



FIRST EUROPEAN JUNIOR
OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS
SOFIA • BULGARIA • 2017



NEWSLETTER

No. 5 - Tuesday

12th September 2017

Tuesday, September 12th

Celebrating Success - eJOI Award Ceremony

Time	Contestants	Leaders	Observers/Guests
06:30 – 09:00		Breakfast at Suite Hotel Sofia	
09:00 – 09:30		Transfer from Suite Hotel Sofia	
09:30 – 15:00		Team Challenges, Fun and Lunch	
15:30 – 16:00		Transfer to Suite Hotel Sofia	
16:00 – 16:30		Free Time	
16:30 – 17:00		Transfer from Suite Hotel Sofia to Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"	
17:00 – 18:00		Entering the Award Ceremony Hall at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"	
18:00 – 20:30		eJOI Award Ceremony	
20:30 – 22:30		Dinner at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"	
22:30 – 23:00		Transfer from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" to Suite Hotel Sofia	



Wednesday, September 13th

See you all soon

Time	Contestants	Leaders	Observers/Guests
06:30 – 09:00		Breakfast at Suite Hotel Sofia	
09:00 – 23:00		Departure	
		*Lunch at Students` Dining Hall will be provided for those leaving later	
		**Transfer from Suite Hotel Sofia to Sofia Airport will be provided	

THE SECOND AND FINAL CONTEST DAY OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN JUNIOR OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS eJOI IS OVER

Sofia, Bulgaria – September 11th, 2017

At 1:00PM yesterday, the second and final contest day of the first European Junior Olympiad in Informatics eJOI was officially over. The contest was intense until the very last minutes. Excitement was in the eyes of all 92 contestants of all 22 participating countries in the moment when the system automatically terminated eJOI.

In the second, like in the first contest day, all participants had to solve three problems and the total number of points they could collect was again, a total of 600 for both days.

During the leaders` and scientific committee meeting, happening in the final hours of the contest, an organizational structure of eJOI was formed, **Prof. Krassimir Manev was elected a President of eJOI** and the members of the International Committees and the first members of the Board of Patrons of eJOI were elected – representatives of the political and busi-

ness sectors – the European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society Mariya Gabriel and the President of the software company “Musala Soft” Elena Marinova. To meet and greet in person the contestants in eJOI arrived the President of the Republic of Bulgaria 2012-2017 Rosen Plevneliev. He talked to the participants and team leaders minutes after the end of eJOI and congratulated the contestant with the highest number of points according to the automatic verification system.





In parallel with the final competitive hours of eJOI, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy organized an event for the launch of the campaign "Find me, understand me, accept me". The aim of the campaign is to modify public attitude towards all unprivileged children and young people who need support, understanding and help in their development. The discussion meeting was attended by the Cambridge student Dobrik Georgiev from Haskovo, Bulgaria and his family.

His mother thanked all teachers for their devotion and hard work in helping him develop his talent. Biserka Yovcheva, one of the initiators of eJOI shared that she has been working with Dobrik after he was in 8th grade and explained that additional schooling was utterly important to those with ambition to be in the charts of international programming contests. She also said that in most of the cases Dobrik was the one to propose a solution to the problems they were solving and he was the most stubborn, hard-

working and consistent of her students. In the end of her speech, she expressed her admiration to all families of kids with physical disabilities, who support them with everything possible in their development so that they could find their place in life and feel accomplished.

In the afternoon after the end of contest day two of eJOI, results and appeals were reviewed and medals were allocated.

The excitement and expectation will continue to rise until 6:00PM on September 12th when the official awarding ceremony will commence at the Aula of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

At the event, the next host country of eJOI will be announced. Speeches are expected by prof. Anastas Gerdzhikov, Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" hosting the ceremony, as well as by Tomislav Donchev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria.



EXPLORE BULGARIA: SOFIA CITY AND EJOI



After a long day of programming and revealing results the Second contest day finished with an overview sightseeing tour in Sofia. The **Free Sofia Tour** expects foreign friends every day in town, few times a day, and goes through 35 of the main sights around. The almost 2 hour walk is one of the greatest ways for guests to know the city - it usually starts from the local palace of Justice and finishes at the National Assambley (Parliament).

