

Dear members of international debate community,

The Slovak Debate Association would like to invite you to the fifth edition of the international **Bratislava Schools Debating Competition**. The tournament will take place from **26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2015** in Slovakia's capital city Bratislava.

## Tournament

The fourth edition of BSDC attracted teams from 17 countries. So far we have hosted debaters and judges from Armenia, Australia, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Lebanon, Moldova, Mongolia, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Singapore, South Africa, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and Zimbabwe. However, this year, we would like to host even more teams from various countries to provide them with an outstanding opportunity to improve their debating skills in English language as well as practise for the WSDC which takes place in Singapore this season.

We are pleased to announce that after Ronit Prawer and Geeta Creffield, our chief adjudicator this year will be **Derek Lande**.

Derek Lande brings a vast range of experience as a debater, judge and coach to the competition. As a debater he was the best speaker at the 2005 European Universities Debating Championships and the 3<sup>rd</sup> best speaker at the 2006 World Universities Debating Championships. He was the Chief Adjudicator of the World Universities Debating Championships held in 2009, Convenor of the European Universities Debating Championships in 2005 and has judged at three World Schools Debating Championships including having judged the Grand Final of the 2013 Championship held in Turkey. Derek coached schools teams since 2002 and coached Team Ireland to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the 2014 World Schools' Debating Championships. He has also delivered training in a variety of debate formats in 12 countries over the last 10 years. Other than his involvement in Debating, Derek is a technology fanatic and works with Accenture Strategy focussing on Technology Strategy and Disruption.



The tournament shall be held in the **World Schools format**. This means that there will be points of information, no cross examinations and the speeches will be 8 minute long. For more information on this format, you may consult the resources of WSDC or SDA (a quick overview of WSDC compared to Karl Popper format).

BSDC will consist of **6 preliminary rounds, 2 elimination rounds** and the **Grand Final**.

The best 8 teams coming out of the preliminary rounds will advance to elimination rounds - quarterfinals and then semifinals. The top 2 teams will meet in the final round held in an appropriate public venue. Round 1 will be seeded randomly; subsequent rounds will be **power-paired**. In the preliminary rounds, there will be **two impromptu motions** and four of the preliminary rounds will be debated on **two prepared motions** (each from both, proposition and opposition sides), which will be announced on **8<sup>th</sup> February 2014**. One of the prepared motions will be debated also in the final debate.

## Registration

We are expecting at least **40 teams** to compete at the tournament this year. Teams should consist of three to five members. **Every delegation needs to come with at least one judge or observer who will be at least 18 year old**. This person will be **responsible for the team, and all the communication** with the organizers on behalf of the team.

There will be an **N-1 rule**. This means that every country needs to **send at least as many judges as the number of teams they're sending minus 1**. (i.e. 1 team/1 judge or observer, 2 teams/1 judge, 3 teams/2 judges, etc.) In case this cannot be provided, the teams will have to pay an additional fee of 150 € to cover an extra judge from another country. However, the registration **fee will be reduced** for any **delegation that shall bring more than the required amount of judges**.

Since we want BSDC to be as diverse as possible, a selection process for teams will be adopted. While registering, you should **state your preference** by adding a **letter behind the name of the team** (e.g. Slovakia A, Slovakia B, etc.).

We will use the following key to assign places to international teams:

1. Preference to teams will be given according to the rank with which they were registered. As such, every country will be guaranteed a spot for their first team.

(So we firstly register all A teams, then B teams, C teams etc.)

2. We may not be able to meet the full demand of teams. Since we also need to ensure plurality of judges, we will give preference to teams from delegations that are able to bring a higher number of their own adjudicators.

(It means that the C team from delegation that has registered 3 judges will be preferred to the C team from delegation that has registered 2 judges)

3. If there are more teams than free spots remaining, spots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

## How to proceed

Registration form for **delegations** (head of delegation and teams) can be found [here](#). Please note that as a head of delegation you also need to register yourself as either judge or observer. Registration will be **closed** on **7<sup>th</sup> February**. On 8<sup>th</sup> February, the list of participating teams will be announced at [bsdc.sda.sk](http://bsdc.sda.sk). Every delegation will receive an email with further instructions afterwards. Teams will be selected according to the above mentioned set of criteria.

## Fees

The registration fee for the tournament is set at **150 €** for **debaters** and **100 €** for **judges**. Observers will be required to pay a fee of 200 €.

The registration fees cover dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch and dinner during the debates on Saturday and Sunday and breakfast on Monday. Simple breakfast will be served before debates at school, but you can pay a fee of 5€ per day at the hotel reception, if you prefer continental breakfast at the hotel.

This is also available for Friday morning. If you wish to order this breakfast, please contact organizers in advance.

The fees also cover accommodation for four nights (from Thursday to Monday) in *Hotel Astra*, which is in walking distance from the school where all debates, except Grand Finals, will be held and about ten minutes away from the historical city centre by direct bus line. Teams and judges are expected to arrive on Thursday (26<sup>th</sup> of March) or Friday (27<sup>th</sup>) morning, and stay until after the Final debate on Monday (30<sup>th</sup>).

Teams will be required to **pay registration fees in full by 22<sup>nd</sup> February**. Payment instructions are available [here](#). Please use the note for recipient format as is specified in **instructions**.

