

# Science fairs – history and importance

Konstantin Delchev

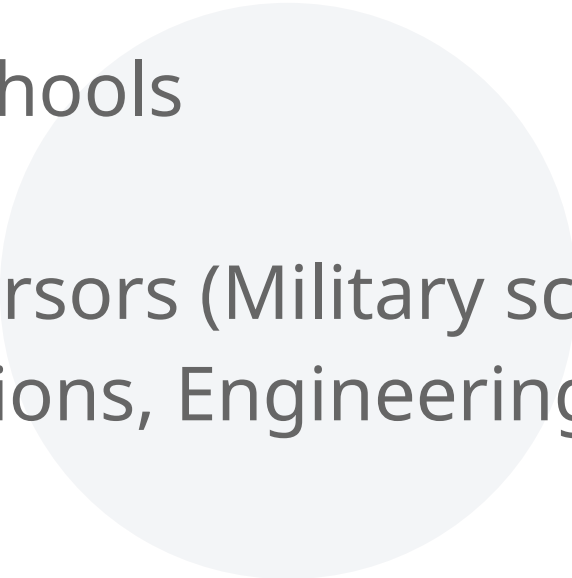



ispas

paths to successful  
innovations

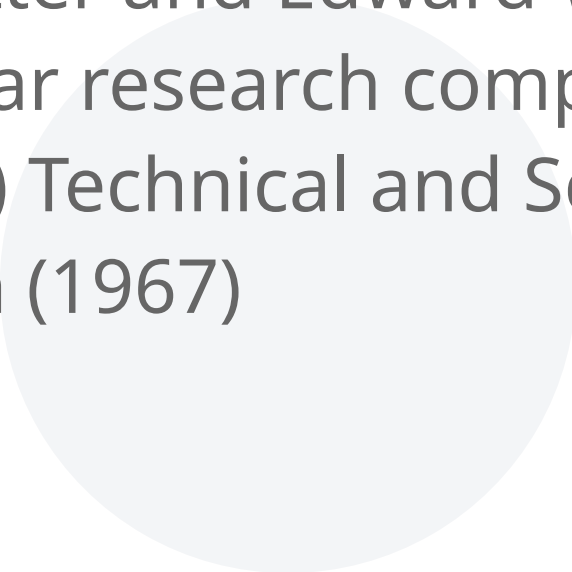
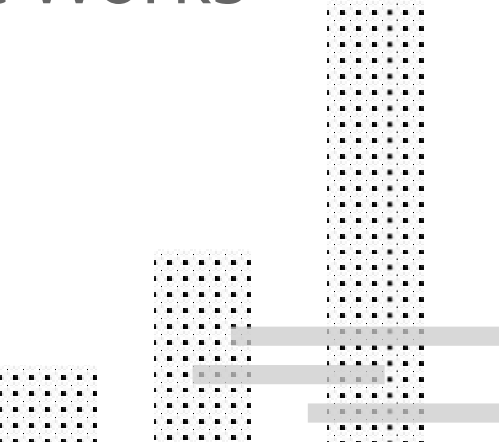


# Early history

- Popular science demonstrations
  - Boarding schools
  - Other Precursors (Military school demonstrations, Engineering clubs, etc)
- 
- 

