



NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

Wednesday, July 20

THE 23rd CENTRAL EUROPEAN OLIMPIAD IN INFORMATICS PIATRA NEAMȚ, ROMÂNIA, JULY 18 – 23, 2016

Welcome to CEOI 2016

Greetings everyone and welcome to the 23rd edition of CEOI! First of all, we would like to present you the opening ceremony.

The ceremony was hosted by Bogdan Ciurezu & Gratiela Hira in the ceremony hall of the Neamt Country Council and started with wishes from local and regional figures.

“These days, Piatra Neamt has the honour to host the Central European Olympiad of Informatics, being after Cluj-Napoca & Targul Mures, the third city in Romania which hosts such a prestigious competition,” said Dragos Chitic – mayor of Piatra Neamt.

Nusa Dumitriu Lupan, general inspector at the Ministry of National Education and Research: *“Dear students, your presence here, means that Romania will become for several days the heart and mind of our planet. [...] I wish you all good luck and may the best win!”*

This year, the 23rd edition of the CEOI organised by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research and the Neamt County School Inspectorate is taking place at the National College of Informatics in Piatra Neamt, with the partnership of the Neamt County Council. The contestants of this edition are coming from Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Georgia, Germany, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Hungary.

The moment that really took the biscuit was when the team from Croatia spread bucket hats all over the hall, while all of the officials were laughing and clapping.

Viorel Stan, PhD, General Schools Inspector at the Neamt County School Inspectorate, also wished good luck to all of the participants.

The ceremony continued with some artistic moments, offered by students from Victor Brauner Arts High School, featuring musical pieces performed with the piano, saxophone and flute.

At the end of the ceremony, everybody was invited to a glass of champagne or juice – depending on their age.

And this is how the first day of CEOI 2016 ends. The Newsletter team also want to encourage all the participants, and as all the officials have said today,

MAY THE BEST WIN!



Silviu Candale – the president of the technical committee

Q: Is it the first time you have been part of the technical committee?

A.: No, it is the third time.

Q: Is this your first time in Piatra-Neamt?

A. C.: I have been to Piatra Neamt several times, but it's the second time I have been part of a competition.

Q: How much time do you allocate for your training and for the preparation of this contest?

A.: It is very difficult to answer this question.

After a discussion, in which I gave up the recorder, I asked Mr. Silviu Candale how he had come up with the idea of creating www.pbinfo.ro site. He said that he had experience in designing websites for training, saying he had made the evaluator site for the Romanian team, but he had also wanted to make such a site for regular students, because they represented the majority and he worked with them in most of his teaching time.



Kamil Dębowski – the leader of the Polish team

Q: Where are you from?

A: I am from Poland, more exactly, from Warsaw.

Q: How have you felt today?

A: I have felt fine!

Q: It is your first time in Romania?

A: Yes it is my first time here. And it is also the first time for Mateusz.

Q: Do you like it here?

A: Yes we like it here, especially we like this city even more than the capital. We went there before and this one is much more beautiful.

Q: When did you start studying informatics?

A: I started programming about 6 years ago and I started studying informatics 3 years ago at the University of Warsaw.

Q: Ok so you have a lot of experience. That would be enough. Thank you for your time today!

A: You're welcome!



Aleksandar Krastev - a contestant from Bulgaria

Q: And how was your journey to Romania? Did you face any difficulties?

A: Well, it was a bit long because I had an exhausting bus trip with the team... but it was fine.

Q: I'm very happy to hear that. Is this your first time in Romania?

A: No. I went to another competition 3 months ago.

Q: Wow. Sounds great. What do you know about Romania?

A: I know that it's the country of Dracula andAnd that is all.

Q: And about Piatra Neamt?

A: I think the name means... a German stone or something like that.

Q: That's interesting... so, when did you start studying Informatics?

A: Five years ago I think.

Q: Are you happy that you were able to get here?

A: Yes... I'm very happy and the city is very beautiful.

Q: Thank you very much for your time and for the interview. I wish you good luck at CEOI.

A: It was a pleasure. Thanks.



Contestants from Switzerland

Q: Can you describe your country in three words?

A: Beautiful, chocolate, and cheese.

Q: How was your journey to Romania? Did you face any difficulties during your trip?

