

PARTICIPATION OF MACEDONIAN TEAM AT THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD, ARNHEM - NIJMEGEN, THE NETHERLANDS, 4-12 DECEMBER 2017



About the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO)

The International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) was established in 2004 to promote interest in science among school students, exposing them to problem solving, critical thinking and experimentation. The academic competition of the IJSO includes challenging tests in topics of science, both as theory questions and practical assignments. The tests are designed to address students' understanding of scientific concepts, and their ability to apply concepts to the situations described in the tests. Another important objective of the Olympiads is for young people to experience different cultures and to bring about interactions between students from across the world. Thus, the Olympiads have a potential to promote global peace and understanding.

IJSO is a Science and Technology knowledge Olympiad in which students from fifty countries from all over the world compete with one another over a ten-day period. Each country is represented by one team consisting of six students. Three mentors guide the team. The competition is held in a different country every year. The age of the competitors is fifteen years or younger on the 31st of December of the competition year.



14th International Junior Science Olympiad

The 14th International Junior Science Olympiad took place in the Netherlands from the 3rd to the 12th of December, 2017 (<http://ijso2017.nl/>). The theme of the Olympiad was "Water and sustainability" as good water management has been necessary from the earliest times to keep the country dry. Water plays an important role in the Netherlands. Much of the country is either below sea level or prone to flooding by rivers (Netherlands = low-lying lands).

More than 300 bright students aged 15 years and younger, from 50 countries around the world, met in The Netherlands. During the Science Olympiad they tested their knowledge and skills in physics, biology and chemistry. Two individual theoretical tests were followed by a practicum, which was a team effort for the students. Participants received individual scores based on their theoretical knowledge, experimental skills and ability to work in a team. The guidelines to participate in the International Junior Science Olympiad are set in place to ensure a fair and fun competition. Competitors in the International Junior Science Olympiad swear an oath at the beginning of the competition to answer the theoretical and practical competition questions in the most responsible way and to compete honestly and fair. Apart from the intention to play fair, the set of rules and guidelines were set for all participants.

Next to the tests, an exciting programme of excursions has been set up for students and leaders. They visited the Dutch water boards, schools, companies and museums. A visit to world-famous Amsterdam was also part of the program.

About the Macedonian team

The activities regarding this Olympiad were realized by three associations: Society of Physicists of Macedonia, Society of Chemists and Technologist of Macedonia and Macedonian Biological Society. Initially, an invitation was sent to the 10 best students who competed at the chemistry, physics and biology state competitions to participate at the First Macedonian Science Olympiad held at the end of August 2017. After selection, six students were chosen to take part in the 14th International Junior Science Olympiad in the Netherlands:

1. Mila Ivanovska, SOU J. B. Tito, Bitola;
2. Jovan Petrov, OOU Krste Misirkov, Gevgelija;
3. Konstantin Tripunovskai, SUGS R. J. Korchagin, Skopje;
4. Hristina Mitreska, PSU Jahja Kemal, Struga;
5. Jovana Stojcheska, SOU Gjorche Petrov, Prilep and
6. Leonid Sajkov, SOU J. B. Tito, Bitola.

Then the team was further prepared at the Institute of Chemistry, Institute of Physics and Institute of Biology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje according to the syllabus given by the IJSO 2017 Steering committee. The team from the Institute of chemistry involved in the competitions and preparation of the students were: Marina Stojanovska, Marina Stefova, Ljupco Pejov, Tatjana Ilievska and Dejan Pejovski.

The six students were lead by Assist. Prof. Dr. Boce Mitrevski (physics), Assist. Prof. Dr. Marina Stojanovska (chemistry) and Elena Rafajlovska (biology). All students were very successful, but the greatest achievement for Macedonia on this prestigious Olympiad was winning a bronze medal by Mila Ivanovska.

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Agency of youth and sport for their generous support of our Olympic team by sponsoring the fee and the flight tickets for all students and leaders.

Marina Stojanovska
Institute of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences
Skopje, Macedonia
mmonkovic@yahoo.com