

FLL Moldova

The FLL Moldova competition took place on March 7, 2015, hosted by the Center for Children and Youth ARTICO. It was organized by CEED II and ATIC, in close cooperation with NGO Robotika from Estonia and with the support of StarNet holding, under the patronage of the Ministry of Education.

Thus, Moldova was included in the list of around 100 countries, organizing FLL competitions; and our teams competed alongside with other 300 thousands of children from around the world.

Around 60 children, representing 10 teams from 6 following institutions joined the event:

- ARTICO,
- Poly-Technical College from Chisinau,
- "Ion Creangă" lyceum,
- "Mircea Eliade" lyceum,
- "Mihai Grecu" lyceum,
- "B. Z. Herzli" lyceum.

FLL is an international competition in the field of technology and robotics, organized by US FIRST Foundation and LEGO for elementary and middle school students. The purpose of FLL is to raise the young people's interest towards Science, Technology, Engineering and Science and help them develop valuable life skills: critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, self-confidence. The main goal of the competition is to increase the interest of youngsters for science, technology, math and engineering; and inspire them to choose a career in these fields.

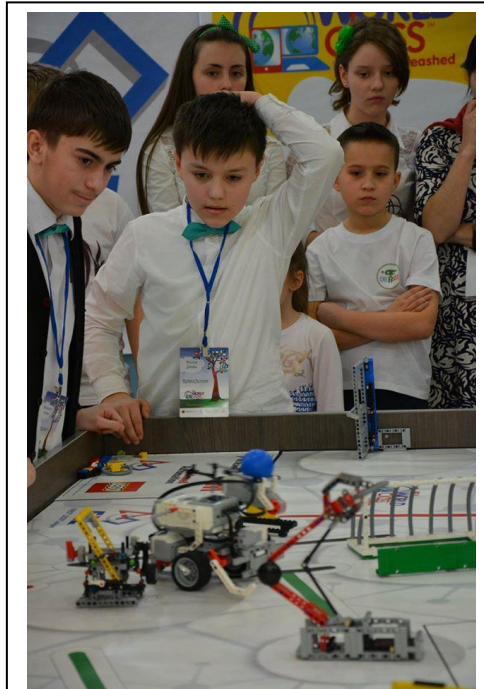


Exhibit ... Members of RoboJunior team focused on



The competition includes four main sections: Core Values Session, where students are interviewed by a panel of judges or participate in a teamwork exercise; Robot Design, where the students have to demonstrate that the robot they built is designed appropriately for the tasks given; Research project, the students must carry out a research project and give a short presentation to a panel of

judges on the innovative problem-solving they completed; the last section is the Robot Game. The Robot Game refers to designing and programming LEGO Mindstorms robots to complete a wide range of tasks.

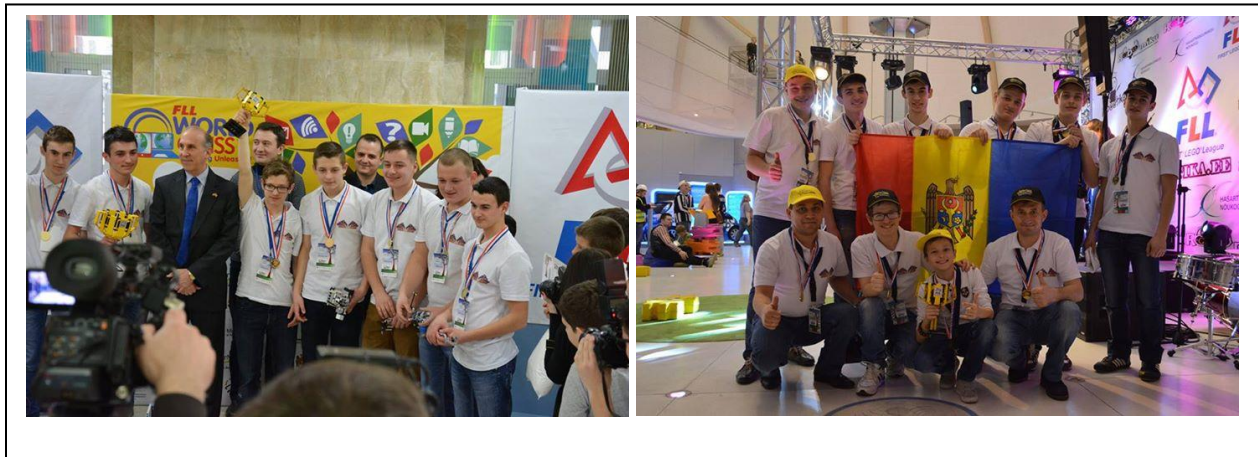
The topic of the FLL competition changes yearly. This year the topic was “World class” (learning). As the format of the competition provides, a number of professionals from different fields, including education, were identified and invited in FLL Moldova jury. They represent such organizations as: USAID, Technical University of Moldova, Moldovan ICT Companies Association, East-Europe Foundation, e-Governance Center, Starnet, DNT Association, etc. The Estonian partners conducted a training session with the judges, to ensure they understand the rules, format and objectives of the competition, as well as the core values to be promoted and encouraged.

