



Issue 0, June/July 2005

NEWSLETTER

of the 17th International Olympiad in Informatics, Poland 2005

Dear contestants, leaders and guests!

This summer we invite you to Nowy Sącz, Poland, to participate in the 17th International Olympiad in Informatics. This year the Olympiad will be held in the campus of the WSB-NLU School in Nowy Sącz — one of the most modern campuses in Poland. After the contest efforts you will be able to make use of various sport and leisure facilities.

For a whole week you will be staying in a beautiful part of Europe, close to the famous city of Cracow, rich in tourist attractions on one side, and the picturesque Beskidy and Tatry Mountains with their natural charm on the other. We are hoping to show you many nice places during our trips.

If you want to seize the opportunity and spend some spare days in Poland before or after the Olympiad (or your flight itinerary leaves you with no other choice), or simply find out more about our country, check the following pages. We provided information about possible sightseeing options that you may come across on your way to the contest site. We also included some other useful information in this brochure. Please visit the IOI web page to learn more about what to expect upon your arrival.

Enjoy your summer holidays and see you on August 18th! We are anxiously looking forward to seeing you.



The IOI'2005 postcard

Best wishes from the IOI'2005 team

IOI in brief

The history of the IOI goes back as far as 1987, when the idea of initiating such a competition was proposed to the 24th General Conference of UNESCO. Soon after the first Olympiad took place in Bulgaria, with 13 participating countries. There have been 16 IOIs held since then in 15 different countries (Greece was the host twice) and the event has grown 5 times in size — 80 countries are expected this year in Nowy Sącz, Poland, at the 17th IOI'2005.

The contestants recruit from the winners of national Olympiads, who compete during two sessions, struggling with problems selected by the international jury. Apart from the challenge, the atmosphere of the Olympiad encourages to exchange experiences, visit interesting places, make friends and have fun. It is an unforgettable event.

The Polish National Olympiad in Informatics is a bit younger — it was first held in 1993. It has always focused on solving tasks of algorithmic nature. Our representatives for the IOI have always scored medals, many of them gold. The IOI'2005 is made possible thanks to the skills, experience and work of the very same people who support the Polish Olympiad.

SCHEDULE OUTLINE

August 18-25, 2005

<i>Thursday, 18th</i>	Arrivals, transportation to Nowy Sącz
<i>Friday, 19th</i>	Opening ceremony, practice session
<i>Saturday, 20th</i>	Competition - day 1
<i>Sunday, 21st</i>	Excursion 1
<i>Monday, 22nd</i>	Competition - day 2
<i>Wednesday, 23rd</i>	Excursion 2
<i>Thursday, 24th</i>	Closing ceremony, awards, farewell evening
<i>Friday, 25th</i>	Departures

Excursions include: Wieliczka (a visit to the salt mine), Cracow and Pieniny Mountains (rafting on the Dunajec river).

www.ioi2005.pl

www.ioi2005.pl

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On these two pages we want to introduce Poland to you, with a deeper insight into some selected places. It can also be a starting point for those of you who will spend more than just the seven Olympic days here.



Poland,

one of the biggest countries in Central Europe with over 38 million citizens living on an area of 312 thousand km². The state was established in the 10th century, as a result of unification of local tribes and soon was acknowledged by other European monarchs.

In the course of history Poland experienced periods of extraordinary power, respect and fame (15th -16th century), as well as times of extreme hardship, including the partition period (1795 - 1918) when it completely disappeared from the political map of Europe. The latest history brought liberation from communism in 1989 and introduction of democracy in this part of Europe. The borders and the area of Poland changed repeatedly. Nowadays the territory of Poland is situated westwards from where it used to be a few centuries ago.

As Poland stretches from the north to the south, all kinds of terrain appear subsequently: from the Baltic Sea shores and lake districts in the north; through the lowlands in the centre gently changing to uplands as you move south; ending with the mountains along the southern border. Each of these parts has its own charm.

The coastline: One of the most beautiful places in Poland is the coast of the Baltic Sea. You can find there quiet places, far from the crowd, where you can enjoy being close to the nature, as well as small towns, in the summer always full of life, with many tourist attractions. One of the most breathtaking places along the coastline are the shifting sand dunes — the largest in Central Europe, the highest of them goes up to 40 metres.

