

WELCOME TO THE BULGARIAN SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ABILITIES AND TALENTS IN THE FIELD OF MATHEMATICS AND INFORMATICS!

An important resource for the successful realization of the Lisbon strategy aimed at achieving highly competitive and knowledge-based economy in the European Union is hidden in the attraction of able and talented youths to a professional realization in the field of research, information technologies and innovations. However, before being attracted and directed to these spheres, abilities and talents should be identified and developed, preferably while still at school. In contrast to common resources (ore, oil, gas, etc.) that will vanish after having been discovered and exhausted, an individual's abilities and talent will irretrievably disappear as a resource unless they are timely revealed and developed. To this effect, the activities in connection with the talent discovery and development, as well as with its direction to professional realisation in the field of research, information technologies and innovations, gains additional significance during the realization of the Lisbon strategy.

A very well-developed system of students' abilities and talents discovery in the field of mathematics and informatics is available in Bulgaria. The fact that for more than 30 years Bulgarian students have regularly been awarded a large number of medals at the International Mathematics Olympiad proves that. In the informal team ranking Bulgaria has regularly been joining the first rank of ten among more than 80 participating countries. Very often the Bulgarian team has finished the contest, classified within the first six positions, among competitors of incommensurable human and economic potential.

Bulgaria is the initiator and first organizer of the International Olympiad in Informatics for school students. For the first time it was held in Bulgaria, in 1989, and since then it has been organized on an annual base, and the Bulgarian teams also demonstrate impressive achievements at it. In 2009, twenty years after the first one, Bulgaria will host the International Olympiad in Informatics again.

Bulgaria is also home for the first International Mathematical Linguistics Olympiad.

These results are due to the **“System for identification and development of abilities and talents”** created by the Bulgarian mathematical community. This system is, in fact, an environment where young people could exhibit and develop their abilities. The principal part in this environment falls to the numerous **forms**

of demonstration (Olympiads, contests, students' institute, etc.) and **forms of preparation** (study circles, schools, magazines, etc.). Part of these forms are shown in the different sections on this web site, developed within the framework of Project 07 – 01 - 024 under the Work Program for 2007 of the Communication Strategy of Bulgaria for the European Union.

Have a good time browsing this web site!

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