

South-Western Europe Regional Contest

– Press release –

Palaiseau – March 7th, 2021



*The prestigious SWERC 2020–2021 programming contest
Organized by the Institut Polytechnique de Paris
A successful online event!*

The SWERC 2020-2021 programming contest, organized and run by faculty and staff members from Télécom Paris, under the banner of the Institut Polytechnique de Paris, took place this weekend. Due to the pandemic, it was held remotely. SWERC is the regional selection for the major international competitive programming competition ICPC, which has been held annually since 1977. Contests such as ICPC promote creativity, teamwork and innovation in solving algorithmic challenges and writing programming code. It allows students to test their ability to do their best under pressure.

This 2021 edition saw 327 students from 52 universities competing in 107 teams. This year again, each team had to solve as many algorithmic problems as possible in 5 hours. All the proposed solutions were instantly validated or rejected by an automated evaluation system. The problems had been prepared by a team of 11 judges from the academic world (CNRS, École Normale Supérieure, Télécom Paris, Université Gustave Eiffel, Université de Paris, Université Paris-Saclay) and from the industrial world (Apple, Facebook, Google, Nomadic Labs).

At SWERC 2021, competitors used their imagination and skills to compete 13 different algorithmic problems. To name just a few, they had to guide Alice through a room while keeping at a safe distance from the other people present, find out how many cakes could be made from a list of ingredients, simulate a morphing transformation from one image to another, or count the number of surviving entities of a cellular automaton.

This edition saw the victory of the École Normale Supérieure, whose best team solved 12 problems, followed by ETH Zürich in second place, with 11 problems solved, and then Tel Aviv University with 10 problems solved, an impressive score for a first participation. Two teams from IP Paris won silver medals by finishing 4th and 6th. These teams are at the top of a ranking that includes the best universities in Southwestern Europe (Spain, France, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland).

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at Télécom Paris

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