The judges selected the following teams as winners of FLL Moldova:

- 1st place Project – team CreaBot from "Ion Creangă" lyceum
- 1st place Core Values / Teamwork – team Fenix from "Mircea Eliade" lyceum
- 1st place Robot Design – team RoboJunior from "Ion Creangă" lyceum
- 1st place Robot Game – team RoboLords from Poly-Technical College from Chisinau
- Champion FLL Moldova – team RoboLords from Poly-Technical College from Chisinau

Distinctive guests were present at the award ceremony: His Excellency Mr. James D. Pettit, USA Ambassador to RM, Kent Larson, USAID Moldova Country Director, Igor Grosu, Vice-minister of Education, representatives of the sponsors and organizers.

The champion of the FLL Moldova competition was invited to join FLL Estonia finals, and to compete among the 33 teams, representing 5 countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Moldova. FLL Estonia took place on March 13-14, 2015. The Moldovan team was awarded the 1st place for Robot Design section, as they impressed the jury with the engineering concepts applied in the construction of the robot.



The FLL competition had vast media coverage. Over 30 news articles and video/photo reports from the event were published in 19 local media, of which 7 TV channels. Several participants and winners were even invited to participate in the TV shows, to promote FLL and the Robotics initiative in general. The event was partially live broadcasted by Privesc.eu. After the return of the Moldovan team from FLL Estonia finals, they were also

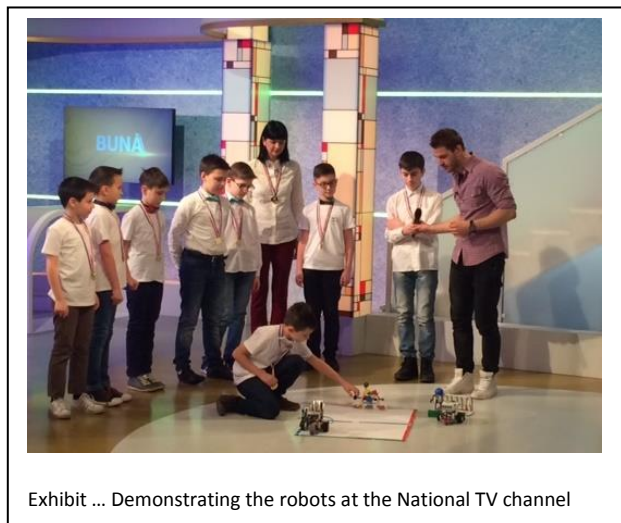


Exhibit ... Demonstrating the robots at the National TV channel

interviewed by local media to promote their successes.

As a result, the public interest for the Robotics initiative grew extensively; there are new participants interested to join the Roboclubs. The Ministry of Education is willing involve more actively in the expansion of the Robotics initiative and to ensure the continuity of the FLL Moldova competition. For that, the Ministry is securing budget funding, to become available in the next academic year.

Later on, CEED II decided to support the Ministry of Education in developing a uniform curriculum for the Robotics initiative, to become available for the teachers. We agreed to hire a consultant – Anatol Gremalschi, previously involved in developing the curriculum for Informatics, IT Essentials and other disciplines, to coordinate the working group in the curriculum development process. The work will start in April 2015, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education specialists.