

Extracurricular activities – Fact sheet

Extracurricular activities in mathematical and computational linguistics

Linguistics Olympiads and competitions in Bulgaria were called ‘Mathematical and Computational Linguistics’ Olympiads. **Prof Ruslan Mitkov** founded these extracurricular activities and led them until the late 1990s.

Brief history of the first international linguistic competitions

First international linguistics problems competition – Bulgaria

- First international competition August 1988, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria
- International competition Plovdiv 1989: where the best students from the Russian Olympiads took part in the Bulgarian National Competition.
- International competition at the summer school in Yundola 1989/1990 – where the best students from the Russian Olympiads took part – both in the summer school and a specially organised competition
- International competition at the summer school in Pisanica, Rhodope Mountains, 1990, where the best students from the Russian Olympiads took part in a specially organised competition
- The winners of the Bulgarian Olympiads in Mathematical and Computational Linguistics started participating in the Bulgarian participants in Moscow from 1990
- International competition at the summer school in Pisanica 1991 (with participants from Bulgaria, Japan, Poland)
- International competition in mathematical and computational linguistics in Pravec within the World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions (participants from a number of countries), 1994

The computational linguistics problems were first promoted by **Prof Ruslan Mitkov** who started including one computational linguistics problems at least in the national linguistics competitions. Early examples include:

- Problem related to **Natural Language Generation** at the Exhibition competition at the National seminar on extracurricular activities in mathematical and computational linguistics, Batak Lake, 18 September 1991
- Problem related to **Anaphora Resolution** as part of the 10th National Competition on Mathematical and Computational Linguistics, Haskovo, 02 May 1993
- Problem related to **Text Summarisation** at 11th National Competition on Mathematical and Computational Linguistics, Haskovo, 07 May 1994