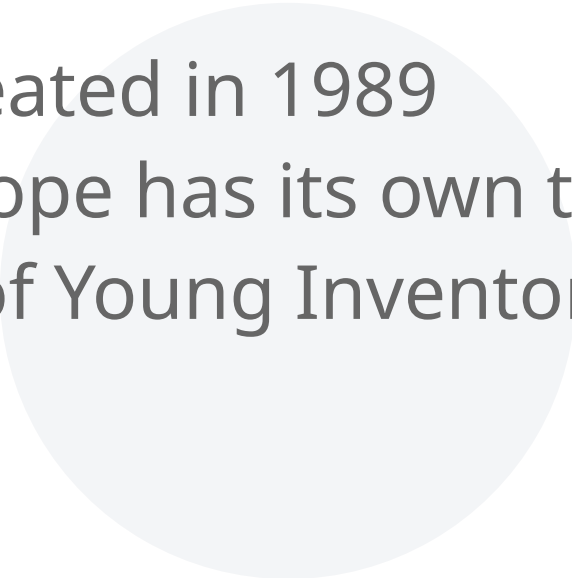
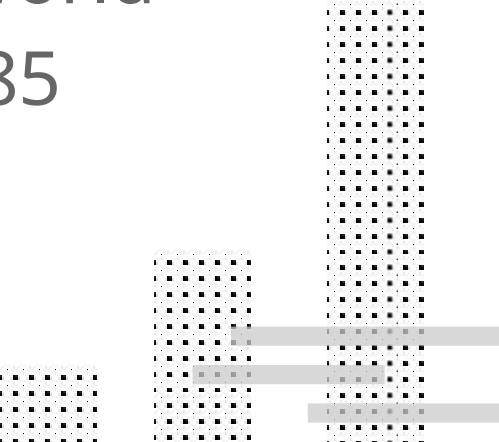


# Formal beginnings

- "The Science Talent Search", 1942, William Emerson Ritter and Edward W. Scripps
  - First post-war research competitions
  - (In Bulgaria) Technical and Scientific Works of the Youth (1967)
- 
- 



# International beginnings

- National Science Fair goes international in 1958
  - EUCYS is created in 1989
  - Eastern Europe has its own thing (World Exposition of Young Inventors) - 1985
- 
- 

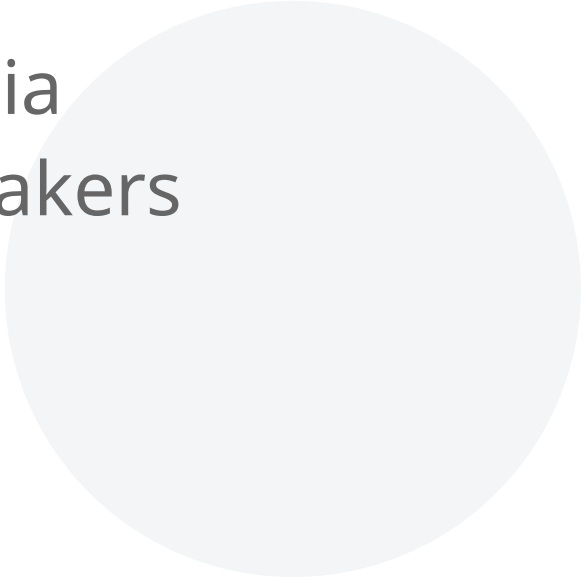
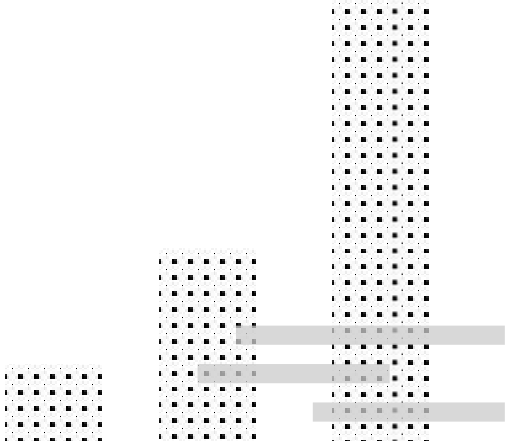


# Current state

- Multi-million award funds
  - Up to 2000 of participants
  - Up almost to 90 countries
  - Major tool for science popularization
  - Tool for political agendas (sadly)
- 
- 



