

February 9, 2021  
Vilnius, Lithuania

Dear Colleagues,

It's a huge pleasure and privilege to invite you once again to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> International Physics Olympiad (IPhO 2021) which will happen in both: physical and online formats during July 17-25, 2021.

The last year posed incredible challenges to the whole world and the IPhO community was no exception. It was a very hard choice for us to postpone this event for a whole year but we think it was the right choice. As the situation seems to be heading the right direction and we know about this pandemic considerably more than last year, we are ready to host all the teams in the physical format of IPhO 2021 which will happen in Vilnius, Lithuania. However, if your team is facing extraordinary challenges to travel to our beautiful country, we will make an opportunity for any delegation to join the contest online and participate on equal terms. Skip to [Page 8](#) for the information about the online format.

We will be waiting for your confirmations and choice of the IPhO 2021 format before March 15, 2021. You will be able to adjust your choice between the physical and the online format until May 14, 2021. It is very important for us to know your choice as soon as possible. We might have to cancel the physical format if only a small number of participants decide to join. The online format will still take place no matter what. We will keep the whole community informed about the latest decisions through [www.ipho2021.lt](http://www.ipho2021.lt), the IPhO 2021 Facebook page and email communications.

Chairman of IPhO 2021 Organising  
committee

Dr. Gediminas Beresnevičius



Chairman of IPhO 2021 Academic  
committee

Prof. Dr. Habil. Edmundas Kuokštis



## INVITED COUNTRIES

Official invitations to participate in IPhO 2021 have been sent to 96 countries and regions, which participated in IPhO in 2017-2019.

We are waiting for the response from the following countries if they wish to send their delegations to participate in the IPhO 2021 in Vilnius, Lithuania (physical format) or over the internet (online format) until March 15th, 2021. Please, answer the questionnaire as soon as you can.

Albania	Egypt	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Argentina	El Salvador	Macau, SAR	Slovenia
Armenia	Estonia	Malaysia	Russia
Australia	Ethiopia	Mexico	South Africa
Austria	Finland	Moldova	Spain
Azerbaijan	France	Mongolia	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	Georgia	Montenegro	Suriname
Belarus	Germany	Myanmar	Sweden
Belgium	Greece	Nepal	Switzerland
Bolivia	Hong Kong, SAR	Netherlands	Syria
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hungary	Nigeria	Taiwan
Brazil	Iceland	North Macedonia	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	India	Norway	Thailand
Cambodia	Indonesia	Oman	Tunisia
Canada	Iran	Pakistan	Turkey
China	Israel	Peru	Uganda
Colombia	Italy	Philippines	Ukraine
Costa Rica	Japan	Poland	United Arab Emirates
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Portugal	United Kingdom
Cuba	Korea, South	Puerto Rico	United States of America
Cyprus	Kosovo	Qatar	Uzbekistan
Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Romania	Vietnam
Denmark	Latvia	Saudi Arabia	
Ecuador	Liechtenstein	Serbia	
	Lithuania	Singapore	

For online format go to [Page 8](#)

## DELEGATIONS

Each participating country shall send a delegation consisting of up to five students and up to two team leaders. In addition to the official delegation, the team can be accompanied by observers, and visitors.

## ORGANIZERS

IPhO 2021 is organized by three Lithuanian institutions: Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuanian Centre of Non-formal Youth Education and Vilnius University.

## LITHUANIAN HOSPITALITY

IPhO 2021 Organizers will provide and cover the costs of meals, accommodation, excursions, and ground transportation from July 17, 2021 to July 25, 2021. Early arrivals can be arranged if you inform the Organizers before May 14, 2021. Extra fees for early arrival apply (see below). If your delegation wishes to arrive more than one day early or depart later than the end of the IPhO 2021, you will have to arrange your own accommodation but we are very happy to point you the right direction.

Check-ins for our accommodation will open at 3pm local time. Check-outs for our accommodation will be no later than 11am local time. Please, note your scheduled arrival and departure times to avoid long waiting for check-in or your flight.

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Day	Students	Team leaders and others
July 16	Early arrivals (paid extra)	Early arrivals (paid extra)
July 17	Arrival and registration	Arrival and registration
July 17	Opening ceremony	Opening ceremony
July 18	Tourist activities	<b>Discussion and translation of the experimental exam</b>
July 19	<b>Experimental exam</b>	Tourist activities
July 20	Tourist activities	<b>Discussion and translation of the theoretical exam</b>
July 21	<b>Theoretical exam</b>	Tourist activities
July 21	Networking Dinner	Networking Dinner
July 22	Science Day	Tourist activities
July 23	Tourist activities	<b>Moderation</b>
July 24	Free time	<b>International Board Meeting</b>
July 24	Closing ceremony	Closing ceremony
July 25	Departures	Departures

Two days are set for the arrival in Vilnius. While the pandemic made long term flight predictability low, the situation last summer was rather optimistic. There were numerous flights arriving and departing from Vilnius International Airport (VNO). We recommend choosing Lufthansa or Airbaltic flights due to their consistency in the past.

