



International AI Olympiad
LJUBLJANA 2026

23–27 FEBRUARY 2026
LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA



International Winter Artificial Intelligence Olympiad

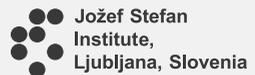
2026



Centre
Under the auspices
of UNESCO



International Research Centre
on Artificial Intelligence
under the auspices of UNESCO



Young minds shaping responsible AI



They are building the bridge so the silicon heart
stays human, humble, and steady,
because "artificial" is only one part,
if the "kindness" in mankind is ready.

Excerpt from this year's IAIO hymn



Scan the QR code and
visit iaio-official.org





JOHN SHAWE-TAYLOR
Olympics President



ANDREJ BRODNIK
Olympics Secretary



MONIKA KROPEJ
Olympics Competition
Director



DAVOR ORLIČ
Olympics Competition
Director

WHAT



The International Winter Artificial Intelligence Olympiad 2026 (IAIO) is an academic competition that brings together young talents from around the world to learn, innovate, and compete across key disciplines in AI. IAIO is more than a technical skills competition; it is a global platform that educates, nurtures, and empowers the next generation of responsible AI developers.

WHO

Participants under the age of 20 from more than 24 countries are engaged in theoretical and practical AI challenges addressing societal and environmental issues, from climate action to social innovation. IAIO's mission is to foster a deep understanding of AI algorithms and their application to real-world problems, while integrating ethical principles such as fairness, transparency, and accountability into AI development.

WHERE

The Olympiad is hosted on the Zindi platform, which connects a community of over 90,000 data and AI practitioners across Africa and the Global South, offering mentorship, training, and career pathways for learners. Organised by the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) at the Jožef Stefan Institute, in cooperation with the Association for Computing Machinery Slovenia (ACM Slovenia), IAIO provides a global platform where knowledge, talent, and values converge to shape the responsible future of AI.

One week of innovation, discovery, and connection. Whether you are competing or mentoring, your IAIO 2026 experience is tailored to your role – from the opening ceremony to the awards – blending competition, collaboration, and cultural exchange.

MONDAY*

23 February

Arrival, Welcome Ceremony & Social Event

TUESDAY

24 February

First Day of Competition & Ljubljana Tour

WEDNESDAY

25 February

Excursion to Center Noordung & Test Run

THURSDAY

26 February

Second Day of Competition & Social Event

FRIDAY

27 February

Closing Ceremony & Departure

* 10:00 – 11:00 Press conference (White Hall)

FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR

Lobby (Registration)
Union Hall

FIRST FLOOR

Glass Hall
White Hall

THE SCHEDULE

23–27 FEB 2026

	CONTESTANTS	TEAM LEADERS	
MON, FEB 23	09:00 – 17:00	Arrival	Arrival
	14:00 – 15:15	Lunch	Lunch
	15:15 – 17:00	Registration and Photo (Lobby)	Registration and Photo (Lobby)
	17:00 – 18:00	Free time	Free time
	18:00 – 19:30	Welcome ceremony (White Hall)	Welcome ceremony (White Hall)
	19:30 – 21:00	Dinner and social event (Lobby)	Dinner and social event (Lobby)
	21:00 – 24:00	End of Day 1	General Assembly (Glass Hall)
TUE, FEB 24	07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast	Breakfast
	08:30 – 14:00	Scientific Round (Union Hall)	Leaders in Attendance (Glass Hall)
	14:00 – 15:15	Lunch	Lunch
	15:15 – 17:00	Free time	Scientific Round Marking (Glass Hall)
	17:00 – 19:00	Ljubljana Tour	
	19:30 – 20:30	Dinner	Dinner
	20:30 – 23:00	End of Day 2	General Assembly (Glass Hall)
WED, FEB 25	07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast	Breakfast
	08:30 – 14:30	Excursion to Center Noordung	Excursion to Center Noordung
	14:30 – 15:30	Lunch	Lunch
	15:30 – 16:00	Free time	Free time
	16:00 – 18:00	Test Run of Practical Round (Union Hall)	Leaders in Attendance (Glass Hall)
	18:00 – 19:30	Scientific Round Analysis (Union Hall)	Scientific Round Analysis (Union Hall)
	19:30 – 20:30	Dinner	Dinner
20:30 – 23:00	End of Day 3	General Assembly (Glass Hall)	
THU, FEB 26	07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast	Breakfast
	08:30 – 14:00	Practical round (Union Hall)	Leaders in Attendance (Glass Hall)
	14:00 – 15:15	Lunch	Lunch
	15:15 – 16:00	Free time	Free time
	16:00 – 17:00	Practical Round Analysis (Union Hall)	Practical Round Analysis (Union Hall)
	17:00 – 19:30	Free time	General Assembly (Glass Hall)
	19:30 – 22:00	Dinner and Social event (Lobby)	Dinner and Social event (Lobby)
22:00	End of Day 4	End of Day 4	
FRI, FEB 27	08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast	Breakfast
	09:00 – 11:00	Closing ceremony (Union Hall)	Closing ceremony (Union Hall)
	11:00 – 13:00	Free time to visit the old town	Free time to visit the old town
	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch
	14:00	End of IAIO 2026 / Departure	End of IAIO 2026 / Departure

