



Statement regarding other economics competitions

Dear Members of the IEO Community,

This letter addresses recent inquiries and complaints received by the IEO Executive Board regarding the increasing number of international economics competitions, which has led to confusion among stakeholders. This statement aims to clarify the position of the International Economics Olympiad Executive Board.

The International Economics Olympiad project was launched in 2017 with the mission to identify and inspire young talents worldwide who will become tomorrow's leaders in economics, finance, and business. Throughout our 8-year journey, we have successfully attracted global attention to this initiative, garnering support from leading academic economists, corporations, and governments. We firmly believe that high school economics remains underrepresented in the international educational landscape, which is why our team and community continue supporting national organizers in developing their selection processes, curricula, and related activities. In line with this commitment, we have launched several open-access competitions while maintaining the main IEO track as invitation-only to preserve its prestigious status.

The IEO's success as the world's largest economics competition—in terms of participating countries and overall impact—appears to have inspired similar initiatives globally. This is a positive development, as it underscores the importance of our work. Anyone developing economics-related projects for high school students, whether nationally or internationally, contributes to our shared mission. We welcome these efforts, including when these projects operate independently from our organization. Executive Board members are frequently invited to observe national and supranational (macroregional) competitions, forums, and educational bootcamps that share IEO values and goals. These events are often organized by IEO partners to facilitate objectives similar to our own. The IEO team, myself included, stands ready to assist anyone willing to collaborate either jointly or independently, provided they operate on fair and ethical grounds.

Recently, the IEO Executive Board has become aware of initiatives that not only organize similar competitions (which is fine) but directly copy the IEO without consultation (which is not fine). These competitions employ similar names and branding elements, attempt to draw away our partners, and mimic our communication style to mislead schools and institutions into believing they are us. To prevent confusion, I would like to clarify the following:

The International Economics Olympiad's only official website is ieo-official.org (previously ecolymph.org), and the IEO team members use only email addresses within this domain for official communication.

The IEO's operations are managed by the “International Economics Olympiad (IEO)” Association, established by all sending organizations (official partners) and headquartered at the University of Bern (Hochschulstrasse 6, 3012 Bern, Switzerland).



info@ieo-official.org



<https://ieo-official.org>

National government support represents a criterion for a sending organization to become an IEO partner. In most countries, sending organizations are either divisions, subsidiaries, or partners of Ministries of Education, Ministries of Economy, or equivalent governmental bodies.

The IEO does not require exclusivity from its national partners—they are free to select and bring teams to other competitions as well. We generally welcome these competitions and are prepared to collaborate toward our shared mission and goals.

We expect our partners to ensure that other events they participate in cannot be confused with the IEO, which stands as the largest invitation-based Olympiad in Economics. We also expect that if other competitions engage in practices that may cause such confusion, our established partners will refrain from participating in them.

If you believe the IEO team can help develop your organization's relationships with government or other partners in your country, we stand ready to assist. You may use the official IEO slide deck in any communication and contact the IEO Central Office (info@ieo-official.org) for any additional support.

I look forward to seeing you at IEO 2025, whether in Baku or online.

Regards,
Danil Fedorovykh
President
IEO Executive Board