

# PLANCKS - BE PART OF IT!

What is PLANCKS? Well it is an acronym for Physics League Across Numerous Countries for Kick-ass Students and it is THE competition for undergraduates and graduates in the field of physics worldwide. Its main event is the competition, but there are also side events like the scientific symposium, lab tours, excursions to companies, cultural activities, a social programme and so on, creating something that you can call a small ICPS - at the end of this article, you can find all information about what you can expect in 2017 in Graz.



*Talented physics students competing during PLANCKS.*

## The competition

You work in teams of 4 students that have to qualify in so called preliminaries, the best two teams of each country are sent to the final PLANCKS competition (26th to 28th of May, 2017 in Graz, Austria).

There are 10 problems to be solved in 4 hours not using any tools, like books, internet or computers.

As you may guess, it is an IAPS event using an international network of encouraged National Committees (NCs) to spread this fabulous and amazing event amongst all physics students.

time trying to participate? That is an important question and we tried to find the three major arguments why PLANCKS is such a great opportunity for physicists which they should fetch.

The best teams of the world compete in 10 challenging problems. You can try hard in exams, you can read a lot, but you can proof your genius just in competition – and it's kind of a social competition, it's not about you alone – it is a team challenge.

So, why should you go there, there will be so many strange people you don't know. That is actually a very good thing, first of all they are all physicists and you can share the jokes your non-physicist friends won't understand. Second it is really a good thing to get to know other people from around the world to share ideas to compare for example your curricula to establish networks and so on – your chance, take it!

Why leave your comfortable flat to travel somewhere else, why can't you participate online?

We cannot control if you cheat then, and travelling to Graz, Austria is definitely worth it. You cannot experience the local culture, the food, the nice wine hills, the chocolate factory, the delicious beer via the internet – so pack your suitcase, you won't regret.

## Previous PLANCKS competitions

The next edition of PLANCKS in 2017 will be the fourth one. It started 2014 in Leiden, moved 2015 to Utrecht, and was hosted this year in Bukarest. The number of participating teams and countries increased quite continuously and we hope to continue this trend.

PLANCKS has seen very prominent key lecturers, like Stephen Hawking and Gerard 't Hooft, we are also trying hard to win such high-profile speakers.

## Why not organize it?

And now there is the part where we need you: we (this year's Organizing Committee of PLANCKS 2017 in Graz, Austria – see picture below) are looking for help to attract more physics students to this event. Currently about 25 teams of all over the world participate, but we would like to have more – so if you cannot find your country on the list of participating teams or you see, that your country only sent one team, then this is your opportunity to change this – and we would be glad to help you.

## Preliminary

Best way to participate as a country in PLANCKS is organizing a pre-

Participating countries 2016	
1 team	2 teams
Austria	Croatia
Czech Republic	Poland
Denmark	Hungary
Germany	Italy
The UK	Singapore
Finland	Spain
Romania	The Netherlands
Slovakia	

## Why should you participate?

What is so special about this competition that you should spend your

liminary PLANCKS competition in your country. The best two teams of this preliminary are then qualified to come to the international competition PLANCKS 2017 (next year in Graz). We would be glad to support you, we want to establish a network, so all NCs can share experience in organizing this small national competitions and share the problems to solve at the competition.

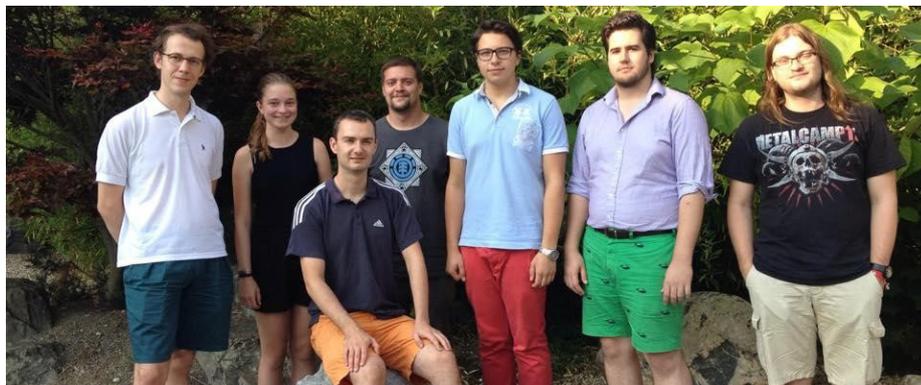
In principle you just need three things to organise such a preliminary:

1. one day
2. enough rooms for the competition
3. make enough advertisement to attract your students

Fact box: PLANCKS 2017
Theoretical competition covering all fields of physics
The best physics students in the world
Teams of 4 students
10 problems
4 hours time to solve them
No tools (books, computer, internet, etc.) allowed
26-28 May 2017 in Graz, Austria

### What can you expect in Graz?

Well we are hard working to make



The 2017 Organising Committee.

this competition a lifetime experience for you. Not only the adrenalin kick you get when the problems are challenging you, or the exhilarating feeling when your team is receiving the first price, but also the beautiful city of Graz with all it's culture and delicious traditional Austrian food will memorize so hard, that later on you surely will like to return.

Beside the core of this event, the actual competition we will also care for an interesting and exciting **scientific programme**, including three key lecturers (we are trying hard to win some Nobel price winners, which are also inspiring speakers, to come to Graz), lab tours and excursions to companies.

Not to forget the social programme! There will be time to discuss your solutions with the other teams and some professors in the **scientific discussion session** before you have a

nice opportunity to socialize with the other participants at the **barbecue party**.

At the third day, the results will be announced to laureate the winners of PLANCKS 2017, the winning team **will** expect some **thousand Euros!!!** Finally you can **enjoy Graz** and it's world heritage protected city centre before exploring it's nightlife at a pub crawl.

At the fourth (optional) day, you have the chance to visit some of Austria's most famous research facilities and participate in **excursions** to some international high-technology companies.

As the final highlight we follow the track of Willy Wonka to the local (and really famous) **chocolate factory**. Experience the long journey of a chocolate bean from Latin America and Africa feeling all the process steps at first hand having the chance to taste it at each phase in all its manifolds.



The lively city centre in Graz.



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He was president of the local student union Basisgruppe Physik, is an ICPS veteran (you may know him from the Nations Party with this spicy chilly stuff) and now president of the Organizing Committee of next year's PLANCKS in Graz, 2017.