



**Dear Colleagues,**

It is our pleasure to inform you about the progress regarding the 43rd International Physics Olympiad in Tallinn/Tartu, Estonia during July 15-24, 2012.

**Confirmation of participation to this date**

Until the present date, the following 88 teams have confirmed their participation in the 43rd IPhO:

Albania  
Armenia  
Australia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Bangladesh  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bolivia  
Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Brazil  
Bulgaria  
Cambodia  
Canada  
People`s Republic of China  
Colombia  
Croatia  
Cuba  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Ghana  
Greece  
Hong Kong  
Hungary  
Iceland  
India  
Indonesia  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan



Republic of Korea  
Kuwait  
Kyrgyzstan  
Lao PDR  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Macao, China  
Macedonia  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
Moldova  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Nigeria  
Norway  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Puerto Rico  
Qatar  
Romania  
Russia  
Saudi Arabia  
Serbia  
Republic of Singapore  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
Spain  
Sri Lanka  
Suriname  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Syria  
Taiwan  
Tajikistan  
Thailand  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
United States of America  
Uzbekistan  
Vietnam



### Official invitation

In the beginning of February official invitation letters were sent to the Ministers of Education or equivalent officials of the teams that had already returned the Confirmation Form to the IPhO2012 organizing committee. Pdf copies of the original invitation letters were also sent to the ministries and equivalent officials. If you have not received these letters, please contact us ([ipho2012@eitsa.ee](mailto:ipho2012@eitsa.ee)).

### Online registration

The online registration will be available at the IPhO 2012 website:

<http://www.ipho2012.ee/registration/> from February 20, 2012. The contact person of each country will receive an auto-generated e-mail message with USERNAME, PASSWORD and instructions. The contact person is requested to register all participants in his/her respective team (students, leaders, visitors and observers). Deadline for registration is **June 3, 2012**.

### Visa

Complete information on visa application and issuances is available at the website of Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.vm.ee/?q=en/node/53>

- **Who does not need a visa to visit Estonia?**

Nationals of the member states of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) and any third-country national who is a holder of a residence permit of a Schengen state do not need a visa to enter Estonia.

**EU and EEA member states** are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and Switzerland.

**Schengen States** are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

**NB! Although documents** are not checked when one crosses an internal Schengen border, it is still necessary to carry a passport or ID card. Authorities (police, immigration officials) in Schengen states do have the right to check identifying documents, if necessary.

**The holders of passports** of the following countries **do not need a visa** to enter a Schengen region (incl Estonia) for stays of no more than 90 days in a 6 month period:

Albania\*, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Israel, Japan, Macao Special Administrative Region, Macedonia\*, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro\*, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, San Marino, Serbia\*, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, St Kitts-Nevis, Taiwan\*\*, United States of America, Uruguay, Vatican City, Venezuela.

\* Only for the biometrical passports holders

\*\* Passports issued by Taiwan which include an identity card number

Countries requiring visa for entry to Estonia, please start the application process early. It will take approximately 2-3 weeks for the applications to be processed. **Please take into consideration that it is impossible to buy the Estonian visa at the border.**

If you have questions concerning visas or need additional documents, please contact the organizing committee ([ipho2012@eitsa.ee](mailto:ipho2012@eitsa.ee))



### **Fees and payment**

All participating teams (5 students + 2 leaders) are encouraged to contribute a voluntary fee of EUR 3,500. The fee will cover: meals, accommodation and official social events during the official period of the Olympiad. Observers and visitors are welcome, and they are expected to cover their expenses, visitors EUR 1,100 and observers EUR 1,200. Observers may attend all Olympiad meetings, including the meetings of the International Board. However, they may not vote or take part in discussions. Visitors do not attend the meetings of the International Board.

If the participating team from your country is smaller than 5 people, then the participation fee is 500 EUR per person and the total amount of the invoice will depend on the number of people.

The invoice needs to be paid before arrival to Estonia. An invoice which needs to be paid in 10 days will be e-mailed to you after registration. In case you wish to pay the fee on location, please inform the organizing committee well in advance ([ipho2012@eitsa.ee](mailto:ipho2012@eitsa.ee)).

### **Transportation**

IPhO 2012 will start and end in Tallinn. Please make all your travel arrangements with arrival and departure at Tallinn Airport (<http://www.tallinn-airport.ee/eng>) (<http://www.tallinn-airport.ee/eng>). For teams travelling via Helsinki (Finland), sea transportation from Helsinki to Tallinn could be the alternative (see schedule from Port of Helsinki to Port of Tallinn [http://www.portofhelsinki.fi/passengers/departure\\_times\\_and\\_terminals](http://www.portofhelsinki.fi/passengers/departure_times_and_terminals) ). Transportation from the airport or from the seaport of Tallinn to the hotels and vice versa will be provided by the Organizing Committee at no additional cost.

### **Accommodation**

In Tallinn students will be staying at Sokos Hotel Viru. During students' programme in Tartu from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July contestants will be staying at the following hotels: Hotel Dorpat, Tartu Hotel , Hotel Pallas.

Leaders, visitors and observers will be accommodated in Radisson Blu Hotel Olümpia in Tallinn. All hotels are situated in the very heart of Tallinn and Tartu. Two persons will share a room. If leaders, visitors and observers would like to stay in a single room, please let us know when you register for 43rd IPhO; there is an additional charge of EUR 400 per room for 9 nights during the official period of the Olympiad.

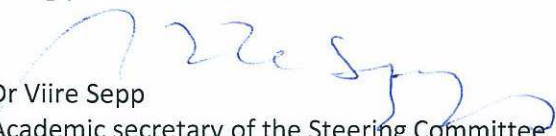
If you plan to arrive in Estonia earlier than 15 July or leave Tallinn later than 24 July, 2012, please let us know well in advance (by noting it in the online registration form and by sending us an e-mail, indicating the number of persons and type of the room) so that we can arrange your accommodation well in advance, because July is the high season in Estonia and the hotel rooms need to be booked as early as possible. The extra charges per night for Tallinn hotel double rooms are EUR 70 for the students' hotel and EUR 75 for the leaders' hotel.

### **43rd IPhO Website and Contacts**

The circulars and all information regarding the 43rd IPhO can be found at our website at <http://www.ipho2012.ee> and it will be updated regularly.

Organizers of the 43rd IPhO are looking forward to meeting you in Estonia!

  
Prof Jaak Kikas  
Head of the Academic Committee

  
Dr Viire Sepp  
Academic secretary of the Steering Committee