman of the jury of our programming contest CodeIT, with Biserka we are currently doing the training course "Learn from the Masters" for retraining to software Engineering, but also many other things over the years. At the same time with Alexey Hristov from "American Foundation for Bulgaria" in the context of the NSOTA - Natural Sciences Olympic Teams Association (as I am a chairman of their Development Board) we worked on the connection of the local olympic teams in natural sciences with the business.

So, we one day four of us met and said "Ok, Let's do it!". Each one of us came with his personality, with the organization that he represents and that fits perfectly in the cause, with his friends, ideas and a lot of enthusiasm e to make Bulgaria a pioneer again, a birthplace of something important, defining the future. The inclusion of Musala soft as an initiator was quite natural, because the business and our initiatives in education are focused in the high segment, so eJOI did fit us perfectly. There will surely be many emotions, happiness and tears - these are the best kids in this age group from the countries from the Council of Europe and the tension is already rising. Can't wait to see the final results!

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO THE CLICHÉ, SCEPTICISM, THAT PROGRAMMING AND IT ARE NOT THE TYPICAL THINGS FOR GIRLS TO DO?

Who says so? And who in IT draws attention to clichés at all? Yes, the male brain is generally more logical, and the female is more intuitive.

But firstly, that just generally, and secondly - more and more creativity will still be needed everywhere, including in the IT industry (and all that is not something creative - will be done by machines).

Accordingly, different types of thinking and points of view are of great benefit - we try to manage our teams to be mixed in gender so that they can be as effective as possible. And yet - we have to admit that competitive programming is quite masculine-dominated, I explain it to myself with a combination of factors - the very narrow segment, which covers the age of the contestants - very specific age when the purpose, ambition and focus are stronger within the boys...



Elena Marinova is a President and a shareholder at Musala Soft JSC. She holds BA degree in Economics and MA in Strategic Management. As a President of Musala Soft she is responsible for the company strategy, paying special attention to image, market positioning, company culture and team spirit. She is currently member of the boards of BAIT (the Bulgarian IT Association), AUBG (American University in Bulgaria), the Alumni Association of the Business Faculty of Sofia University and a distinguished Member of the European Parliament of Enterprises. In her public activities Elena Marinova is committed to the recognition of Bulgaria as an internationally recognized attractive IT destination for both businesses and IT talents. She is actively engaged in activities dedicated to the promotion and support of the Bulgarian business climate and brand and to the increase of the quality and quantity of IT education.

But even at eJOI you will see girls' presence. I believe that promoting IT more and more as a field of career, and competitive programming as a springboard to good positions - there will appear an increased interest (in general) and more girls will get involved. And what I mentioned earlier - about the tendency to creativity will also fix the proportion. But "violence" is not necessary and quotas would not give a positive result in my view. However, we have reasons to be proud and eJOI is an example of something big that is being born in Bulgaria - sponsors and partners come from about 70 organizations, businesses, institutions, media. This is a great proof that we can unite behind a cause.

Success! Which is expressed not only in the medals being won, but also in the moments spent together and friendships for life. Also love and respect for Bulgaria, who believe that we will provoke in them through the competition, but also through the cultural program and the entertainment that we have prepared for our guests together with our mentioned partners and more than 50 volunteers, the majority of which are high school and university students from Sofia High School of Mathematics, National High School of Mathematics and Science. Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics at Sofia University, New Bulgarian University, Shumen University and a lot more!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO WISH TO THE PARTICIPANTS?

Thank you!



Mrs. Elena Marinova and Mr. Rumen Radev, President of Republic of Bulgaria at the official eJOI Opening Ceremony, 08th September 2017

Monday, September 11th			
Contest Day Two			
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 - 13:00	Contest at Sofia Tech Park	GA Meeting 6: International Committee Members election. Future Host Countries selection at Sofia Tech Park	Cultural Program
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch at Sofia Tech Park		
14:30 - 17:00	Results and Appeals at Sofia Tech Park		
17:00 - 17:30	Transfer from Sofia Tech Park to Sofia city center		
17:30 - 19:00	Free Sofia Tour		
19:00 - 19:30	Transfer from Sofia city center to Suite Hotel Sofia		
19:30 - 21:00	Dinner at Students' Dining Hall		
21:00 - 22:00	Free Time	GA Meeting 7: Review Appeals and medals distributions at Suite Hotel Sofia	Free Time
22:00		Leaders party at Suite Hotel Sofia	



TOMORROW'S SIGHT: NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM, SOFIA



BEFORE YOU GO THERE...

