

# PRESS RELEASE

## Goethe-Institut to hold world's biggest contest for young German language learners online

The Internationale Deutscholympiade (IDO) will be going online for the first time this year. From 3 to 7 August, over 100 young German language learners age 14 to 17 from over 50 countries will be taking part in this online contest under the motto "*Dabei sein!*" (Be there!). The IDO is held every other year by the Goethe-Institut in association with the International German Teachers' Association.

Goethe-Institut Secretary General **Johannes Ebert** announced the move online: "The Internationale Deutscholympiade is all about young German learners coming together. But given the ongoing restrictions on travel and social contact, we've decided to move the IDO into the virtual realm, which will enable young international language learners to exchange and network in German across all borders. Using a wide range of collaborative formats, we're going to hold the world's biggest German language contest online for five days in August to bring the Olympic ideals of tolerance and international understanding to life."

Over 15 million high school German learners are invited to participate in the Internationale Deutscholympiade (IDO). The last national preliminary rounds are currently being held in some countries to qualify for the finals. Contestants from over 35 countries have already qualified, including from China, France, Peru, the US, Portugal and Vietnam. In total, more than 100 young people from over 50 countries will be taking part in the contest.

The thematic focus of the IDO 2020 will be on Dresden, the capital of the state of Saxony, on its culture, history and present. And this year's IDO will be under the patronage of Dresden's mayor, Dirk Hilbert. The winners will be awarded a trip to Germany, including German courses at the Goethe-Institut in Dresden in 2021.

In addition to the official contest, contestants can look forward to daily live slots featuring participatory activities, virtual meetings with young self-starters and influencers in Dresden and a global evening event in which contestants introduce themselves and their cultures in a video performance. The jury will evaluate not only the contestants' language skills, but also their intercultural competence, teamwork and creativity.

The aim of the IDO is to promote young international talent, to inspire young people abroad for the German language, to bolster mutual tolerance and give them access to German culture as well as the German economy and civil society. The IDO also serves to promote Germany as a place to study and work.

The world's biggest German language contest was first held in Dresden in 2008 and takes place every other year in a different German city. After contests in Berlin (2016) and Freiburg (2018), the IDO 2020 will go online for the first time.

**For more information about the IDO, go to:**

[www.goethe.de/ido2020](http://www.goethe.de/ido2020)

**For information about contestants or to arrange online interviews in advance:**

[www.goethe.de/ido2020/teilnehmende](http://www.goethe.de/ido2020/teilnehmende)

*The Internationale Deutscholympiade is held by the Goethe-Institut in association with the International German Teachers' Association, under the patronage of Dirk Hilbert, the mayor of Dresden.*



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**DABEI SEIN!**  
**INTERNATIONALE  
DEUTSCHOLYMPIADE**

In association with



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