Vilnius also has a train station and a bus terminal. During normal conditions, trains used to connect to routes in Latvia, Poland, Belarus, and Russian Kaliningrad. During the normal conditions, busses used to connect to Latvia, Estonia, Russia (St. Petersburg), Belarus, Ukraine (through Poland), and many EU countries through Poland.

It is recommended to arrive before 4pm on July 17 to attend the Opening Ceremony. Organizers will provide transportation to and from the Vilnius International Airport (VNO), Vilnius Train Station, and Vilnius Bus Terminal.

## VISAS

Lithuania is part of the Schengen area. If a delegation member requires a Schengen visa he/she should contact the Lithuanian Consulate of his/her country of residence. In countries where Lithuania does not have a diplomatic mission or consular post there is often another EU member state that represents Lithuania and where an application can be submitted.

You can find all the information regarding Schengen visa on website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania <https://keliauk.urm.lt/en>

If you need a visa invitation letter, please register your team with data of each participant as soon as possible. Take note that Schengen Visa procedures can have long wait times.

## COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

The travel situation keeps changing all the time. Please, plan your travels well. The up-to-date situation of the pandemic and entry requirements for Lithuania (concerning the travel restrictions) can be found at <https://koronastop.lrv.lt/en/>  
To be admitted to the IPhO 2021, all participants will have to either show a proof of successfully completed vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test (molecular or PCR) to be presented upon arrival at the airport. Don't forget to bring your favorite protective mask, if you have one.

The organizers will ensure the supply of disinfecting liquid, protective masks, ventilation of spaces and other measures to prevent the potential spreading of the virus.

## REGISTRATION AND IMPORTANT DATES

Confirm your team's participation and select the format of IPhO until	March 15, 2021
Opening of delegation registration platform on <a href="http://www.ipho2021.lt">www.ipho2021.lt</a>	March 15, 2021
Deadline to submit the delegation size	April 2, 2021
Last day to submit the details of delegation members and last day to modify the selected format of participation	May 14, 2021
Deadline for payments by bank transfer	June 17, 2021
Deadline for registering the arrival details	July 1, 2021

## PARTICIPATION FEES

IPhO 2021 Organizers set the following fees for all participants of IPhO 2021 (fees are indicated per person).

Student	500 EUR
Team Leader	500 EUR
Observer	1800 EUR
Visitor	2000 EUR
Single room option for all the days of the IPhO 2021 (July 17-25) per person	
Students	500 EUR
All others	750 EUR
Early arrival (July 16-17, one night) per person	
Students	50 EUR
All others	80 EUR

### **IMPORTANT!**

**Delegations that decide to withdraw from the participation after June 17, 2021 will not be refunded.**

## PAYMENT METHOD

Participation fee preferably should be paid by bank transfer. All bank transfers must be completed by June 17, 2021 and a confirmation receipt should be sent to info@ipho2021.lt. It will be possible to pay the participation fees in cash (EURO only) if such agreement is confirmed by the Organizing Committee (info@ipho2021.lt) before June 17, 2021.

Please note that all banking charges and commissions are to be borne by the participating delegations (please use OUR payment instructions to cover all the transfer fees).

**Details of IPhO 2021 bank account:**

Beneficiary: Lithuanian Centre of Non-formal Youth Education

Beneficiary address: Zirmunu 1B, LT-09101, Vilnius, Lithuania

Bank Name: AB SEB bankas

Account Number (IBAN): LT56 7044 0600 0831 8974

SWIFT code/BIC: CBVILT2XXXX

Bank address: Gedimino pr. 12 Vilnius, Lietuva

Please indicate "**IPhO2021 + name of country**" in your payment

## ONLINE FORMAT

### DELEGATIONS

Each virtually participating country shall establish a delegation consisting of up to five students and up to two team leaders. In addition, at least one invigilator will be required. Please, check the [preliminary guidelines](#) for the online format to learn more about the duties of the invigilator.

### ORGANIZERS

IPhO 2021 is organized by three Lithuanian institutions: Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuanian Centre of Non-formal Youth Education and Vilnius University.

### ACCOMMODATION AT HOME

If you join the online version of the IPhO 2021, your team will have to cover all the travel and accommodation costs associated with the participation in the IPhO. We would like to ask you to gather all students from July 18 to 21, 2021 in one hotel (or other accommodation provider).

We highly recommend to provide the accommodation for the invigilator at the same facility as the students or at least to make sure the invigilator lives nearby. The invigilator should be the responsible chaperone of the students (for meal breaks, transportation to the examination facility, etc.).

The student accommodation place has to be at least 5 km (3 miles) away from the location of the team leaders throughout July 18-21 except while participating in the experimental and theoretical exams.

### THE VENUE

The venue for the theoretical and experimental examinations should be selected in an appropriate space with good lighting, stable internet connection, copying and printing facilities, enough space for all students to maintain distance. The video surveillance will have to be set up according to the preliminary guidelines for the IPhO online format. The space rental costs will have to be covered by the local team.