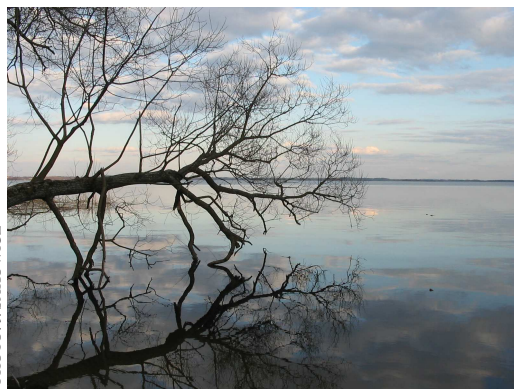


PHOTO: J. SAKOWICZ

The Lakes District in Mazury

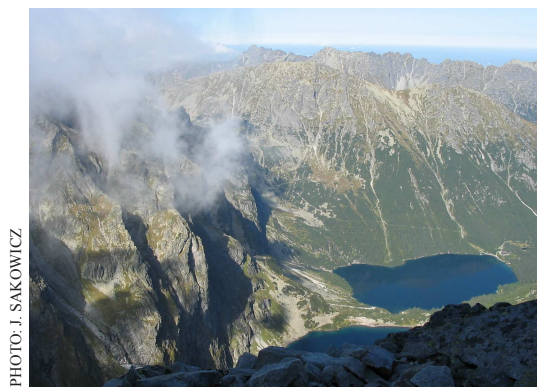


PHOTO: J. SAKOWICZ

The Tatry Mountains



Warsaw

See www.e-warsaw.pl

The capital city of Poland since 1596, situated in the centre of our country, on the bank of the Vistula river. With the population of over 1,690,000 inhabitants, Warsaw is the largest city of Poland.

The Old Town: a very charming place with its old architecture, fragments of city walls, monuments, narrow alleys, cafés and restaurants. It is a very popular place for walks for the inhabitants of Warsaw as well as for tourists. Its central point is the Old Town Market Square, filled with café tables and street artists. Do not miss the chance to have a walk around the Old Town when in Warsaw.



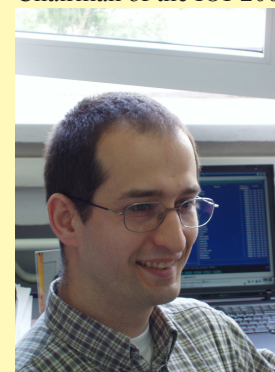
PHOTO: M. ADAMASZEK

The Royal Castle and part of The Old Town

Who is who



Krzysztof Diks
Warsaw University
Chairman of the IOI'2005



Marcin Kubica
Warsaw University
Chairman of the IOI'2005
Scientific Committee

The Royal Castle: built in the 14th century, as a residence of the dukes of this region. When the capital of Poland was moved to Warsaw, the castle became the residence of the Polish kings. It was improved and expanded many times. It was completely destroyed during the World War II, and reconstructed in the 1970s. Nowadays, the castle is a museum that features famous paintings, old furniture and many other works of art.



PHOTO: M. ADAMASZEK

Downtown Warsaw

in Europe, covering an area of nearly 80 hectares. Among many palaces the complex consists of, the best known is the Palace on the Water. Every Sunday a piano concert of Chopin music takes place by the monument of Chopin.

Wilanów Palace: The Palace in Wilanów was a summer king residence. The Palace is one of the most beautiful monuments of Polish baroque architecture. It is surrounded by a beautiful English-style park.

Important: bus transport: the bus number 175 covers most of the routes those of you who arrive to Warsaw may wish to take. It goes from the airport, through the centre, passing by the Central Railway Station, and on to the Old Town. Another bus is 180 — a sightseeing route passing by most tourist attractions in the town.



Cracow

See www.krakow.pl/en

One of the biggest, oldest and most picturesque cities, not only in Poland but on the whole continent. It was Poland's capital from 1038 till 1592. Due to centuries of history and cultural wealth the town gained a unique charm that attracts everyone. For this, and other reasons, Cracow is entered in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

Sightseeing: When in Cracow, make sure not to miss the Old Town centre, with the Market Square, from where the streets will take you straight to the Royal Castle on the Wawel Hill.

The Old Town: The charm of the Old Town will not leave you indifferent! Wandering in the alleys among old buildings around the Market Square is a real pleasure (especially it is not crowded...). Each side of the Square is about 200m long, placing it among the biggest in Europe. Its centre is occupied by a Cloth Hall, with all kinds of souvenirs for sale. In one of the market's corners you will find St. Mary's Church — the effort of climbing 239 stairs up its tower is rewarded with a breathtaking view of the town, the vicinity and even some mountains on the horizon, if the weather is in favour. From that tower a bugle-call is played by a trumpeter every full hour. Consult a more detailed guide for information — remember that almost every scratch of wall in the Old Town has a rich history!

The Royal Castle on the Wawel Hill: The Kings' Road, taken by all just crowned kings, leads to the Wawel Hill — another must for tourists — occupied by a fortified castle, on the bank of Vistula. The huge courtyard is free to enter, the



PHOTO: GRZYCHOWSKI

The Market Square in Cracow

Essentials

Money: The currency unit is 1 zloty (PLN) that splits into 100 groszy. The exchange rate currently is more or less

1 Euro = 4 PLN

1 USD = 3 PLN

Weather: You may expect daytime temperatures around 25°C (77°F), but do not be surprised if they reach 35°C (90°F) if the summer turns out to be a very hot one. The sun can be pretty strong – provide yourself with good sun-protection if necessary. It is usually not very humid. Take a warm sweater to wear on chill evenings. Do not forget the raincoat, either.

