

Czechoslovak competing in mathematics: from the national to the international Mathematical Olympiad.

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In Czechoslovakia, the focus on improving mathematics education after the Second World War was very clear. One of the ways to engage students and pupils was to organise various mathematical events and competitions - the most visible and influential was the Mathematical Olympiad, first held in 1951. We will look at the history of this competition in Czechoslovakia and how it changed during its first years, including 1959, the year of the first International Mathematical Olympiad, and also a few years later to trace the influence of the IMO on the Czechoslovak Mathematical Olympiad.