# Importance

- For students
  - For schools
  - For Academia
  - For policymakers
- 
- 

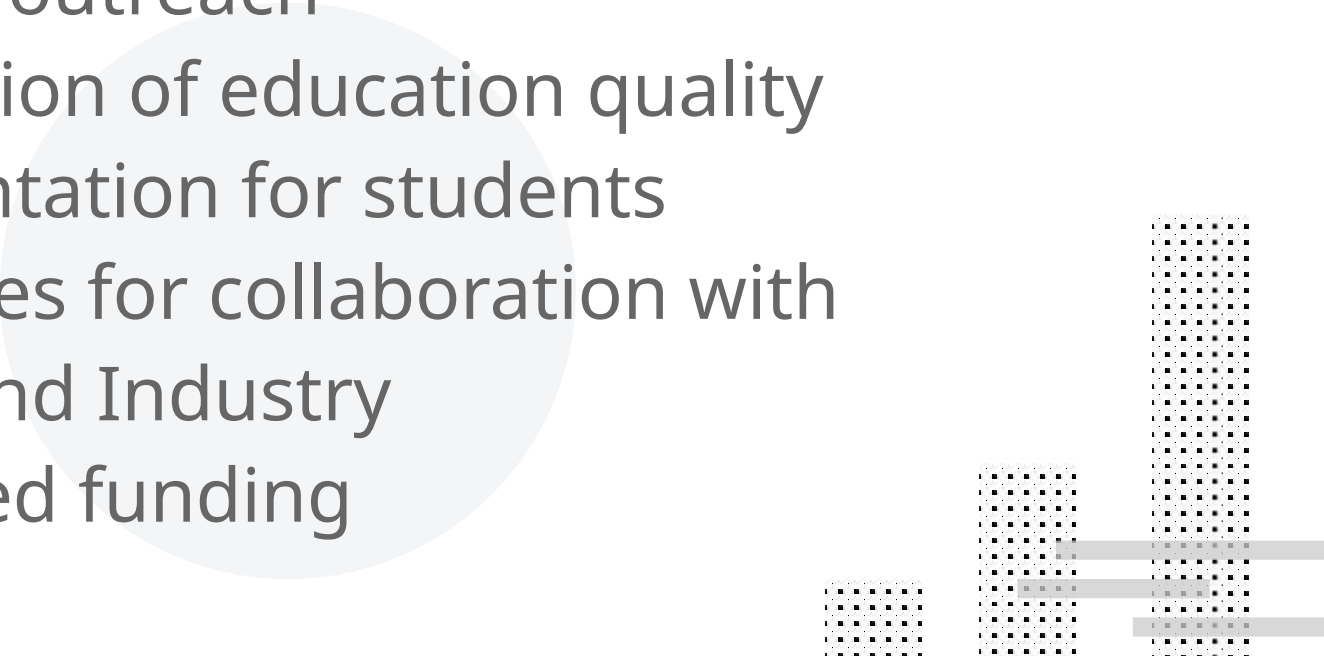


# Importance for students

- Sets goals for extracurricular activities
- Enhances CV
- Gives good idea of research activities and careers
- Enhances communication experience



# Importance for schools

- Student motivation
  - Community outreach
  - Demonstration of education quality
  - Career orientation for students
  - Opportunities for collaboration with Academia and Industry
  - Project-based funding
- 



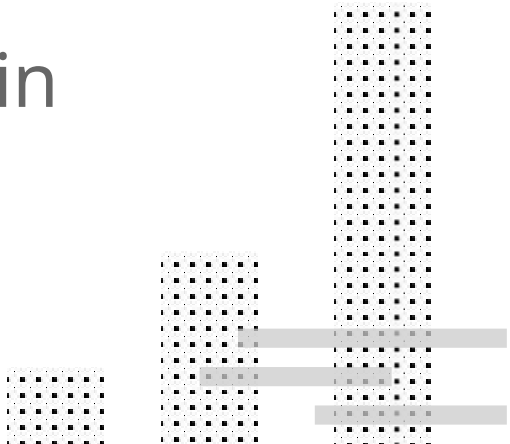


# Importance for Academia

- Optics are crucial for Academia currently
- Making research career attractive
- Influencing the secondary education
- Top projects have actual strong research value

