

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winners of the Regional Semi-Final of Odysseus Space Contest

The Odysseus space science contest held its regional semi-final for Czech Republic, Slovakia, Serbia and Romania from 4th April to 8th April 2016. Hosted by the Czech Space Office in iQLANDIA Science center in Liberec, the event featured an awards ceremony, an activities programme and networking opportunities. European regional winners qualify to compete in the pan-European final to be held in July

Czech Space Office, CZECH REPUBLIC – 6th April 2016

Contestants from Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania – all of whom have already won national honours in the Pioneers category of the Odysseus contest - gathered in Liberec on 4th April for the region's semi-final event. In addition to presenting their project entries in front of a jury, the semi-finalists visited science-related sites, attended lectures, met space professionals and participated in fun-oriented activities with other students from the region. (See detailed programme below.) Travel costs for all participants in the semi-finals are covered by the contest organizers.

The Contest

Combining scientific learning with hands-on experience, Odysseus is a fun-based educational contest focusing on space science. Young people all over Europe are eligible to participate. Aimed at learners between the ages of 7 and 22, the contest is designed to engage talented young people with a spirit of discovery and an interest in science.

Participants in the upcoming semi-finals are competing in two of the contest's three



categories: Pioneers (ages 14 to 18) and Explorers (ages 17 to 22). In both cases students are expected to demonstrate ingenuity and academic excellence in exploring space-related themes. Experienced judges evaluate entries on the basis of scientific knowledge, practical implementation and creativity. Odysseus Contest winners in a third category, Skywalkers (ages 7 to 13), will be announced in June.

Regional Semi-Final Programme

Monday 4th April 2016

- 17:00 – Departure by the bus from Václav Havel airport Prague to Liberec
- 19:00 – Accommodation: teams and teachers in Hotel Babylon (<http://www.hotelbabylon.cz>)
evaluators in Jasmín (<http://www.penzion-jasmin.cz>)
- 20:00 – Dinner at the Babylon hotel restaurant and icebreaker

Tuesday 5th April 2016

- Full day of activities at the Science center iQLANDIA Liberec (<http://www.iqlandia.cz>)
- 09:30 – 10:00 Opening and info (inside iQLANDIA at the FOUNTAIN, 1st floor)
 - 10:00 – 10:30 Visualization of space radiation in LEO orbit by the SATRAM/Timepix spacecraft payload on board ESA Proba-V satellite, Carlos Granja, CTU Prague (2nd floor)

 - 10:30 – 12:00 **Morning session of student project presentations** (room at 3rd floor)
 - 10:30 – 11:00 Radiation on Mars (CZ - Radiace na Marsu)
 - 11:00 – 11:30 Mars vs. Earth (RO) (*alternatively at 11:00 - SCIENCE SHOW in Czech*)
 - 11:30 – 12:00 Mars, yesterday's dream, today's ordinary (RO - Marte, visul de ieri, ... astăzi)
 - 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch at the iQLANDIA restaurant (1st floor)

 - 14:00 – 17:00 **Afternoon session of student project presentations** (room at 3rd floor)
 - 14:00 – 14:30 Honeymoon - concept of a lunar city (RO)
 - 14:30 – 15:00 Asteroids (CZ - Využívání databáze SkyMorph pro hledání nových pozic planetek)
 - 15:00 – 15:30 To the stars (RO - Spre stele)
 - 15:30 – 16:00 Europe's treasures (RO - Comorile Europei)
 - 16:00 – 16:30 Mars Phoenix (CZ)
 - 18:00 – Social dinner of all attendants at the Babylon hotel restaurant



Wednesday 6th April 2016

Full day of "hands-on science" freely accessible throughout the Science Center iQLANDIA

