



Second circular of 1st GeCAA 2020

Dear members of IOAA, colleagues, friends

This is the second circular of the 1st GeCAA (Global e-Competition in Astronomy & Astrophysics), the online auxiliary competition which was proposed by the IOAA to provide students to compete in 2020 on an international stage.

Important dates

The registration window is now closed. Upcoming important dates are as follows:

25.09 - start of individual competition

27.09 - end of individual competition

28.09 - start of team competition

14.10 - end of team competition

23.10 - results, end of competition podcast

Registration

We do hope that all countries have finished registration. We might ask for clarifications from some countries. We unfortunately took the liberty to assume that all students would take part in team competition so it was included as automatic “opt-in”. So if some teams wish that certain students should be excluded from team competition or some alternate students to take part in team competition, please notify to kelli.hanschmidt@ut.ee.

Competition environment

All the competition rounds will be accessed through the link:

<https://competition.gecaa.ee/>

Every student and team leader will be assigned a personal username which will be sent to them by individual emails by **10.09.2020**.

On the same day mock competitions for theory, data, and observation will be opened so that all students can practice working with the test environment.

Team leaders

By 08.09.2020 main team leaders will be given access to translation files for the mockcompetition, so that teams who want to offer translations can test uploading of translations as well. We encourage teams to provide translations prior 10.09 so that students can also attempt mock competition with translations.

Technical notice: Countries where there are restrictions on use of internet (our backend runs Amazon Web services - European servers and default translation interface is based on google docs), please contact tiitsepp34@gmail.com at earliest convenience and we'll grant you earlier access to test if you can access the competition or we need to do some additional changes to the configuration.

Additional tasks for team leaders

Due to the extremely short organization time of 1st GeCAA team leaders will also be asked to take part in marking of the competition rounds. For this the following guidelines are followed:

- Every team leader will be given access to see only the relevant problems to his/her marking assignments.
- Final scores will be hidden from team leaders prior their publication.
- The Academic committee will assign team leaders with problems they are supposed to grade.
- Every problem should have at least 3 graders, in case that is not possible 2 will be assigned.
- No team leader will receive answer scripts of his/her own students.

Online supervision of competition rounds

For the online supervision of competition rounds the following rules are set:

- For the countries which will have all students gathered in one place, we request only one video stream from the examination hall, such that all the students are visible.

- For other countries, there are 3 options for online supervision:
 - ZOOM
 - Google Meet
 - Youtube live stream
- For countries where all the abovementioned services are forbidden, please contact tiitsepp34@gmail.com and list possible solutions we could use
- In every video connection it is expected that:
 - Student face is visible
 - Sound input (mic) is enabled
 - Sound output (speakers) is muted
- In case it is known a priori that the internet bandwidth is not enough to provide good quality video output, please contact tiitsepp34@gmail.com for finding alternative solutions.
- We'll provide an additional questionnaire, where countries can list their preferred video stream environment.
- For the case of youtube streaming, students or countries must be able to set up the stream themselves and send the url of the stream to the Local organizing committee, email or form will be provided on a later date.