

Is informatics a girl's cup of tea?



perfect in everything they do. Boys, however, prioritize and focus all their energy on their priorities. They say this is crucial in informatics.

Let us share with you a conversation overheard a few days before the Olympiad.

The Bulgarian organizers commented whether to issue an award for the best performing girl. They dropped that idea at once - actually there are no privileges for women in informatics. One is either good at it, or not, no matter whether you are a girl or a boy.

Still look around: the female presence at the contestants' computers is more than modest. Of all some 320 participants, how many girls do you think are there??

All in all, they are 17. Most girls come from Asia - 6; 5 are from Africa, 2 from the Americas, and 4 from Europe. The teams from Venezuela, Libya, and Ghana have two girls on their teams. The ladies' presence is more discernible, however, among the leaders. This also has its explanation: a lot of women convert from computing to teaching. You can bet their „female“ way of thinking does not prevent them from raising male champions!

Is informatics a girl's cup of tea? Why at these contests you can count the girls on the fingers of your hands? According to experts, somewhere at the age of 13-14 young people form male and female ways of thinking. Girls try to be

Bulgarians on other teams

Todorka Dimitrova, professor at Technical University Sofia, is deputy to Denmark team leader Jorgen Nielsen. „Informatics is not a compulsory subject on Danish schools curricula,“ she says. „At the same time, their educational institutions are networked and the teaching of all subjects is done applying the interactive approach. For the young citizens of the Northern country, computers in schools are like the cutlery on a kitchen table. Those who are keen on informatics have to work on their own - there are well developed websites on the Internet offering information and problems. Contests are held on a regular basis for all candidates. The best of them attend further training and tests before the shortlist of the core team is produced. From that point on, their training is focused on the big competitions.“



Viktor Konstantinov is one of the four members on the British team. The boy is from Sofia and is an alumnus of the world-renowned Mathematical School in the capital city and of the American College. For two years now, he has been a student in a small town near Manchester and lives in the school hostel. He has to take care of himself on his own because his parents live and work in Bulgaria. While surfing the Net, he learned of the Olympiads. When he showed up for a casting, he proved to be one of the best. According to him, Olympiads have no nationality - everybody plays and wins or loses for themselves.

