# Piracy won't scare...

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*Every year the level of teams is higher and higher. We started with 13 countries, and now we are already 83. The competition tasks get harder and harder which means that the Olympiad is technically developing. However, we do not intend to amend the regulations in place, according to which each country can participate with just one team of four members. Regardless whether it is China with a population of over 1.4 bln. or Luxemburg with barely half a million. Bulgaria is entitled to two teams as a host country, but only the first one is the official one and can win medals. Else, it would not have been fair to the other countries.*

**All day long yesterday, the team leaders kept their fingers crossed for their teams from afar. The first competition took place behind closed-doors**

***- The competition managed to gather great intellectual potential. How is informatics doing globally?***

*- This is one of the most modern sciences because software is everywhere. A computer is nothing without software. Thanks to IT technologies, the countries increase their GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Today's software business is so big that it accounts for as much as 15% of the GDP in some countries. It is absolutely essential that the countries strive for entering this business as soon as possible, else there will be a negative impact on their future development. Global companies, such as Microsoft and Google have a turnover exceeding the GDP of a number of countries. They are so powerful that piracy will not be fatal for them. Violations usually target older products, but the next day the companies come up with more modern ones. The best defence against piracy is to have a new product ready before the previous one has been stolen.*

***- Does this mean that the big players in the software business are interested in the medalists in the Olympiads?***

*- Of course. Giants like Microsoft are ready to offer them jobs and scholarships. The point of this competition is to discover software talents. After they finish school, gold medalists go to reputable higher education institutions, such as MIT, Harvard, as well as the big European ones. All over the world, technology universities are interested in the applicants' CVs and if they are Olympic champions, they are offered scholarships. A number of Bulgarians receive full scholarships which cover all the costs for their tuition and subsistence.*

***- How do you find the development of Informatics in the schools?***

*- Until soon, curricula used to develop intelligence through subjects, such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, etc. It is absolutely necessary now to put informatics into play because this science came to stay. Young people have to be not only computer literate, but also to be familiar with the software technology. And this is extremely important for the development of the human intelligence of mankind.*

***- Your own children are also medal winners at Olympiads. Are they following in your footpath?***

*- My oldest daughter, Martha, competed for Mexico at Olympiads in Physics and Chemistry. My son, Caesar, represented our country in Informatics and in Chemistry, while Maria was on Mexico's Informatics team for two successive years. This is why we, as a family, organize the National Olympiad in Informatics. We are open to sponsors in terms of big companies dealing with software and electronics. The good contacts we had, established through the years, convinced the International Committee to entrust to us the hosting of the International Olympiad in 2006. That was fantastic. The guests and participants stayed at five-star hotels.*

*„Most of the participants in the 21st International Olympiad in Informatics have probably taken some CISCO courses in their countries. This is why they can appreciate the efforts of the 11 Bulgarian students who assisted in the provision of the resources required for running this competition," commented Dragostina Grancharova, Business Development Manager for the Education sector in Cisco focused on Central and Eastern Europe. Involving the 11 boys in the installation of the computer network was also a vocational schooling opportunity for them.*