## PROGRAM

Day	Students and invigilator	Team leaders
July 17	Opening ceremony live	Opening ceremony live
July 18	Extracurricular activities	<b>Discussion and translation of the experimental exam</b>
July 19	<b>Experimental exam</b>	Extracurricular activities
July 20	Extracurricular activities	<b>Discussion and translation of the theoretical exam</b>
July 21	<b>Theoretical exam</b>	Extracurricular activities
July 21	Extracurricular activities	Extracurricular activities
July 22	Extracurricular activities	Extracurricular activities
July 23	Free time	<b>Moderation</b>
July 24	Extracurricular activities	<b>International Board Meeting</b>
July 24	Closing ceremony live	Closing ceremony live

## REGISTRATION AND IMPORTANT DATES

Confirm your team's participation and select the format of IPhO until	March 15, 2021
Opening of delegation registration platform on <a href="http://www.ipho2021.lt">www.ipho2021.lt</a>	March 15, 2021
Deadline to submit the delegation size	April 2, 2021
Last day to submit the details of delegation members and last day to modify the selected format of participation	May 14, 2021
Deadline for payments by bank transfer	June 17, 2021

## PARTICIPATION FEES

IPhO 2021 Organizers set the following fees for all participants of IPhO 2021 (fees are indicated per person).

**Student** 500 EUR (experimental set included)

**Team Leader** 0 EUR

**Invigilator** 0 EUR

### IMPORTANT!

**Delegations that decide to withdraw from the participation after June 17, 2021 will not be refunded.**

## PAYMENT METHOD

Participation fee **must** be made by bank transfer for all participants joining online. There should be one payment per country. All bank transfers must be completed by June 17, 2021 and a confirmation receipt should be sent to [info@ipho2021.lt](mailto:info@ipho2021.lt).

Please note that all banking charges and commissions are to be borne by the participating delegations (please use OUR payment instructions to cover all the transfer fees).

**Details of IPhO 2021 bank account:**

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SWIFT code/BIC: CBVILT2XXXX

Bank address: Gedimino pr. 12 Vilnius, Lietuva

Please indicate "**IPhO2021 + name of country**" in your payment

## PRELIMINARY GUIDELINES FOR IPHO 2021 ONLINE FORMAT

Online participation will be treated equally to the participation of the physical IPhO 2021 if the following preliminary guidelines are followed.

1. The participants of each virtually participating country will be gathered in one location for the whole duration from receiving the exam tasks to finishing the theory examination (18-21 July, 2021). Preferably, the location would be the capital or a major city.
  - a. The students will have to stay in the hotel or other type of accommodation when they are not taking the exams.
  - b. The students will have to take the exams in a specially prepared hotel conference room, local school or University, or other facility adapted to the process of examination.
  - c. All rules of the IPhO Statutes that apply for the physical event will apply to the virtual event regarding the exams (e.g. the use of calculators).
2. An invigilator observer will have to be appointed by the participating country that is joining online. The invigilator observer can be any person who will cooperate with the Organizers of the 51st IPhO to monitor the preparation and examination activities.
  - a. The invigilator cannot be the participating student, nor the team leader who is appointed to translate and discuss the exams.
  - b. The costs of having the invigilator will be covered by the participating country.
  - c. The invigilator needs to be able to monitor the movements and location of the students at any time, if needed.
  - d. The invigilator will collect the mobile phones, tablets and other communication equipment of the students for the time starting from the revealing of the tasks to the team leaders all the way through to the end of the theory examination.
  - e. The invigilator will receive the experimental exam and shall collaborate with the local customs for a swift arrival of the experimental kits to the

- participating country.
- f. The invigilator will open the experimental kits under the surveillance of the 51st IPhO organizers only.
  - g. The invigilator will test and set up the experimental kits to make sure the experiment goes smoothly. Instructions will be included.
  - h. The invigilator will be the person preparing the exam room (e.g. making sure that each student receives the exam questions) and will also observe the exams.
  - i. The invigilator will transfer the experimental kits to a local institution or a local individual which will be selected on an individual basis with the approval of the organizers of the IPhO 2021.
3. Video surveillance will have to be used for random checks throughout the examinations.
    - a. Each student will need to be filmed from the angle where the face and the paper is clearly visible.
    - b. The examination room will need to be filmed where all students are visible from the front and back, unless the students are seated against the wall. Then, only the front or back camera will be required.
    - c. The copy and scan equipment will need to be filmed throughout the printing and scanning of the exams. The setup of the printing equipment will have to be in sight.
  4. All students, team leaders, and the invigilator will have to agree to the ethical code of conduct and cheating prevention which will be provided later.
  5. Any registered instance of cheating will result in the most strict consequences for the country in question. All individuals involved in the situation will be banned from further participation in the IPhOs. The results of the whole team where cheating is detected will be annulled.
  6. The software for the discussion and translation of the theoretical and experimental examination will be Oly Exams.
  7. The International Board meeting and votes will take place over Zoom, Oly Exams will be used for counting votes.

## CONTACTS

IPHO 2021 organising committee

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



**@IPHO2021**



**@2020Ipho**



**@ipho2020**