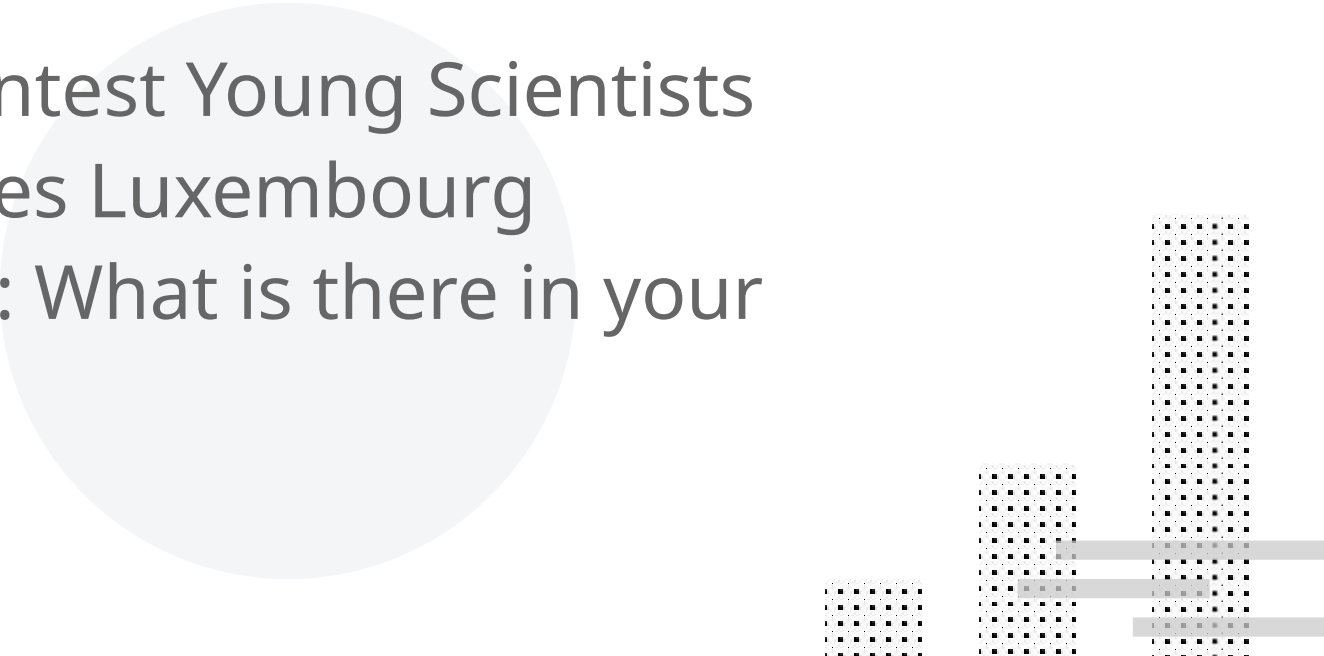


# Importance for policymakers

- Most studies measure bottom or average performance. Science fairs measure top.
  - Science fairs can boost other science initiatives
  - Science fairs stimulate partnership in helical models.
  - (Sadly) Pushing agendas
- 

