Aims and scope

o To cultivate students' creativity, information culture, algorithmic and computational thinking.

o To facilitate a deeper understanding of information technology.

o To encourage students to use information technologies in their learning activities more enthusiastically.

o To engage children in information technologies, computers, and their application from the very beginning at school.

o To reveal to students the advantages of information technologies that are helpful in learning various subjects.

Countries are going to join the Bebras Challenge 2016

Join us

Joining the *Bebras* initiative and network for a country consists mainly of two parts: organise the national challenge in the country and participate to the International Task Workshop.

The first step to join the *Bebras* challenge is to get in touch with the executive body of the *Bebras* community and ask permission to participate to the International Task Workshop as an observer.

The next step is to organise the *Bebras* challenge in your own country. Either you can first organise a trial contest, with only some schools or you can directly start with an official national contest.

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International Challenge on Informatics and Computational Thinking

The main goal is to promote informatics and computational thinking among teachers and young people in particular, among decision-makers in the area of education, and to the public at large.

The origins

The idea of the *Bebras* competition on Informatics was proposed by Prof. Valentina Dagienė of Vilnius University. The first *Bebras* contest was organized at 21 October, 2004 in Lithuania

Bebras in the world

The International *Bebras* challenge on Informatics and Computational Thinking involves more and more countries yearly. The *Bebras* network has over 40 countries.

The *Bebras* Challenge is implemented by the national *Bebras* Challenges in all the countries that joined *Bebras*, usually the second week of November. Some countries run the second round in January–February.

Each country chooses tasks from the *Bebras* task pool approved by the annually organized international task workshop.

There are different task sets for different age students. Five age groups are suggested:
- I Little Beavers – age 8 to 10
- II Benjamins – age 10 to 12
- III Cadets – age 12 to 14
- IV Juniors – age 14 to 16
- V Seniors – age 16 to 19

What is a good *Bebras* task

A good *Bebras* task should
- represent informatics concepts
- stimulate computational thinking
- motivate learning informatics
- open a new knowledge area for students
- facilitate a deeper understanding of technology
- be short and solved within 3 minutes
- present information independently from specific software
- be interesting and funny
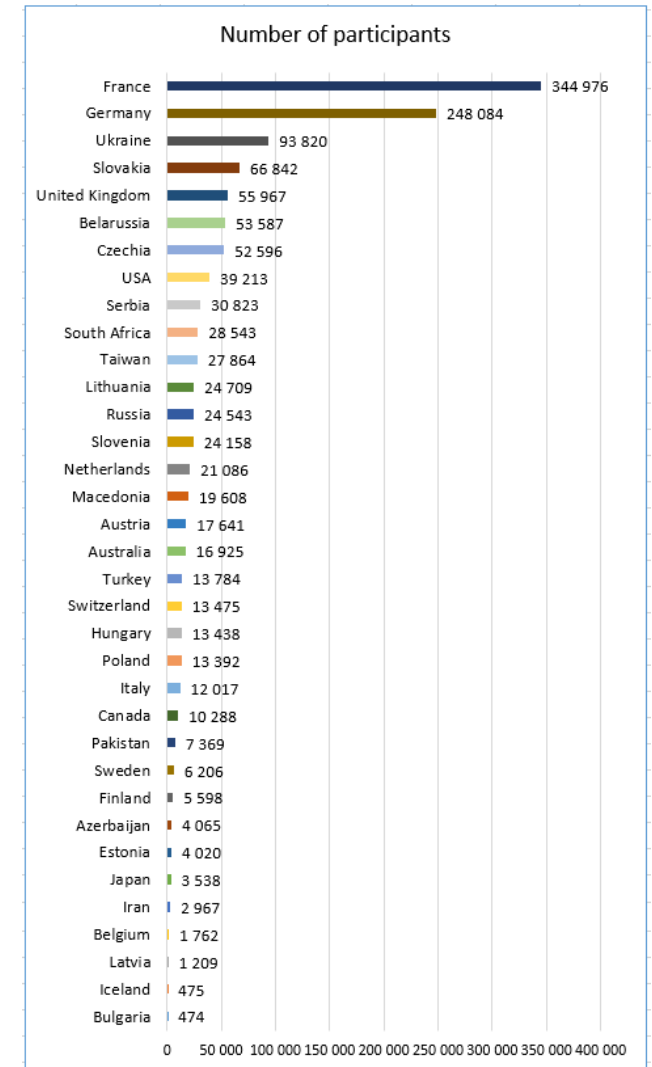
Task example: *Bagels*

Two friends have opened a bakery. Sue bakes three bagels (one of each shape A, B and O) and hangs them together on a stick, placing A on first, then B on second, and O third. She then repeats this process. Peter is selling the bagels and takes always the right-most bagel from the stick. Sue is baking faster than Peter can sell the bagels.

What is the fewest number of bagels sold by Peter if the bakery looks like the above picture?

A) 11 bagels   B) 9 bagels
C) 7 bagels   D) 5 bagels

Participants 2015

Number of participants

Country	Number
France	344 976
Germany	248 084
Ukraine	93 820
Slovakia	66 842
United Kingdom	55 967
Belarussia	53 587
Czechia	52 596
USA	39 213
Serbia	30 823
South Africa	28 543
Taiwan	27 864
Lithuania	24 709
Russia	24 543
Slovenia	24 158
Netherlands	21 086
Macedonia	19 608
Austria	17 641
Australia	16 925
Turkey	13 784
Switzerland	13 475
Hungary	13 438
Poland	13 392
Italy	12 017
Canada	10 288
Pakistan	7 369
Sweden	6 206
Finland	5 598
Azerbaijan	4 065
Estonia	4 020
Japan	3 538
Iran	2 967
Belgium	1 762
Latvia	1 209
Iceland	475
Bulgaria	474

Over 1.3 million school students from 36 countries participated in 2015.