A: Good, we didn't face any difficulties.

Q: Did you come by plane?

A: Yes, we came two days earlier and stayed in Iasi.

Q: Is this your first time in Romania?

A: Yes.

Johannes Kapfhammer: No.

Q: When you first came here, did you stay in Piatra Neamt?

Johannes Kapfhammer: I stayed in Targu Mures.

Q: What do you know about Romania?

A: It has the best traditional food. It is a part of the European Union.

And that there was war before, and they changed their monetary unit, like the currency was in hundred-thousands, and they cut down 4 zeros.

Q: What are your first impressions about Piatra Neamt?

A: Beautiful, there are a lot of trees. It is better than Iasi, there is more space.

Q: Did you also participate last year or the previous years in the CEOI?

Kevin De Keyser: I participated 2 years ago, in Germany.

Q: And how it was? Did you win the contest?

Kevin De Keyser: Oh, no.

Q: How was your team selected?

A: By a national competition.

Q: Which team do you consider the most threatening?

A: We think that Poland.

Q: What are your expectations concerning this contest?

A: Hopefully, at least one medal.



Contestants from Moldavia

Q: Hi there, how was your trip to Piatra Neamt, are you tired?

A: It wasn't bad at all, given the fact that we are only 250 km away from Piatra-Neamt it wasn't a problem for us to arrive here, and also we don't feel tired at all.

Q: How was the practice session this morning?

A: It was a bit hard but we were able to handle it.

Q: Do you feel ready for this competition?

A: Yes we do.

Q: Is this the first time for you in Piatra-Neamt?

A: For me it's not the first time because I usually visit some relatives in Sovata and I always go through Piatra-Neamt before I get there.

Q: Is this the first time you participate in the international competition of informatics?

A: Yes it is, unfortunately we didn't participate in other editions.

Q: When did you start learning computer science?

A: For me it was in the 7th grade.

Q: Do you have any plans for the future?

A: We think we are all going to attend the University of Informatics in Iasi.



Weather Forecast, Wednesday, July 20



Taxi



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The Bicz Gorges

Only 20 km away from Bicz, the Bicz Gorges represents one of the most attractive areas in the entire country. The entire road has exquisite serpentine. The chalk walls of the mountain hide caves of incredible beauty (The Black Cave, The Waterfall Cave) and photoles. All the small affluents of Bicz, create their own small "gorges" like the Lăpuşului Gorges, the Sugăului Gorges, the Bicăjeului Gorges.

On the road you can admire The Altar Stone - a rocky massif with the altitude of 1120 meters and the massive called Piatra Pintestilor (847 meters) and Piatra Arsitei (835 meters). Among the beautiful views Piatra Surucului, Poarta de Piatra and Politele Bardosului can be reminded.

The construction of the narrow road, thought to gain attention with a spectacular chain of serpentine, started in 1912. With the initial goal of being a military road, it turned out to be one of the most important ways of crossing between Transylvania and Moldavia by putting into operation the recently - built tunnel.

Both sides of the narrow valley are guarded by vertical cliffs (300-400 m), which prevent the Sun's rays from passing through.

The Bicz Gorges was formed by the less harsh erosion of the Mesozoic limestones. The association of the differently colored types of rocks and varied in terms of form represents one of the most remarkable tourist routes from the Carpathians. On some rocks there are trails for hiking.



The Red Lake

- The submerged forest -

At the confluence of two Romanian regions, before crossing the mountains, you can see Lacu Roşu (or The Red Lake), a natural lake which was "born" in 1837 during a landslide.

It is said that a rock fell and blocked the Bicz River and in time, it turned into a lake. What is so interesting about this lake? Not the training model, neither its colour (no at all red, rather yellow) but its amazing appearance.

Because 200 years ago there was a forest here, the lake looks like a submerged forest at present. We can still see old tree trunks coming out of the water. The landscape is a little sinister and you have to be brave to go by boat because you do not know what may lie underneath: just water or a trunk crashed passing through the outside?



Dictionary

English

Good afternoon!

Hello!

Good bye!

Romanian

Bună ziua!

Salut!

La revedere!

English

What time is it?

What is your name?

How much is this?

Romanian

Cât este ora/ceasul?

Cum te numeşti?

Cât costă?

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