THE VENUE

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

The IAIO 2026 is being held at the prestigious Grand Hotel Union Eurostars, a landmark venue in the heart of Ljubljana. The hotel enjoys a prime location, within walking distance of the famous Prešeren Square and Triple Bridge. Ljubljana's historic centre and the Ljubljanica river promenade are just 200 m from the hotel, while the Cathedral, Castle, Cankar Hall, exhibition centre, and the main bus and train stations are less than 1 km away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS VIA WHATSAPP

Join the official WhatsApp group for real-time updates, announcements, and community connection throughout the week:



→ Scan the QR code and join the **WhatsApp group**

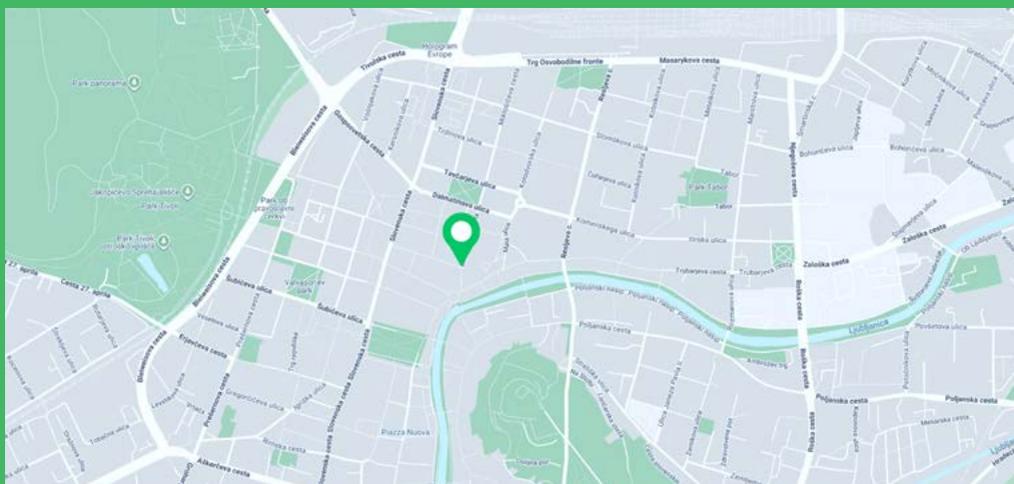
ACCOMODATION

TEAM LEADERS

Grand Hotel Union Eurostars
Miklošičeva cesta 3, 1000 Ljubljana
www.grandhoteliunioneurostars.com

CONTESTANTS

Eurostars uHotel
Miklošičeva cesta 3, 1000 Ljubljana
www.eurostarsuhotel.com



Connect beyond the competition. Join evening socials, cultural showcases, and informal gatherings designed to spark friendships and collaboration. From the welcome reception to the closing celebration, discover the people behind the olympiad.

GUIDED TOUR OF LJUBLJANA

Join us for a guided tour of Ljubljana's historic city centre, organised by Ljubljana Tourism. Discover the castle, the Triple Bridge, the Dragon Bridge, and many more unforgettable sights as you explore the iconic landmarks and hidden gems of Slovenia's capital.

TUESDAY, FEB 24 | 17:00 – 19:00

Expert local guides will lead you through the city's iconic landmarks and hidden treasures.

www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors

Meeting point and details to follow.



EXCURSION TO NOORDUNG CENTER IN VITANJE

Join us for a guided bus trip to Center Noordung in Vitanje, Slovenia's national center for space technologies and science. Named after pioneer Herman Potočnik Noordung, whose visionary 1929 work shaped modern space exploration, the center connects research, education and industry to explore how space contributes to innovation and sustainable development.



WEDNESDAY, FEB 25 | 08:30 – 14:30

Discover interdisciplinary projects, international space cooperation, and STEM initiatives in the charming small town where Noordung's legacy endures.

www.center-noordung.si/en

Departure point and details to follow.

