

ABOUT
EUROFEST

Odyssey of the Mind EuroFest is an annual meeting of teams, coaches and officials from across Europe and beyond. It is not a typical tournament but rather a fun-filled festival: young attendees showcase their Long-Term Problem solutions, practice Spontaneous, make new friends and play together. They also compete in solving a special EuroFest Problem on the spot – in groups mixed of three different international teams each.

EuroFest is a perfect opportunity to learn tolerance and understanding – through hands-on, real-time cooperation. While watching and discussing other teams' solutions to Odyssey of the Mind Problems, kids make observations and draw conclusions useful in their future work. While solving EuroFest Problem, they share experiences with their international peers, and overcome language barriers and cultural diversities. Last but not least, they enjoy the adventure associated with visiting a foreign land and getting to know new places and new people.

WHERE
WHEN

EuroFest travels from country to country each year – and in the Spring of 2016 it will return to Poland.

We are looking forward to seeing all creative teams at the most *omerish* event on the planet!

Where: Polish Baltic Philharmonic – Gdansk, Poland

When: April 29 through May 4, 2016

WHAT YOU
WILL DO

During this four-day-long **celebration of creativity and cooperation** each and every team will:

- (1) meet its **Guardian Angel** – a local volunteer who can help you in need and will make you feel “at home”,
- (2) make friends with peers from two other countries – by becoming one-third of an **International Mixed Team**,
- (3) experience Poland and Gdansk first-hand – by participating in a compelling, one-of-a-kind **City Challenge**,
- (4) showcase its solution to a **Long-Term Problem** (teams will be judged but will not get ranked),
- (5) try out, reflect on and develop their **Spontaneous skills** (while coaches will be able to observe and take notes),
- (6) get a taste of different cultures and acquaint others with your own traditions – at the **International Fair & Show**,
- (7) communicate and collaborate with Mixed Team buddies to solve a unique **EuroFest Problem** in just a day or two,
- (8) compete against other Mixed Teams to return home with a **1st or 2nd place trophy** for the best EF Problem solution,
- (9) show off excitement, emotion, pride and joy at the **Welcome Celebration, Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party**,
- (10) play fair, have fun and collect memories for a lifetime – all in the **true Odyssey of the Mind spirit!**

EVENT
SCHEDULE

Friday	April 29	Arrivals Registration & Orientation Housing Check-In Prep Time
Saturday	April 30	Mixed Teams Meeting Mixed Teams City Challenge Welcome Celebration
Sunday	May 1	Long-Term & Spontaneous Problems International Fair & Show
Monday	May 2	Long-Term & Spontaneous Problems Solving EF Problem Coaches Competition
Tuesday	May 3	EF Problem Competition Closing Ceremony Farewell Party
Wednesday	May 4	Housing Check-Out Departures

GDANSK
TRIVIA

- ❶ Gdansk is **over 1000 years old** – as old as Shanghai or Brussels, and older than Moscow, Berlin or New York.
- ❷ Gdansk is **where first shots of World War II were fired** – when German battleship SMS Schleswig-Holstein deceitfully attacked Polish military post in the port district of Westerplatte at the break of dawn on September 1, 1939.
- ❸ Gdansk is **the birthplace of Solidarity** – a nationwide social movement which unified anti-communist Opposition in Poland in the 1980s and ultimately lead to the first democratic election behind the Iron Curtain, thereby triggering the fall of communism in all of Central and Eastern Europe.
- ❹ Gdansk is also famous for the **jewelry made of amber** (petrified prehistoric resin), **Daniel Fahrenheit** (18th century inventor of the temperature scale still used in the U.S.), and **Lech Walesa** (1983 Nobel Peace Prize Winner; leader of *Solidarity* and the first non-communist President of Poland).
- ❺ Gdansk is **the hometown of Poland's Odyssey of the Mind** – it is here where the first-ever Polish OotM team was formed in 1989, where the first national competition took place 25 years ago, and where memorable EuroFests were held in 1997 and 2011.

REGISTRATION
PROCEDURE**Step 1:**

Email completed **Team Registration Form** to eurofest.teams@odyseja.org – as soon as you can!

Step 2:

Once we receive your Team Registration Form, we will send you an **electronic invoice** via email.

Step 3:

Once you receive the electronic invoice, make a **bank transfer** – using account information and transfer title given on the invoice.

Step 4:

Once we receive your payment, we will send you an **email confirmation** that your team's registration has been completed.

PARTICIPATION
FEES

Early Registration fee of 225 EUR / 270 USD per person applies to teams who send in their Team Registration Form no later than **January 1, 2016**, AND transfer the money onto our bank account no later than **January 10, 2016**.

Regular Registration fee of 235 EUR / 290 USD per person applies to teams who send in their Team Registration Form no later than **April 1, 2016**, AND transfer the money onto our bank account no later than **April 10, 2016**.

Fee applies to every person listed on Team Registration Form: each team member, coach, parent, driver, guest, etc. – there are no exceptions and no discounts other than early payments.

Fee includes: 5 nights stay in youth hostel-standard housing, 3 meals a day starting with Friday dinner and ending with Wednesday breakfast, all scheduled events, and a souvenir t-shirt.

Fee does not include: travels, medical insurance, pocket money, and visa to Poland (if required by the law).

PAYMENT
RULES

Payments must be made by the deadline, and **by bank transfers only**. **No cash payments** on site are allowed.

Payments must be made **per team – not per individual**. This means that fees due for everyone listed on Team Registration Form should be transferred onto our account with a single bank transfer.

Fees are non-alterable, and payments are **non-refundable**. Any additional **banking fees/transaction charges are at your expense**.

TRAVEL
TIPS

Visa: Citizens of some countries (incl. Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, China, India, etc.) need a visa to enter Poland, while citizens of other countries (incl. all EU states, Switzerland, USA, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, etc.) do not. Please find out if you are required to have a visa and what the necessary formalities are – and email us at eurofest.teams@odyseja.org ahead of time if you need an official letter of invitation.

Getting there: If travelling by plane or train, you can travel either directly to Gdansk (trains from Berlin and Vienna; flights from Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, London, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Oslo and other airports) – or to Warsaw (Poland's capital) and take a train from there. Comfortable trains (called EIP) between Warsaw and Gdansk run every 1 or 2 hours and take less than 3 hours one way.

Weather: Most typically, temperatures in Gdansk at the turn of April and May vary from 5 to 20°C (40-70°F) – with an average chance of rain at 30%.

Money: Polish Zloty (PLN) is the official currency in Poland. As of September 2015, 1 euro (EUR) converts to approx. 4.2-4.3 PLN, and 1 dollar (USD) converts to approx. 3.7-3.8 PLN. All major credit and debit cards are commonly accepted in shops, malls, hotels, restaurants and at gas stations.

Language: English, Russian and Polish will be the official languages of the 2016 EuroFest. However, we will do our best to provide all teams with important materials (e.g. copies of EuroFest Problem) in their mother tongue, and also to ensure judges able to communicate in as many languages as possible. Luckily, there is a lingo that all Odyssey of the Mind teams, coaches and officials commonly understand: creativity! ☺