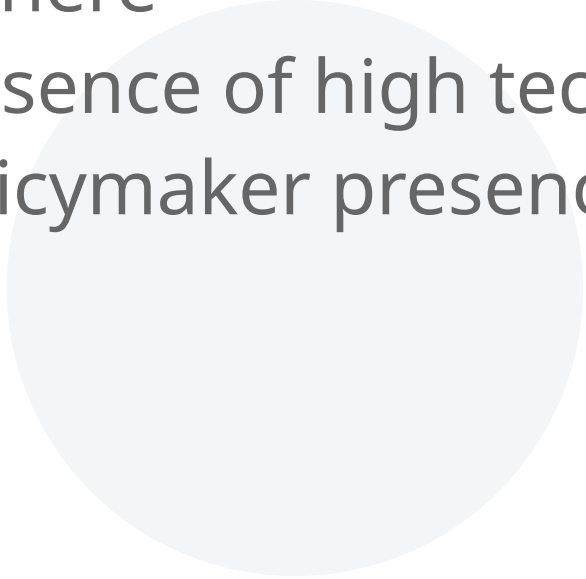

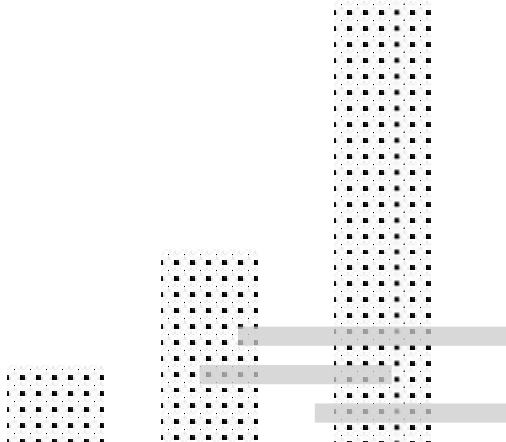


# Case studies

- Regeneron ISEF
  - EUCYS
  - National Contest Young Scientists
  - Expo Sciences Luxembourg
  - Assignment: What is there in your country?!
- 

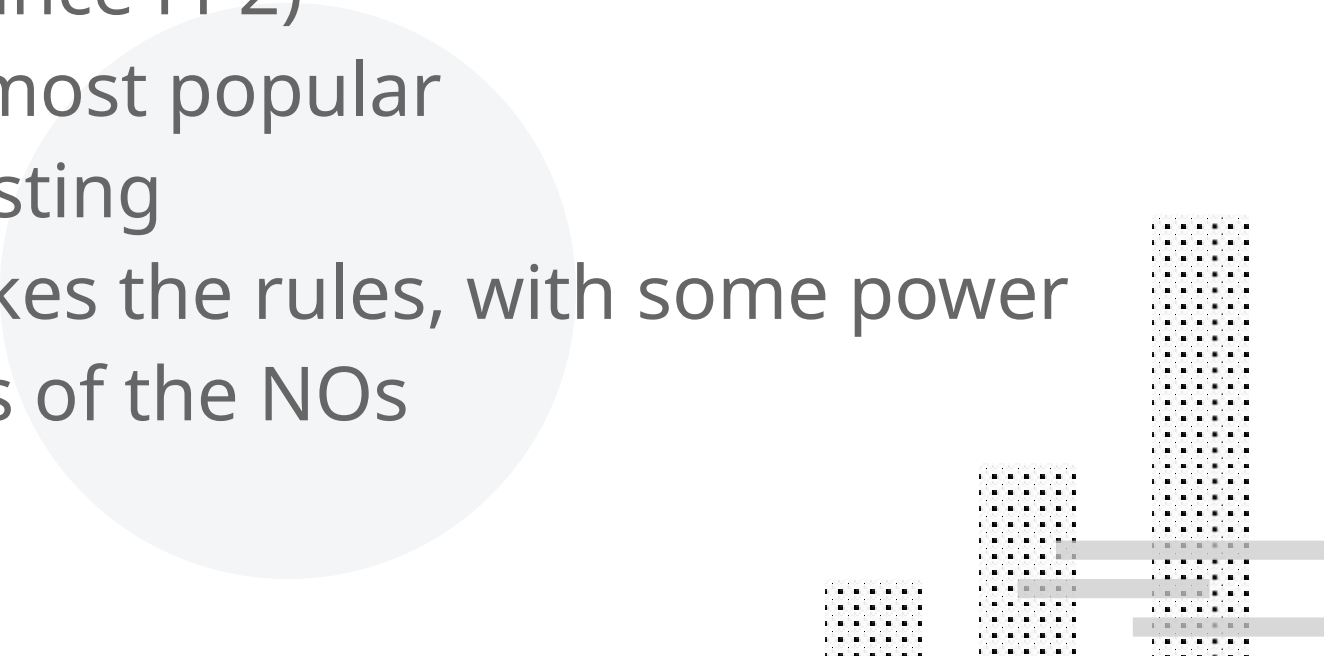


# Regeneron ISEF

- Formerly NSEF, formerly Intel ISEF
  - Oldest out there
  - Notable presence of high tech companies
  - Notable policymaker presence
- 
- 
- 

