

World Federation of Physics Competitions



News-Letter

Nr. 01/2017

A Word from the President

Dear WFPPhC-Members,
Dear friends,

First of all, I have to apologise that we have not published anything recently, neither a News-Letter nor a journal, due to a bundle of different reasons. In the meantime, we have had several mail- and skype-contacts within the Executive Committee to find a proper solution, and at last we have been successful:

In future we are not going to publish a journal anymore. However, we are going to publish articles - having to do with competitions, at least in a general way, too, - in connection with the News-Letters.

With this decision we want to strengthen the goal that the WFPPhC wants to act as a platform for all being involved in competitions for secondary students at all levels. They may be regional, national, international or whatever.

Hence in connection with this News-Letter you can find an article about the EUSO-2015, hosted in Klagenfurt/Austria.

I do hope with this way of publishing articles we can do it more easily than in the past.

Beside this, there was our 7th WFPPhC-Congress from September 26th to September 30th 2016 in South Tangerang/Indonesia (near Jakarta), with the topic: "What can physics competitions offer to schools?". Following the feed backs this Congress had a high quality and was very successful.

To get more information about this Congress click on "Report" at:

<http://wettbewerb.ipn.uni-kiel.de/ipho/wfphc/congresses.html> .

During this Congress there were elections for the presidency, the vice-presidency, the secretary, the treasurer and the members of the Executive Committee. You can find the result at <http://wettbewerb.ipn.uni-kiel.de/ipho/wfphc/committees.html>



You are cordially encouraged to send an article about a competition for secondary school students to me or to our secretary, Stefan Petersen. It will be published within the next News-Letter.

If you have information, comments, reports of your experience with such competitions you are, of course, also cordially invited to send us these by mail.

We do hope you continue using the Federation as a platform.

With best regards



(Helmuth Mayr)
president

Dates for upcoming physics competitions

- ▶ 18th Asian Physics Olympiad in Yakutsk/Russia from May 1st to 9th 2017
- ▶ 15th European Union Science Olympiad in Copenhagen/Denmark from May 7th to May 14th 2017. (See: <http://euso2017.dk>)
- ▶ 1st European Physics Olympiad in Tartu/Estonia from May 20th to May 24th 2017 (preliminary dates). (See: <http://eupho.ut.ee>)
- ▶ 30th IYPT competition in Singapore from July 5th to July 14th 2017 (See: <http://www.iypt.org>)
- ▶ 48th International Physics Olympiad 2017 in Yogyakarta/Indonesia from July 16th to July 24th 2017. (See: <http://www.ipho2017.id>)
- ▶ IJSO 2017, from December 3rd to December 12th 2017 in Arnhem-Nijmegen/The Netherlands. (See: <http://ijsso2017.nl>)

EUSO 2015 in Carinthia– the European Union Science Olympiad

Dieter Winkler, Bischöfliches Gymnasium Graz, Austria

Fotos Vytautas Dranginis

The European Union of Science Olympiad is a unique competition where teenagers up to the age of 17 can prove their proficiency of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in a practical team competition.



Figure 1: Practical teamwork is needed to solve the tasks during the competitions.

1. History of the EUSO

The president and founder of EUSO, Dr. Michael Cotter, wanted to give interested, talented teenagers the possibility of improving their skills in a team, of learning alternative approaches to a problem and getting to know different countries and people. The science-based team challenges involve modern-day real world issues demanding flexibility and practical knowledge beyond the classroom.

The first competition took place in Dublin City University in Ireland in 2003. Second level students had initially qualified in competitions in one of the subjects and were organised into teams, which worked together to complete the practical tasks. Since then, more than twenty EU countries have been sending their teams to the competition every year. The two-part competition is covers two days and lasts for four hours. Emphasis is placed on the interdisciplinary nature of the experiments, the team working-process and the potential of stimulating the uptake of science.

This extraordinary event gained more and more recognition and public interest. Not only that skilled teenagers from all corners of Europe met up, but the European educational system has become comparable and the collaboration between the countries has been intensified.

The participation of Austria was first made possible in 2008, when a new cooperation between the network of natural science and mathematics, the technical didactics of natural sciences and the college of education Carinthia and the technical didactics of Physics, Chemistry and Biology (University of Graz) was enhanced.

2. EUSO 2015 in Klagenfurt, Carinthia.

Dr. Michael A. Cotter on this past competition: “Congratulations to Mag. Peter Holub and to his dedicated team of educationalists for their hard work, over the past number of years, in making EUSO 2015 a reality. Their enthusiasm and commitment have resulted in the development of a wonderful week-long programme of science challenges and of sporting, musical and cultural events. They have provided an opportunity for 150 young science students from 25 EU countries to make life-long friendships and to experience, at first hand, the story of Klagenfurt and of its contribution to our shared European folklore and history.



Figure 2: President Dr. Michel Cotter und Mr. Holub Peter, chief of the organizing team of the Euso 2015.

The 2015 challenges, developed by the Scientific Committee from the University College of Teacher Education, Carinthia and Karl-Franzens-University, Graz, involved modern-day real world issues beyond the classroom, the construction of apparatus and of knowledge and consideration of alternative solutions.

These are intellectually demanding challenges which will require substantive communication and teamwork on the part of teams of three students having the flexibility to function at their own pace and in their own way.”



Figure 3: Scientific Committee and the Austrian mentors.

One gold medal was achieved by the Austrian Team A, behind the German Team B (first place), and the Hungarian Team A (second place) and before the second German Team A.



Figure 4: The winning German Team B, the Hungarian Team A on second place and the Austrian Team A on the third place.

References

EUSO-Homepage: <http://euso.eu>

EUSO 2015: <http://www.euso.at/euso/index.php?r=site/page&view=welcome>

Tasks: <http://www.euso.at/euso/index.php?r=site/page&view=challenges>