In the late Monday afternoon of 11th September, the second contest day of **eJOI**, the team leaders and contestants from all 22 participating countries explored Sofia and visited some historical and cultural places of interest, feeling the atmosphere of the capital city of Bulgaria. Starting from Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the young contestants & leaders got to hear the interesting history of one of the oldest capitals in Europe and to see some of the most familiar churches and buildings. Interesting spot was the so-called Square of Religious Tolerance where observes took a walk around a few different religions' temples - St. Nedelya church, St. Joseph cathedral, Banya bashi Mosque and Sofia Synagogue, located within meters from each other. The tour continued through the garden of the Former public bath (now: the Museum of History of Sofia), the beautiful open-air ruins of the ancient Roman city of Serdica. We're feeling so tiny and young in here!

A few steps later and a little bit of time travelling, our **eJOI** participants continued walking around the Austrian architecture influenced part of Sofia and on the so-called "Golden pavement" - one of the symbols of the city's heart.



A prominent symbol of Sofia, the yellow bricks cover the ground around the national parliament, Ivan Vazov National theatre, National fine arts gallery, which was once a king's palace, Alexander Nevsky cathedral and other signature buildings of the capital. They were laid in 1907-1908. One of the popular legends, recently denounced by historians, was that the bricks were given as a wedding gift to the monarch Ferdinand I.

One of the most interesting go-through places in **Free Sofia Tour** is the emblematic and stunning central building of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - our host for the Opening and Closing ceremonies, of course!

SOFIA: DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- **SOFIA IS ONE OF THE OLDEST CAPITALS IN EUROPE**

Signs of life date back as early as 1st millennium BCE. Inhabited by Thracians and later incorporated into the Roman Empire, after the 6th century AD, Sofia became home to Slavs, ruled by the Byzantium before becoming part of the Bulgarian kingdom.

- **SOFIA BECAME CAPITAL IN 1879**

Sofia became the capital after a heated vote in the first post-independence Bulgarian Parliament. The other contenders were Veliko Tarnovo, Plovdiv, and Rousse. Sofia was not a clear favorite. It won by just two votes.

- **IT HAS MANY NAMES**

Sofia is not the original name of the city. Throughout history, it has been known to have at least three other names: Serdica, Triadica and Sredets. Since the 14th century Sofia is named after one of its oldest churches, the basilica St. Sofia.

- **ELEVATION MATTERS**

At 550 m above sea level, Sofia is one of the highest capitals in Europe - after Andorra la Vella (1,023 m), San Marino (749 m), Madrid (667 m), and Pristina (652 m) - sitting at the base of Vitosha Mountain, a convenient place to hike, mountain bike and ski.

- **THE SITE OF SOFIA WAS ONCE A THRACIAN SETTLEMENT.**

It was occupied by the Romans in 29 A.D. and became a military camp under Emperor Trajan shortly after 100. From about 809 to 1018 it belonged to the first Bulgarian Empire. From 1018 to 1185 it was ruled by the Byzantines. It then came under the rule of the second Bulgarian Empire, but in 1385 it fell to the Turks. Under the Turks, Sofia was the headquarters of the governor-general of the Balkan peninsula and assumed great strategic importance.

- **BULGARIANS WERE ALLIES WITH NAZI GERMANY BUT SAVED 48,000 JEWISH CITIZENS.**

During WWII, when Bulgaria was forced into the war they chose to be Allies with the Axis. Because of this alliance, the Bulgarians were required to send the Jews to the concentration camps. However, thanks to the help from the monarch, Tsar Boris III and the Bulgarian Church, the Jewish people were saved from being deported to the death camps. There were even widespread protests against the deportations, including petitions to the government in Sofia.

BULGARIA

- **THE FIRST ELECTRONIC DIGITAL COMPUTER** was invented by John Vincent Atanasoff, a physicist and inventor of Bulgarian descent. The creator of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg also has Bulgarian origin and it is believed that he was named after his Bulgarian grandfather - Marko, who emigrated to the United States in 1940. Bulgarians have also invented the car air bag and the digital watch.

- **BULGARIA IS THE OLDEST COUNTRY IN EUROPE**, established in 681 AD. It is also the only European country that hasn't changed its name after the establishment. Once home of the Thracians tribe, Bulgaria is the birth country of Spartacus - strong, unbeatable hero, as well as home of the talented and mystical Orpheus.

- **EVERY YEAR ON 1 MARCH BULGARIANS EXCHANGE THE SO CALLED "MARTENITSA"**. Essentially, these are small pieces of adornment made of red and white thread that symbolise good health and happiness.

- **THE BULGARIAN FOLK SONG IZLEL E DELIO HAYDUTIN HAS BEEN FLYING AROUND OPEN SPACE** together with Bach's and Mozart's greatest works since 1977 when the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 probes left the Earth.

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