Phones: Public phones are widely available. Mobile phone network covers 95% of the area of Poland, surely including all the places you may expect to find yourselves in (unless you go underground).

Time: In the summer the time zone in Poland is GMT+2.

Electricity: The voltage is 230V, at 50Hz. The outlets are “European type”.

Sports: There will be a swimming pool available, so taking a swimming suit may be a good idea. Take any items you find useful for any non-standard sport activities, too.

interiors form an art museum. One cannot date the castle definitely — it was subject to development and rebuilding almost all the time since the 11th century. A well known legend says a dragon used to live in a cave under the hill and threatened the town, but was trickily defeated by a poor shoemaker. The dragon's monument can be found under the hill, by the river. Check out yourselves that it belches fire from its mouth! The castle is accompanied by the Wawel Cathedral — the coronation site of Polish kings. It shelters elements from all epochs — from Gothic and Baroque to Classic and Modern. Enter the crypt under the chapel to visit the tombs of kings and national heroes. Climb the tower to see a view of Cracow again.

Evening: Cracow offers you a chance to have a great time: the



PHOTO: B. SULKOWSKI

The Hercules Club

Tourists can now flow along the underground hallways of the mine. **The Cracow Upland:** An area north of Cracow, known as Jura, full of jurrasic limestone rocks, caves, with a few castles, altogether forming a truly picturesque countryside. Some rocks, such as the Hercules Club, narrower at the bottom than at the top, are famous on their own. Very recommended!

language barrier may possibly prevent you from visiting a theatre, but there are still cinemas, live street shows and opera. Numerous cafes and restaurants attract visitors with their pleasant atmosphere. Enjoy!

Around: Wadowice: A small town famous as the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, 60 km west from Cracow. There is a small museum devoted to the Pope, located in his flat. **Wieliczka:** An even smaller town on the outskirts of Cracow, famous worldwide for a 12th century

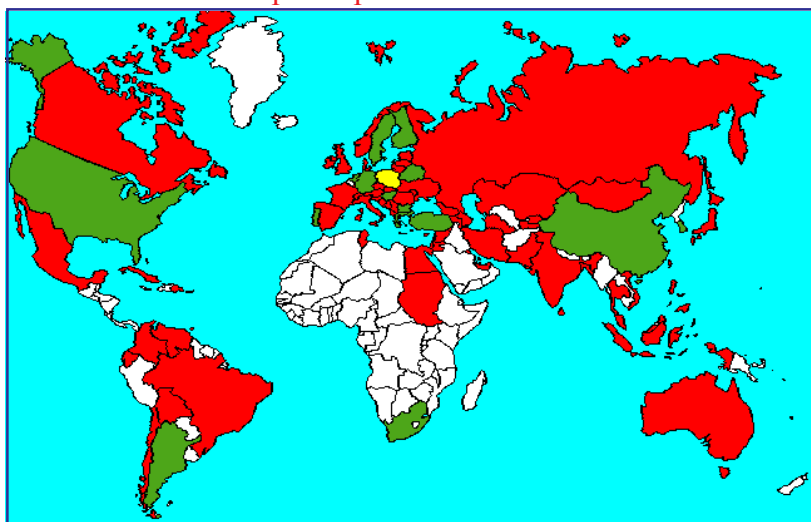


Nowy Sącz

The city **where the IOI will be held** lies in the heart of Beskidy Mountains. You will get the chance to see it and learn more about it and its neighbourhood during your stay at the IOI.

Where do we come from?

The map shows the **host countries of the previous IOIs** and the other **participants of IOI'2005**.



Profile Warsaw University

The main organizer of this year's IOI is the Institute of Informatics of Warsaw University. Since its foundation in 1816, our University has developed to become, together with the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, one of the leading academic centres in Poland. Nowadays 2,800 teachers, including over 200 professors, run courses for 60,000 enrolled students spread over 18 faculties.

The Institute of Informatics was established in 1975 as part of the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics. The Institute organizes teaching activities in the field of Computer Science, and conducts research in various areas of Computer and Information Sciences. The research concentrates mostly around the problems of software engineering, theory of algorithms, logic and specification theory, as well as of Artificial Intelligence and data bases. The Institute offers a Master of Science degree in Computer Science to those who accomplish a five-year programme.

Our students recruit from the most skilled young people in Poland, many of them being winners or finalists of Science Olympiads. Thus their academic-level achievements are not surprising. Year after year our team enters the finals of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, the most recognized programming competition for university students in the world. In 2003 The Warsaw Eagles won this challenge far ahead of the runner-ups. Warsaw University occupies the first place in the TopCoder schools ranklist (www.topcoder.com/tc). Without doubt, we keep pace with the best in the world!

Polish your Polish

hello - **cześć**
I don't understand - **nie rozumiem**
the best - **najlepszy**
programming - **programowanie**
language - **język**
the best programming language - **C**