THE ORGANIZERS

IRCAI & ACM SLOVENIA



IRCAI

The International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) is dedicated to advancing the responsible development and use of AI for the public good. The Centre actively collaborates with governments and international organisations to shape responsible AI frameworks and standards. Established in 2020 at the Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia, IRCAI promotes collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers, policymakers, public institutions, companies, and civil society. Operating under the auspices of UNESCO, the Centre links research, policy, education, and innovation to address global challenges such as sustainability, health, and inclusive development. Through these partnerships, IRCAI is committed to capacity building and developing young AI talent, offering education programmes, international competitions, mentoring, and open educational resources.

Website: www.ircai.org



ACM SLOVENIA

ACM Slovenia is the national chapter of the international Association for Computing Machinery, promoting computer science education, research, and professional development. It connects researchers, educators, students, and professionals from academia and industry, fostering knowledge exchange, lifelong learning, and skills development in computing and digital technologies. The chapter supports the growth of Slovenia's computing ecosystem and provides opportunities for young talent to participate in educational initiatives, competitions, and international networks.

Website: www.acm.si

GOLD SPONSOR

AMAZON



Amazon Web Services (AWS) is a global leader in secure, scalable cloud infrastructure, enabling organisations to build advanced AI, data, and enterprise solutions. Through its commitment to open science and responsible innovation, AWS supports researchers, startups, and public-interest initiatives tackling global challenges.

A flagship sustainability effort, the Amazon Sustainability Data Initiative (SDI) provides free access to high-value climate and environmental datasets in the AWS Cloud. By lowering technical and financial barriers, SDI accelerates data-driven research and AI innovation for climate resilience, biodiversity, disaster response, and sustainable development.

In partnership with International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI), AWS has translated this commitment into high-impact global programmes. Through the AI for Equity Challenge with AWS Sustainability, more than 1,300 participants from 90 countries developed AI solutions addressing climate risk, health equity, and resilience. Challenge-defining partners included Kuyesera AI Lab (Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences) and Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania). The winners were Mark Landry (USA), who built vision-language models to detect climate-damaged infrastructure, and Yisak Berhanu (Ethiopia), who developed machine-learning forecasts for waterborne disease outbreaks in Tanzania — advancing early warning and response systems in vulnerable regions.

Complementing this, the IRCAI & AWS Compute for Climate Fellowship with AWS Startups supports high-potential climate tech ventures with AWS credits, technical mentorship, and go-to-market support. Notable startups include 80 Acres Farms (AI-enabled vertical farming), Aionics (AI-driven battery materials discovery), Amini (environmental intelligence infrastructure), and Avalo (AI-accelerated crop development).

Together, AWS and IRCAI have strengthened a global pipeline of AI talent and climate innovators, demonstrating how cloud infrastructure, open data, and responsible AI can deliver scalable, equitable impact worldwide.

Website: sustainability.aboutamazon.com



OptimalAI

OptimalAI researches and applies novel AI solutions for enterprise, operating at the frontier of applied research and real-world deployment. Recognising that talent is at the heart of breakthrough research, OptimalAI brings together world-leading academics, engineers, and industry subject-matter experts to translate cutting-edge advances in machine learning into scalable, production-ready systems.

Rather than delivering off-the-shelf tools, OptimalAI works as a true extension of its customers' teams — embedding technical expertise directly within organisations to co-develop high-impact AI solutions. Its work spans advanced machine learning, generative AI, optimisation systems, and decision intelligence, applied to complex operational and scientific challenges. By aligning research depth with business strategy, OptimalAI ensures innovation is technically robust, commercially meaningful, and ethically grounded.

A defining feature of OptimalAI's model is its human-centred methodology. The company designs AI systems that enable real-time human steering, oversight, and domain-expert input, increasing reliability, transparency, and performance. This results in safer, higher-quality AI deployments that deliver measurable value while maintaining accountability and trust.

OptimalAI further reinforced its human-centric approach as a partner in the EU Horizon 2020 Network of Excellence HumanE-AI-Net (Grant Agreement No. 952026), advancing European leadership in trustworthy, human-centred AI.

Importantly, OptimalAI recognises that the talent emerging through initiatives such as the International Artificial Intelligence Olympiad represents the foundation of the next generation of AI scientists. By supporting and engaging with Olympiad-level excellence, OptimalAI affirms its commitment to nurturing future researchers whose creativity, rigour, and ethical awareness will shape the evolution of artificial intelligence.

By combining elite talent, rigorous research, and close industry collaboration, OptimalAI bridges academic innovation and enterprise execution — turning frontier AI capabilities into durable competitive advantage and long-term societal impact.

Website: optimalai.com



Telekom
Slovenije

Telekom Slovenije is a key player in the digitalization of Slovenia, recognising that robust digital infrastructure lies at the centre of the AI revolution. By providing the connectivity and reliability that enable advanced data-driven technologies, the company powers innovation, supports AI deployment at scale, and strengthens the foundation for a connected, intelligent future.