- 09:30 – 12:00 **Morning session of student project presentations** (room at 3rd floor)
- 09:30 – 10:00 Astrobiological laboratory (RO - AstroVianu Lab)
- 10:00 – 10:30 Rocket engine using sodium (CZ - Sodíkový motor)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Mars Terraforming (CZ)
- 11:00 – 11:30 Exoplanet discovery (SK - Princíp vyhľadávania exoplanét a jeho vylepšenie)
- 11:30 – 12:00 Hydrogen line radiometer (CZ - Jednoduchý radiometr pro vodíkovou frekvenci)
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch at the iQLANDIA restaurant
- 13:30 – 14:00 Science show in English
- 14:00 – 17:00 Meeting of the evaluation committee (CLOSED presentation room at 3rd floor)
- 14:00 – 15:00 ENGLISH "hands-on laboratory" (only RO or SK students due to capacity)
- 15:30 – 16:30 CZECH "hands-on laboratory" (only CZ or SK students due to capacity)
- 16:45 – 17:15 „Journey to the Stars“ (Planetarium, iQLANDIA - 4th floor)
- 17:15 – 17:30 Awards ceremony (Planetarium, iQLANDIA - 4th floor)
- 17:30 – 18:30 Social walking dinner with guests (COSMOS expo, iQLANDIA - 4th floor)

Thursday 7th April 2016

- 09:00 – Departure of all attendants by bus to Prague
- 11:00 – Visit of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (<http://www.ufa.cas.cz/?lang=en>) the world's first minisatellites MAGION and modern ionospheric monitoring (J. Chum)
- Lunch packs on the bus
- 13:00 – Tour of the Ionospheric observatory in Průhonice (<http://digisonda.ufa.cas.cz>)
- 16:30 – Arrival to the Hotel Florenc (<http://www.hostelflorenc.cz>)
- Free time and dinner (meal vouchers usable anywhere in Prague)

Friday 8th April 2016

- 09:00 – 12:00 Optional excursion to the Van de Graaff accelerator with applications in space instrumentation testing, Carlos Granja, IEAP CTU Prague (<http://vdg.utef.cvut.cz>)
- 13:00 – Adjourn from hotel Florenc to the airport (RO)

Information about Odysseus contest regional semi-final winners, including those who were competing in regional semi-finals, is available online at:

www.odysseus-contest.eu/about/winners/



Two best teams in Age Category 14 to 18 - "Pioneers"

Školy: Gymnázia Jaroslava Seiferta a Špitálská v Praze

Studenti: Jakub Janoušek, Lukáš Sláma a Michal Koldinský

Učitelé: Daniel Mareš

Vítězné projekty: Využívání databáze SkyMorph pro hledání nových pozic planetek

School: "Tudor Vianu" National High School of Computer Science

Students: Andreea Zaharia with Vlad Panait

Coach: Ioana Stoica

The winning submission:

Project AstroVianu Lab is based on the concerns in astrobiology to determine whether or not an unexplored planet is habitable. Students have chosen the mission to implement a planetary rover to measure and, hence, study certain vital parameters on such a territory.

Background

Odysseus II challenges European youth to push the boundaries of their knowledge by discovering answers to fundamental questions on topics ranging from satellites and space probes to astrobiology and interplanetary travel. The ultimate aim of the contest is to inspire young Europeans to get involved in space science. Teachers are encouraged to participate by coaching teams and are offered access to professional mentoring upon request. Entries can be submitted in any of the EU's 24 official languages.

Three academic levels are targeted, with separate competitions for:

- **University undergraduates** (Explorers)
- **Secondary school students** (Pioneers)
- **Primary school pupils** (Skywalkers)

Prizes

Prizes for winners at advanced stages of competition include:



- Paid internships at the European Space Agency
- iPads
- Digital telescopes
- Travel opportunities
- A trip to the Guiana Space Centre in South America

Upcoming Competition

Another edition of the contest will be run in the 2016-2017 academic year. Students and teachers from all over Europe are encouraged to participate. Updated information will be made available on the Odysseus website at www.odysseus-contest.eu.

Organization

The contest is being organized by Odysseus II, a three-year project funded through the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The project consortium consists of 14 partners and four supporting organizations from 11 European countries. Odysseus II is an expanded version of a pilot project that ran from 2011 to 2013.

High-resolution logos and a 30-second promotional video are available to the media on the Odysseus contest website.

Contact

Jaroslav Urbář
Czech Space Office
Sokolovská 32/22, Prague 8

+420 734 393 526

urbar@czechspace.cz

www.odysseus-contest.eu

