

DATA REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING CONTEST

Time of the event: the first week of September

Venue: Constanța (CT), Romania;

Organizer: The Ministry of Education and Scientific Research from Romania

Participants: students from Romania and other countries, **aged between 13 and 19**

Aim of the contest: Students' approaching reading as a life skill by means of the fictional, nonfictional and multimodal text

The participants must be *experienced readers*, passionate about reading and possessing cultural knowledge at a high level.

It is not necessary to know Romanian or study certain Romanian literary works. The Contest focuses on text interpretation and text production starting from given contexts in connection with a general topic, a different one every year.

At the first edition, in 2004, there were only 2 participant countries – Romania and the Republic of Moldova – despite the fact that Israel, The Philippines, Bulgaria and Turkey had expressed their intention to participate.

Invitations on behalf of the minister have been sent to all EU countries as well as to countries where there are large Romanian communities. Despite the fact that the intention was appreciated in many cases, not all countries sent participant groups to the contest.

An argument often claimed for the lack of participation was the fact that the organizer did not reimburse the expenses.

There were 4 participant countries at the second edition, in 2015: Romania, The Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Turkey.

We collaborated with MAE, The Direction Romanians from Everywhere, which, through its specific communication channels, popularized the event. In addition, our press releases regarding the contest were taken by ICR.

As learnt lessons, we understand that such a competition format, which aims at developing two key skills – **communication and cultural expression and sensitivity** – needs a board, an institution with great visibility and a strong cultural identity, in order to function within its layout parameters.