



The International Public Speaking Competition 2017

The ESU International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) is the world's largest competition of its kind. Bringing participants from all over the world together in a week of cultural exchange and competition, the IPSC is one of the flagship programmes of the English-Speaking Union.

This year Portugal was represented at the IPSC by Paulo Freitas da Silva, from Agrupamento de Escolas Francisco de Holanda, Guimarães, who was the winner of our National Public Speaking Competition on March 26th. Here is what Paulo wrote about his experience in London,

"So it's over. Still can't quite believe it. This past week went by so fast it felt like a dream.

I was lucky enough to meet and befriend so many wonderful amazing people who gave me the time of my life. I loved meeting all of you and you've proven to be some of the greatest I've ever met. I really hope we can all see each other again.

Furthermore, it was a huge honour to represent Portugal. Being the first time I tried something by myself, it was even more special. I'd recommend this experience to anyone who is interested in public speaking.

Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, mentors... A huge shout-out to all of those involved in IPSC 2017.

You're the absolute best. Thank you for making London such a special place ❤️ 🇬🇧 "

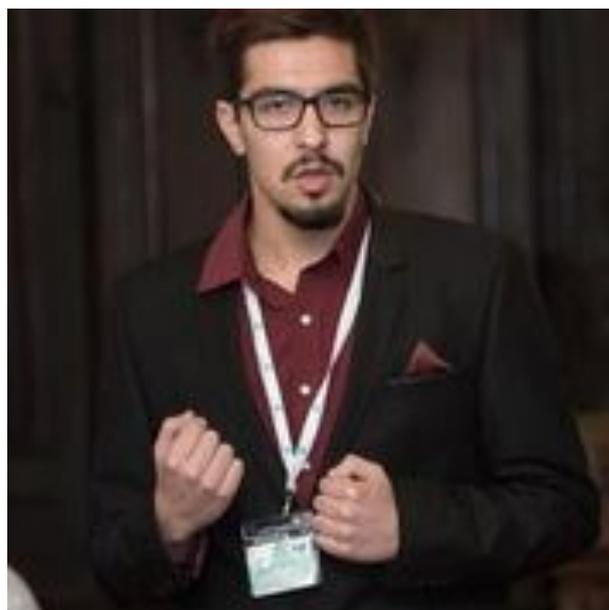
Here he is receiving his certificate at Dartmouth House, London — the headquarters of the English-Speaking Union — and celebrating with some of his new friends.



This year the IPSC welcomed 45 participants from 42 countries across the globe. All winners had won their respective national public speaking competitions run by international ESUs/partner organisations.

The heats took place on Thursday and the Grand Final was held on Friday 12th at the Royal Institution, Mayfair, where participants from Mexico, Canada, Australia, China, England and Wales, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong battled it out for the prestigious winner's trophy.

This year's winner was Luke Macaronas from Australia with his speech entitled 'The Inconvenient Truth' - an emotive speech on drone attacks and the state of modern warfare. The runner-up was Owen David Thomas Torrey from Canada whose speech was on the topic 'To Wage War with Peace'.



Paulo, delivering his speech on Thursday



The winner

The week in London always includes participating in workshops and a comprehensive 'extra-curricular' programme of sightseeing and entertainment. No wonder, then, that all the participants feel sorry when the competition is over. Wouldn't you?

After the finals, all the participants meet at Dartmouth House where they celebrate this wonderful experience, receive their awards and say goodbye to all the new friends they have made.



All photos of the International Public Speaking Competition by courtesy of ESU/Gigi Giannella 2017

IPSC 2018

Dear Teachers and Colleagues,

IPSC 2018 will take place from 14-18 May. Our National Public Speaking Competition will take place in March. In January we'll be sending out information about these two competitions. Meantime, if you have any questions you'd like answered, don't hesitate to contact ESU Portugal on wavetraveller@gmail.com

If you are not on our e-mailing list yet, please send us an email to allow us to add you to our list and to send you all relevant information about our educational activities.

Agrupamento de Escolas Verde Horizonte, Mação

The power of spoken communication should never be taken for granted. And at Agrupamento de Escolas Verde Horizonte, it isn't.

Entitled *Há Debate na Escola...*, the debating competition which took place at Agrupamento de Escolas Verde Horizonte on April 3rd as part of the end of term activities at the High School was a great success. There were two debates - one in Portuguese and another in English. The adjudicators, two teachers of the school and a member of ESU Portugal, were very pleasantly surprised by the performance and debating skills of all the participants. All the twelve students taking part in these two debates structured their arguments very well, with plenty of enthusiasm, genuine passion and great conviction.

At the end of the debates, and after the adjudicators had given the participants their feedback, the debaters were warmly congratulated by all present.

We'd like to thank the Head Teacher of the school for his warm welcome and his great interest in the activity, and the teachers for encouraging their students to embrace such activities which are so important for the future of our young people.

Congratulations to you all. We do look forward to a future debating competition at your school.



Contacts

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