The National Historical Museum in Sofia is Bulgaria's largest museum. It was founded on 5 May 1973. A new representative exhibition was opened in the building of the Court of Justice on 2 March 1984, to commemorate the 13th centenary of the Bulgarian state.

The museum was moved in 2000 to the former primary residence of the dictator and last communist leader Todor Zhivkov at Boyana, and currently contains over 650,000 objects connected to archaeology, fine arts, history and ethnography, although only 10% of them are permanently exhibited.

CONTEST DAY 2 IS HERE!



Contest Day No.2 is already happening today!

Don't forget to follow the live results on the ranking on our website!

*Meanwhile you can challenge yourself doing the practice session tasks from Friday. Find them [*here*](#)*



EXPLORE BULGARIA: EJOI IN PLOVEDIV

Philippopolis, Filibe, Pulpudeva, Pladin, Paldiv.

Many names, one big city and thousands of years of history - Plovdiv, the second largest town in Bulgaria, hosted the always-want-to-learn-more kids, leaders and guests of eJOI 2017. After a long and tough first contest day coding and exploring the interactive world of Muzeiko it was about time to pause and take a rest. What better way to do this than to ride to the European capital of culture 2019?

Plovdiv, 10th September 2017. Just like the lookalike ancient city of Rome, Plovdiv has been situated on and between seven hills (now six), and now it offers to its visitors great views from a few periods of history. After visiting the first stop - the Small basilica, our European guests

took a look at the heart of the city. Walking



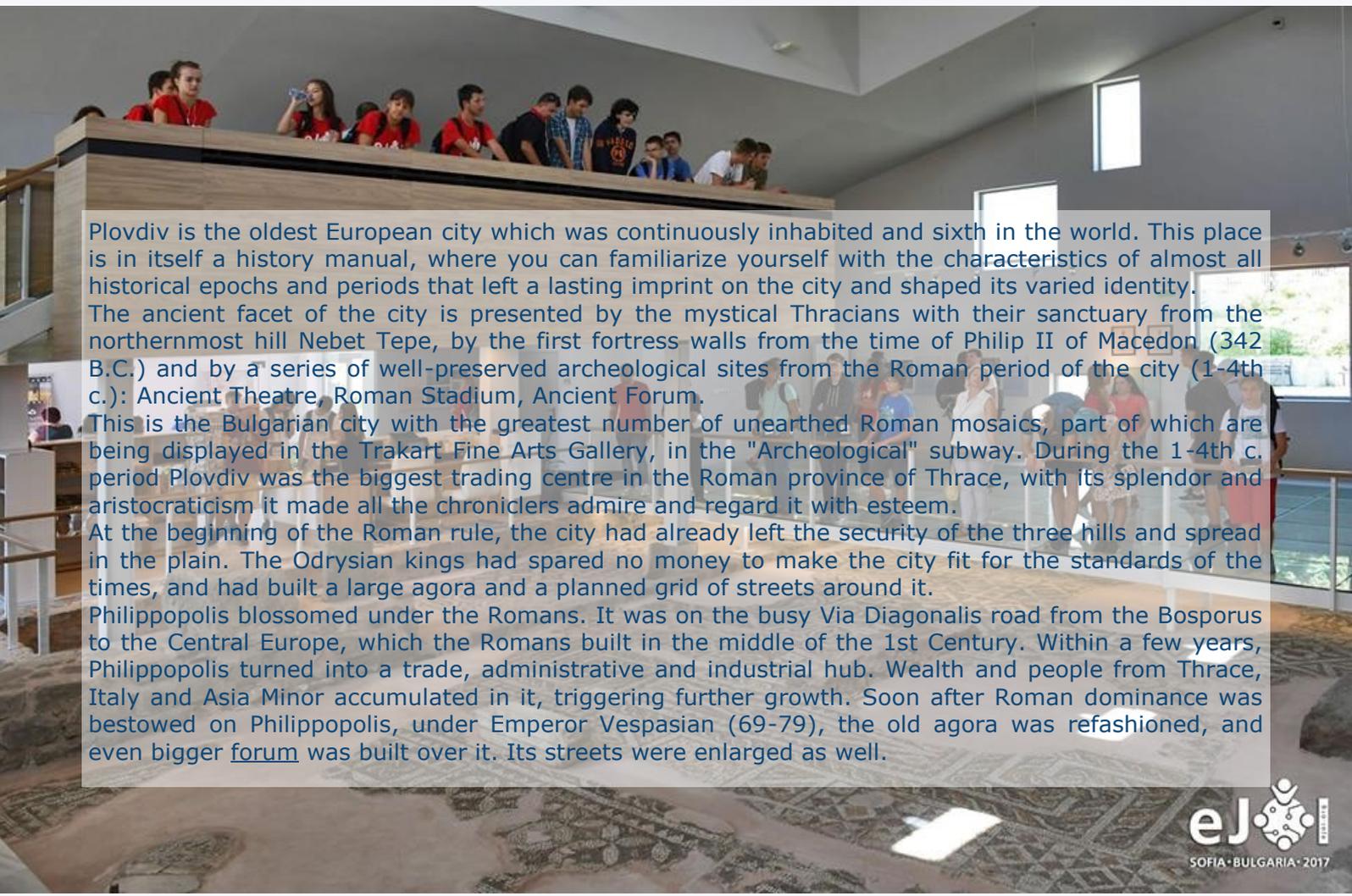
along the narrow streets of the hills, we found ourselves in the Old town. The open air archeological and ethnographic "museum" hides the architecturally unique houses of the size of royal palaces that once belonged to the local rich merchants, gorgeous as much on the outside as inside - wood-carved ceilings, the colorful mural decorations and around-the-world landscapes. Today modern Plovdiv keeps its history close, as you can time travel from one century to another - the Roman stadium stand right next to the mosque and five minute walk from the richmen's houses from the Revival period (18th-19th century).