50% of the registration fee is refundable less than 14 days before the tournament, 25% of the registration fee is refundable 7 days before the tournament. Please note that registration fees become **non-refundable after 18<sup>th</sup> of March**. Any delegation which fails to make payment 22<sup>nd</sup> February will be struck from the tournament and its place will be re-allocated.

Please note that teams are responsible for any bank charges which may apply when they make payment to BSDC 2014.

The different types of fees are summed up below:

Type of Payment	Cost
Registration fee – Debaters	150 €
Registration fee – Judges	100 €
Registration fee – Observers	200 €
N-1 fee (for each missing judge) – if there are fewer judges than N-1 teams from a country	150 €



## Travel information

The location in the heart of Europe makes Slovakia a very easily accessible country. Bratislava, the international highway, railway and airway junction is the gate of this beautiful country. The main international airport of Slovakia is the M.R. Stefanik Airport (code BTS), located just a 15-minute drive from the city centre.

Many visitors of Slovakia use the nearby Vienna Airport (code VIE) in Austria (Schwechat airport). Vienna and Bratislava are supposedly the two closest capital cities in the world, only a short 64 km or 40 miles away. About eight bus lines ride from Schwechat to Bratislava daily. For schedule and online purchase of your ticket from Schwechat airport visit for example this website.

An alternative could also be Budapest Airport (code BUD). Trains from Budapest to Bratislava depart from the Keleti Station from 5:25 a.m. to 3:25 p.m. in two-hour interval and the journey lasts approximately 3 hours. There is a possibility to get to Bratislava by train as well. The main train station – Hlavna Stanica is located just a 15-minute drive from the hotel. Bratislava is also easily accessible by bus. The city's main bus terminal – Autobusova Stanica Mlynske Nivy is located just a 15-minute walk from the hotel.

## Visa information

You may need a visa when you come to Slovakia. You can find more information on visa at the website of Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [http://www.mzv.sk/en/consular\\_info/visa](http://www.mzv.sk/en/consular_info/visa)

**The visa application procedure may be lengthy in some cases.** Therefore, we strongly recommend you to file your application **well in advance**, but **not sooner than three months prior to your planned trip**. Under the applicable law, the visa application procedure shall not take longer than 15 days, in exceptional cases the decision may take **up to 60 days though**.

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If you need the invitation letter or other kind of help from organizers, please let us know **as soon as possible** (ideally as soon as you know the composition of your delegation, which shall not change after you receive the invitation letter).

Please contact your nearest Slovak embassy or high commission to find out if you need a visa. If you are planning to arrive at Vienna or Budapest Airport, ask your embassy if there are any special requirements. You can find contact details of all Slovak missions abroad at this website: [http://www.mzv.sk/en/consular\\_info/slovak\\_honorary\\_consulates\\_abroad](http://www.mzv.sk/en/consular_info/slovak_honorary_consulates_abroad)

Please note that in case of visa procedure there may be an extra administration fee of 30 € per person, which will not be covered in registration fee. This fee is sometimes required by Slovak authorities in order to administer the confirmation of official invitation by Slovak immigration office for the purposes of visa process.

## Dress code

**Business casual** attire is allowed for all **preliminary rounds**. However, the elimination rounds especially the **Grand Final** of the tournament will require **business attire**.



## Tentative schedule

### Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2015

12:00 – 00:00 Arrivals to the hotel  
Free program

20:00 – 00:00 Judges Social

### Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 2015

Optional sightseeing

13:00 – 14:15 Judges briefing (mandatory)

13:30 – 14:15 Registration at the venue

14:30 – 16:30 Prepared motion debate

17:00 – 19:00 Prepared motion debate

19:15 – 20:15 Dinner

### Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

08:30 – 09:00 Departure to the venue

09:00 – 09:30 Breakfast

09:30 – 10:30 Prep time for impromptu debate

10:30 – 12:30 Impromptu motion debate

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Prepared motion debate

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16:30 – 18:30 Prepared motion debate

19:00 – 20:00 Dinner

20:00 – 21:00 Optional judges briefing

### Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2015

08:30 – 09:00 Departure to the venue

09:00 – 09:30 Breakfast

09:30 – 10:30 Prep time for impromptu debate

10:30 – 12:30 Impromptu motion debate

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:45 – 14:45 Prep time for the quarterfinals

14:45 – 16:15 Quarterfinals debate

16:15 – 17:00 Break

17:00 – 18:00 Prep time for semifinals debate

18:00 – 19:30 Semifinals debate

20:00 – 00:00 Dinner & Break night party

### Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 2015

08:30 – 09:00 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:00 Departure

10:00 – 13:00 Finals

## Contacts

You will find more information about Slovak Debate Association, the organizing team and venues of BSDC 2014, as well as travel information at [www.bsdc.sda.sk](http://www.bsdc.sda.sk).

In case of further questions, please do not hesitate and email us at [bsdc@sda.sk](mailto:bsdc@sda.sk).

If you have friends that would be interested in this tournament, please forward them this email or let them know about us on [Facebook](#).

We hope to see you in Bratislava.

Best regards,

**BSDC 2015 Organising Team**  
**Simona Masicova, Chief Organiser**