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National Logo competition-Olympiad in Lithuania

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Abstract

The age of Logo competition-Olympiad is not old. This year we have the fifth Republican Logo competition-Olympiad. The first Republican Logo competition-Olympiad took place in 2001. The idea that pupils would willingly compete working with LOGO was born among small group of teachers. It is a success. Every year, more and more students of different ages come as they want to test themselves. The idea of the event is to show the creativity of the pupils who work with the programs of "Comenius Logo" and "LogoWriter", to show the knowledge they got from "Comenius Logo" and "LogoWriter" and computer literacy. Seeking for pupils to go hand in hand with the age of technologies, they are encouraged to create something on their own, i.e. to draw films or simple drawings, to create controlled or not controlled films, games, teaching programs, instead of spending all the time playing computer games. Every year the participants from various places in Lithuania gather in distance learning centres in five Lithuanian towns. These 6-to-18 –year-old pupils – the friends of Logo turtle – show their knowledge, capacities and creativity in an annual Logo Olympiad.

Keywords

Logo Olympiad, Logo competition, Logo in Lithuania.

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In Lithuanian, there are two localized Logo version: "Comenius Logo" and "LogoWriter" since 1996. When the programs had started, the demand to demonstrate children' creation, to organize exhibitions, contests had originated.

The idea that pupils would willingly compete with LOGO was born among small groups of teachers in the year 2000. It is a success. Every year more and more students of different

ages come as they want to test themselves. In 2001, 87 participants were ready to try themselves, in 2002-99, 2003 – 116 and in 2004 – 129. In this 2005 year – 135.

The idea of the event is to show the creativity of the pupils who work with the programs of "Comenius Logo" and "LogoWriter", to show the knowledge they got from using "Comenius Logo" and/or "LogoWriter" and computer literacy. Seeking for pupils' to go hand in hand with the age of technologies, they are encouraged to create something of their own, i.e. to draw animation using only Image Editor ("MegaPaint") or simple drawings, to create uncontrolled or controlled films, games, teaching programs, instead of spending all the time playing computer games in "Comenius Logo" or "LogoWriter".

Wishing to bring / the idea to reality, Young computerists schools and Vilnius Pedagogical University have organized the Respublican Logo competition-Olympiad for the fifth time.

The aims of this project are:

- To teach pupils to become the members of the informative society;

- To expand pupils' horizons in the space of informative technologies;

- To motivate pupils' interest in LOGO philosophy, "Comenius Logo" and "Logo Writer" programming tools

- To develop pupils'*creation, culture of information,* algoritmic thinking and self- expression.

Every year, we try to do video conference connection with any country, where pupils work with Logo, too. In 2003 we had respective guests – "Comenius Logo" authors –senior lecturer Peter Tomcsanyi and an associate professor Ivan Kalaš from Comenius University, Bratislava.

That year, the video conference was held at the education center of information in Warsaw; the head of the center, professor Witold Kranas, talked about the development of Logo and similar contests which had been organized at Poland. We hope that we will manage to make similar contests between Lithuanian and   students of other countries in the nearest future.

The project consists of 2 parts: contest and Olympiad. The pupils can   do competitive works at home, school or in a computer class and they send it by a deadline via internet. In 2001 the topic of the competition was „I", in 2002- „I and...", in 2003 „Turtle's adventures", in 2004 „Turtle's world" and in 2005 „The fifth birthday of LOGO turtle".

In the Olympiad, the participants come into distance learning centres in five biggest Lithuanian towns (Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Šiauliai and Vilnius) from various places in Lithuania. Every year, around 20 topics were offered in the drawing event and the participants had to choose one of them. A student is able to choose "Comenius Logo" or "LogoWriter" programming tool for the Olympiad while registering. Olympiad works are divided into 5 events:

- The animation drawn in Image Editor (only "Comenius Logo");

- The modelling of drawing;

- The creation of uncontrolled animation (film);

- The creation of controlled animation;

- The solution of the tasks.

The student can choose the above-mentioned tasks himself while registering, too. In the competition there is not any task performance. In the first two years of the project, only three events were offered: drawing, animation, and solution of the tasks.

Pupils who have chosen the solution of the tasks event had to solve the tasks made for them. Usually, there are three tasks. There are three levels: simple, more advanced, and advanced. One of the tasks usually is from the turtle graphics', one from animation and one from dialogue or any turtle control (little game where player can to push any object, to move any object with the mouse or keyboard etc.). This event is not very popular.

It is a pity that the authors of the original works appear only for one year and later they get interested in other programs or programming tools and they create even more complicated things. In some schools "Comenius Logo" is taught only for one year. I need to show a few of such works:

In 2001, the topic of the competition was „I". It was differently understood and completed.

Figure 1.　„I" created by Artūras Mizeras Kaunas J. Jablonskio gymnasium / T. Masiulis school (circle)

One of many interesting works „dress me". Very playfully chosen various parts of the body – you want to play and play. The player can choose eyes, eyebrows, nose, clothes, shoes and so on. The object you want to change you can choose by clicking the mouse.

LOGO competition-Olympiad has a very nice tradition – the presents are given not only to winners but to every participant, i.e. the certificate about taking part in the competition-Olympiad and small presents. Every small gift is stimulation or even a small reward for the pupils for their ideas, creativity, originality and their wish to find new possibilities in working with Logo.

While promoting the creation with the Logo system, we help pupils to understand the principles of working with computer and programming. As it often comes to use the results of other programs, that makes it easier to get skills of working in the Windows environment. The pupils who create with this program use not only the knowledge of computer, but the knowledge of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, history.

The works of these pupils differ in their originality, and ability to use a lot of Logo possibilities. It was very impressive that the ideas, creativity and knowledge could be demonstrated by the youngest (6 years old) and by the oldest (the 12th grade, i.e. 18 years old).

You can find more information about pupils' achievements and their best works on the internet pages http://www.logo.lt and www.jkm.lt/LOGO/2005 but only in Lithuanian...