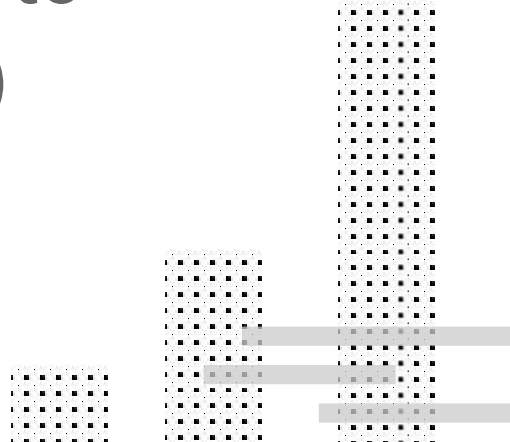


# EUCYS

- One of the oldest Framework Programme initiatives (since FP2)
  - One of the most popular
  - Rotating hosting
  - DG RTD makes the rules, with some power in the hands of the NOs
- 

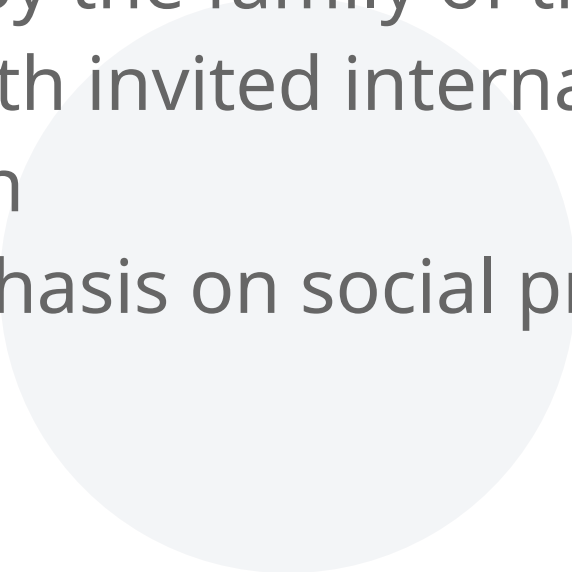
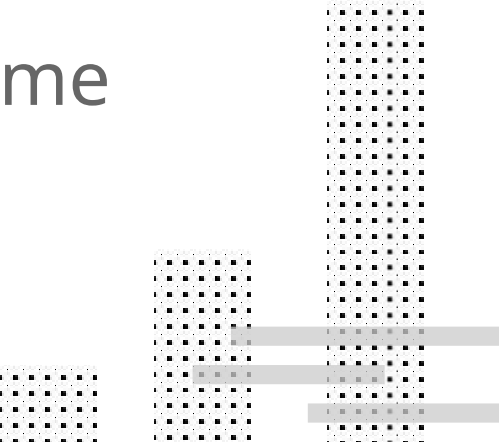


# National Contest Young Scientists

- National, since 1997
  - Est. by the Ministry of Education and Science
  - Flexible with the format, allowing it to survive unexpected issues (ie covid)
  - Partnership with IMI-BAS
- 


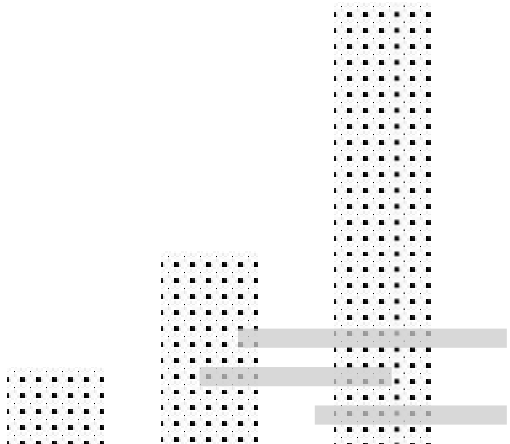


# Expo Sciences Luxembourg

- More than 50 years of history
  - Supported by the family of the Grand Duke
  - National, with invited international participation
  - Strong emphasis on social programme
- 
- 



# Your country?

- When were they created?
  - How are they organised
  - What type of organisations partner on them?
  - Your perceived impact?
- 
- 



**Thank you for the attention!!!**



**ispas**

paths to successful  
innovations