



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

THE TEAM

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The last day of the 5th edition of the “Romanian Master of Informatics”, contest which was hosted by Tudor Vianu National College of Computer Science, was a day characterized by emotion, excitement, joy, tears of happiness and impatient looking for the announcement of the final results. These were the feelings among all the contestants.

The ceremony was opened by a medieval fight, sponsored by “Compania ursului brun”.



After this demonstration, the medals were handed to the winners. It was pleasant to watch them going on stage with a bright smile of bliss on their faces. Thunderous applause started to whang as a sign of appreciation for the hard work of the participants. The winning team of this contest was the team of Romania.







After the students were congratulated for their results, they were invited to an after party where they could socialize with the other contestants and share their experience.

We have managed to steal a little bit from their free time in order to take them some interviews. Enjoy!

INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDER CRUSTEV – BULGARY

Ioana: How long have you been practicing for in order to reach such a high level?

Alexander: I started learning informatics about 5 years ago, but I have not practiced constantly. I had some periods in which I solved many problems, but then I stopped and did something else.

Ioana: How much time per day do you spend solving informatics problems?

Alexander: It really depends. On average, 3-4 hours.

Iulia M: Which do you believe is the key to success?

Alexander: I am of the opinion that you need to love what you do and then, of course, you must do a lot of training and solve as many problems as possible.

Iulia M: Describe your experience here in one word.

Alexander: Satisfying, I guess.

Ioana: What do you like doing in your free time?

Alexander: I enjoy developing video games. I sometimes go out with friends.

Ioana: Who/What has motivated you in order to get to the top?

Alexander: Nobody. I started doing informatics out of pure passion and curiosity and soon, as I got to solve more and more problems and to understand what informatics was all about, I realized that it had become something I loved learning for.



INTERVIEW WITH THEODOR MOROIANU – ROMANIA

Iulia M: What does informatics mean to you? Is it a passion or something else?

Theodor: It's more like a hobby, a passion. I mean I learn a lot, I spend a part of my time doing this and I like it too.

Ioana: How would you instill the passion for informatics for those who haven't discovered its beauty yet?

Theodor: I have many friends that aren't good at informatics, so I usually give them some logic problems to solve, which can also be solved by means of informatics. They usually like it, so they start making a passion for this subject.

Iulia M: How do you find the balance between your social life and your work for the Olympiad?

Theodor: I have free time. I am a student at ICHB. I work for informatics once a day, but I don't force myself. Otherwise, I go out with my friends. I try to keep a balance.

Ioana: Do you remember your first informatics contest?

Theodor: Yes, it took place here, at Tudor Vianu National College of Computer Science. I was in 7th grade and I decided to participate in the "Shumen" contest. I went there, but I barely understood the requirement of the problem, I wrote the code then I had to leave so I asked someone to send my source. Finally, I remember that I got 0 points, I don't even know if my code was sent or not – and that was it, my first contest.

Iulia M: What do you think the key to success is?

Theodor: I think the key is perseverance, I mean nobody succeeds the first time and if you don't try again and again you'll never achieve your goal.

Ioana: Which qualities are needed in order to be a good informatician? Are the native qualities enough or do you also need to be patient and sedulous?

Theodor: You have to be ambitious, personally I am not patient, but I think this quality is not needed. When it fascinates you, it is just...passion!

Iulia M: What was the thing that you liked the most about the contest?

Theodor: I think that the problems were very nice this year; it was good to think up solutions for them.

Iulia M: What motivates you in order to get to the top?

Theodor: I guess it is the fact that I really love what I'm doing and the contests are bonuses.

Ioana: How did you feel when you won the gold medal?

Theodor: I was really happy, like really, really happy!



INTERVIEW WITH TEODOROVA TSVETA – BULGARY

Iulia D: Do you like Bucharest?

Teodorova: It's an amazing city, I really like the architecture, I like the buildings. I visited the Palace of the Parliament, which is extraordinary in my opinion.

Iulia D: Have you made any new friends at this contest?

Teodorova: Not yet, I haven't had time, but we, the team of Bulgaria, are a big family and I've also got along with our guides very well. I've enjoyed their company, they are really nice so I think I can say that I made some friends, but I'm not sure if I'll see them again. And I already knew some people from other countries from other contests.

Iulia D: Do you have any hobbies? Are you interested in art or music?

Teodorova: I like music very much. Recently I've started playing the guitar. But I'm not very good at the moment. Most of us have other hobbies because that helps us relax. Computer science can be tiresome.

Iulia D: Can you give me one tip for balancing learning with social life?

Teodorova: It's nearly impossible. It's all about priorities. If you want to be good at something, you have to make some decisions that won't be easy. If you know what you want, you'll have to do it.

Iulia D: Have you ever been in other countries before?

Teodorova: 2 months ago I went to Beijing.

Iulia D: This is an interesting city! Did you like Beijing more than Bucharest?

Teodorova: Not really. Beijing is more agglomerated and it's definitely more polluted. And we also didn't visit Beijing as much as Bucharest because we didn't have any guide and we weren't allowed to leave the campus. But I can't decide, I think that they are both beautiful in their own kind. You know, in China some places are so polluted that they have panels with sunsets and sunrises because they could not see that. The sky is always grey, like it's cloudy and it's going to rain, but it's because of pollution.