

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONALE DEUTSCHOLYMPIADE (IDO) WITH OVER 120 YOUNG CONTESTANTS TO KICK OFF ONLINE ON 3 AUGUST

The world's biggest German language contest will be going virtual for the first time this year from 3 to 7 August – and with a spotlight on the German city of Dresden. Over 120 young people aged 14 to 17 from over 60 different countries will be taking part in the Internationale Deutscholympiade (IDO). The IDO is held every other year by the Goethe-Institut in cooperation with the International Association of Teachers of German (IDV). The top three contestants in each of the three language levels will win a trip to Germany, including a paid German course at the Goethe-Institut in Dresden in 2021.

The Internationale Deutscholympiade (IDO) will be kicking off on August 3 with a live studio event at the Goethe-Institut Dresden and the first of a series of daily moderated events in several time zones. A number of Dresden's local self-starters and influencers will be taking part in the wide range of online events for youngsters, including a look at the art and history of the Saxon state capital as well as life in the city today.

To open the **2020 IDO** at 1 pm (CEST) on 3 August, over 120 contestants from all over the world will be welcomed in video messages from Goethe-Institut Secretary-General Johannes Ebert, member of the Bundestag and acting head of the Subcommittee on Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy Thomas Erndl, mayor of Dresden and honorary patron of the 2020 IDO Dirk Hilbert, and IDV President Marianne Hepp. The **programme highlights** will include various guest appearances at the Goethe-Institut Dresden, which will be live-streamed daily from 1 to 2 pm (CEST) from 3–7 August.

On 4 August, a breakdancer from the Dresden group The Saxonz will be showing us his moves at 1 pm, followed by a live breakdance crash course for one and all. On the lineup for Wednesday, 5 August, is a digital concert by Munich SupercREW, and for Thursday, 6 August, guest appearances by a



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**INTERNATIONALE
DEUTSCHOLYMPIADE**

In cooperation with



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local high schooler and a magician from Dresden. The IDO will be hosted by the Dresden artist and entertainer Falk Töpfer with support from teachers and staffers at the Goethe-Institut Dresden. The IDO's virtual events will be streamed at different hours for the various participating time zones around the world.

www.goethe.de/ido2020

The actual **contest** will be held on 4 and 5 August, covering three different levels of German proficiency (A2, B1 and B2). It will consist of a creative individual task as well as a collaborative task to be completed in small international groups. All the contestants will introduce themselves ahead of time on the IDO project website under the motto "*Wir sind dabei!*" – Count us in!

The IDO will be taking place on various **digital channels**. In addition to the website and closed platforms for the contest, the events will be shown on the Goethe-Institut's social media channels and pages (YouTube, Facebook ("*Deutsch lernen*")), and the IDO highlights will be recapped in a "best of" on the project website. In addition to the IDO opening and live supporting events, the general public can also enjoy the daily events as well as the closing award ceremony on 7 August at 1–2 pm (CEST).

The **award ceremony** will be held virtually on 7 August at 1 pm (CEST). Greetings and congratulations from Goethe-Institut Commercial Director Rainer Pollack and Ulla Schmidt, a member of the Bundestag and of its subcommittee on Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy, will be followed by video greetings from Matthias Kiesler (confirmation pending), the head of the German Federal Foreign Office's Dept. 610 to promote German as a foreign language through its international Partner School Initiative (PASCH), Dr Christoph Veldhues, head of the Goethe-Institut's language programmes, and IDV Secretary-General Puneet Kaur.

Prizes will include trips to Germany for language courses at the Goethe Institute in Dresden in 2021, plus an award for the best international team in



the contest. Contestants will be evaluated not only the basis of their language skills, but also their intercultural skills, teamwork and creativity.

The object of the 2020 IDO is to promote young talents around the world and encourage young people abroad to learn German, to bolster mutual tolerance for other cultures and to show what the city of Dresden has to offer as a place to study, live and work in. The world's biggest German language contest is held every other year. After being hosted in Berlin (2016) and Freiburg (2018), this year's IDO will be held in the virtual realm for the very first time.

For more information about the IDO:

www.goethe.de/ido2020

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