

Dear colleagues,

We are honoured and excited to host the **6th European Physics Olympiad** – the first on-site international physics competition since the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. EuPhO 2022 will take place May 20-24 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and is organised by the Society of Mathematicians, Physicists and Astronomers of Slovenia, co-organised by the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, both University of Ljubljana. The organisation of the Olympiad is made possible by the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Overview

The European Physics Olympiad (EuPhO) is a competition for high school students. In addition to the International Physics Olympiad (since 1967), there are traditionally regional competitions such as the Asian Physics Olympiad (since 2000) and the Ibero-American Physics Olympiad (since 1991). The concept of the EuPhO resembles real research situations, with short problem descriptions and plenty of room for creative solutions.

The first EuPhO was held in Tallinn, Estonia in 2017, the second in Moscow, Russia in 2018, and the third in Riga, Latvia in 2019. The fourth was to be held in Sato Mare, Romania, in 2020, but was cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Instead, the online edition of the Olympiad was organised by Estonia with great success and to the delight of all 257 participants from 54 participating countries from around the world. The ongoing pandemics led to the decision to organise the fifth EuPhO online as well. It was again successfully organised by Estonia, with 46 participating countries and 219 participants.

As a European competition, the EuPhO primarily attracts European countries, but guest teams from around the world are also welcome. However, due to the open-ended, research-like problems and the compressed on-site format of only three full days, the number of participating teams must be limited. This year, we hope to accommodate up to 35 teams. If the number of pre-registered participants at EuPhO 2022 exceeds our capacity, we will have to give preference to teams from European countries.

Eligibility requirements

The competition is open to countries from Europe and beyond. Each country may send a team consisting of up to 5 students and a leader; observers and/or visitors are also welcome. The host country is entitled to send a second team. Contestants should not

have started their university studies and should not be older than 20 years on June 30, 2022. Under the current definition, we consider a high school in which students have more than one-third of the lectures (on average per year) on topics in physics or mathematics to be equivalent to a university. However, if there are students on your team who come from schools that do not meet this criterion, but you feel that these students have not received university-level physics courses, please contact the head of the Academic Committee to find a fair solution.

We ask all potential teams to inform us of their intention to come to Ljubljana in May by filling in a short form "Expression of interest for participation in EuPhO 2022" on our website eupho2022.si by **March 15**, 2022. If you need an official invitation letter, please send us detailed information about who this letter should be addressed to (e.g. the Minister of Education of your country).

Fees and practical issues

The participation fee for the students and the team leader is 250 EUR per person, i.e. a total of 1500 EUR for a complete team of five students and one leader. The participation fee for each additional observer or visitor is 350 EUR. The same fee of 350 EUR per person also applies to all members of guest teams. Leaders will be accommodated in double rooms as standard. A limited number of single rooms are available; an additional fee of 100 EUR will be charged for single room accommodations.

Important dates:

- **March 15** – preliminary registration / expression of interest for participation; notification of the need for a visa to enter Slovenia, if required;
- **April 15** – confirmation of participation in EuPhO 2022; confirmation of the number of students, leaders and observers/visitors; issuance of the invoice for the participation fee;
- **May 8** – submission of all participant data; payment of the fee;
- **May 20-24** – duration of hospitality at EuPhO 2022.

Important: Covid-19 note

As far as Covid 19 restrictions are concerned, we are obliged to follow the measures and rules introduced by the Slovenian government. Throughout the fall-winter period, life was relatively relaxed for those who met RV conditions (recovered, vaccinated). A rapid antigen test (RAT) was required to attend public events and visit public places such as stores or schools. Even with the highest daily infection rate and the largest number of infected residents (~10 % of the population), the restrictions in place would allow the Olympiad to take place, with all precautions taken, of course. With the current trend, warmer spring, and relaxation of Covid-19-related restrictions (as of February 20, the

RVT condition will be lifted for most daily activities, but face masks will still be required on public transportation and in public places such as schools and hospitals. The current situation (with a delay of a few days) of the Covid 19 epidemic in Slovenia, the measures and regulations as proposed by the National Institute of Public Health and implemented by the Slovenian government can be found at: www.gov.si/en/topics/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/.

Nevertheless, we strongly recommend that you consider forming a team (including leaders and observers/visitors) that meets the conditions of the RV.

The situation may change and compliance with RV conditions will significantly reduce the possibility of complications when entering Slovenia or participating in planned EuPhO activities.

Academic committee

At EuPhO, problems are designed and grading is overseen by an academic committee with international members, scheduled for 2022:

- **prof. Jaan Kalda**, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia,
- **dr. Simon Čopar**, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia,
- **dr. Ivan Erofeev**, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russia,
- **prof. Victor Ivanov**, University of Sofia, Bulgaria,
- **dr. Lev Melnikovsky**, Kapitza Institute for Physical Problems of Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia,
- **dr. Stefan Petersen**, Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education at Kiel University, Germany,
- **Barbara Roos**, Institute of Science and Technology Austria, Austria,
- **prof. Paul Stanley**, Beloit College, United States of America,
- **dr. Máté Vigh**, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary.

Information about the Olympiad can be found by visiting eupho2022.si. We hope to see you all in Ljubljana!

With best regards,



prof. Jaan Kalda
Tallinn University of Technology
president of EuPhO



dr. Jurij Bajc
Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana
chairman of the local organizing committee