As one of the leading providers of cyber resilience solutions in the South-Eastern European region, Telekom Slovenije is trusted by more than 200,000 broadband and TV service users and over 1,000,000 mobile service users who value excellent user experience, reliability, and security. The company holds a 28.9% market share in broadband connections, 36.7% in mobile telephony, and 44.3% in IP television (source: AKOS, Q3 2025).

With its advanced and extensive fiber-optic network, Telekom Slovenije reaches more than half a million households in Slovenia, while its 5G mobile network is available to as much as 99% of the population. Over the past ten years, the company has invested more than EUR 680 million in the development and maintenance of these networks.

This commitment to quality is further confirmed by the results of recognized independent measurements. Telekom Slovenije received 5 prestigious international Speedtest Awards (Ookla) for the best and fastest mobile network in Slovenia, offering the best coverage as well as the best mobile gaming and video experience. Additionally, an independent survey by ICERTIAS confirmed with the Best Buy Award for the 2025/2026 period that users recognize Telekom Slovenije as the provider with the best price-to-quality ratio in the category of reliable fiber-optic internet connections.

Website: www.telekom.si

C&G

C&G d.o.o. LJUBLJANA

C&G is a forward-looking engineering, innovation-driven, and marketing-oriented company with a long-standing tradition in energy infrastructure. Its team of experts combines knowledge and practical experience to operate efficiently and flexibly, anticipating and shaping the needs of partners, clients, and project collaborators. The company invests continuously in product development and delivers a broad portfolio of advanced services in the electric power sector. Through affiliated companies, strategic partners, and long-term alliances, C&G creates synergies that extend beyond its core activities. It offers comprehensive design services and turnkey execution of complex projects, integrating multiple engineering disciplines. By combining design and contract engineering expertise, references, and experience, the C&G Group successfully delivers large-scale and technically demanding facilities, actively co-shaping the future of the electric power and engineering industries.

IAIO 2026 is also made possible through the commitment of our bronze sponsors and supporters.

BRONZE SPONSORS



SUPPORTERS



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



Welcome to Ljubljana, Slovenia's small yet captivating capital. Whether you are strolling along the Ljubljanica river or wandering through the charming streets of the city centre, there is always something new to see and explore. Here is everything you need to know to get around comfortably during your stay.

BASIC INFORMATION

Slovenia uses the euro (€) and Slovene is the official language, though English is widely spoken. Always carry a valid ID document with you.

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 112

POLICE: 113

MONEY & ATMs

ATMs are widely available throughout the city centre, airport, and shopping areas. Most international cards (Visa, Mastercard, Maestro) are accepted, and card payments are accepted almost everywhere. Use bank-operated ATMs to avoid higher fees.

GETTING AROUND

The city centre is small and most sights are within easy reach on foot. City buses are operated by LPP, and a single ride costs approximately €1.50 (valid for 90 minutes). You will need an Urbana card, available at kiosks, ticket machines, and the bus station. Always board through the front door. Google Maps works well for routes and schedules. For cycling, Ljubljana's public bike system, BicikeLJ, is a great option.

FOOD & DRINK

Tap water in Ljubljana is safe to drink. Tipping is not mandatory, though rounding up the bill is a common and appreciated gesture.

INTERNET

Free Wi-Fi is available in most cafes and hotels.

Now that the essentials are covered, it is time to explore what makes Ljubljana truly special: the food, the market, and the small shops that give the city its unique character.

SHOPPING

Most shops are open Monday to Friday 8:00–19:00 and Saturday 8:00–13:00, with shopping malls keeping longer hours. Major centers include BTC City Ljubljana and Citypark Ljubljana. Supermarkets such as Spar, Mercator, Lidl, and Hofer are easy to find across the city.

For a more local experience, visit the **Central Market** (Vodnikov trg) — Ljubljana's vibrant open-air market offering fresh produce, local cheeses, honey, and traditional Slovenian goods.

Nearby, the Old Town is home to a wonderful selection of speciality shops worth exploring:

Zakladi Slovenije, Ciril–Metodov trg 2

Piran Salt Shop, Mestni trg 8

Honey House, Mestni trg 7

Dobrote Dolenjske, Mestni trg 17

Tartufi Deli, Mestni trg 18

Kraševka, Vodnikov trg 4

Grashka Deli (local vegan delicacies), Trubarjeva cesta 72

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

For more information visit tourist information centre:

TIC Ljubljana

Adamič–Lundrovo nabrežje 2

Phone: **+386 (0)1 306 12 15**

Website: **www.visitljubljana.com/en/visitors/**

Fall/Winter operating hours:

every day from 08:00 to 18:00, except on Sundays and holidays



I am ✨
a young mind
shaping 🌍
responsible AI





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