Remains from ancient fortress' walls, paved tiny roads, the Historical museum, the modern pedestrian lane - pLOVEDiv has it all, and were just some of the spots that the eJOI contestants, leaders, observers and guests got to see.



The overall restoration and socialization of the Small Basilica was implemented in 2010-2013 with the support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, the Culture Ministry of Bulgaria and the Plovdiv Municipality. The fine mosaics inside date from 4-6th centuries, made from different materials and in various shapes, were subject to emergency conservation soon after their discovery. The Church was in the eastern part of the city, close to one of the towers in the fortification wall. In Philippopolis, there was a local mosaic workshop. Its craftsmen decorated the floors of big public buildings and the homes of wealthy citizens.





Plovdiv is the oldest European city which was continuously inhabited and sixth in the world. This place is in itself a history manual, where you can familiarize yourself with the characteristics of almost all historical epochs and periods that left a lasting imprint on the city and shaped its varied identity.

The ancient facet of the city is presented by the mystical Thracians with their sanctuary from the northernmost hill Nebet Tepe, by the first fortress walls from the time of Philip II of Macedon (342 B.C.) and by a series of well-preserved archeological sites from the Roman period of the city (1-4th c.): Ancient Theatre, Roman Stadium, Ancient Forum.

This is the Bulgarian city with the greatest number of unearthed Roman mosaics, part of which are being displayed in the Trakart Fine Arts Gallery, in the "Archeological" subway. During the 1-4th c. period Plovdiv was the biggest trading centre in the Roman province of Thrace, with its splendor and aristocraticism it made all the chroniclers admire and regard it with esteem.

At the beginning of the Roman rule, the city had already left the security of the three hills and spread in the plain. The Odrysian kings had spared no money to make the city fit for the standards of the times, and had built a large agora and a planned grid of streets around it.

Philippopolis blossomed under the Romans. It was on the busy Via Diagonalis road from the Bosphorus to the Central Europe, which the Romans built in the middle of the 1st Century. Within a few years, Philippopolis turned into a trade, administrative and industrial hub. Wealth and people from Thrace, Italy and Asia Minor accumulated in it, triggering further growth. Soon after Roman dominance was bestowed on Philippopolis, under Emperor Vespasian (69-79), the old agora was refashioned, and even bigger forum was built over it. Its streets were enlarged as well.

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