

CONNECTING THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

O U R V I S I O N



m u l t i c u l t u r a l i t y



i n t e r n a t i o n a l u n d e r s t a n d i n g



h e a l t h y c o m p e t i t i o n



t r a c e a b i l i t y

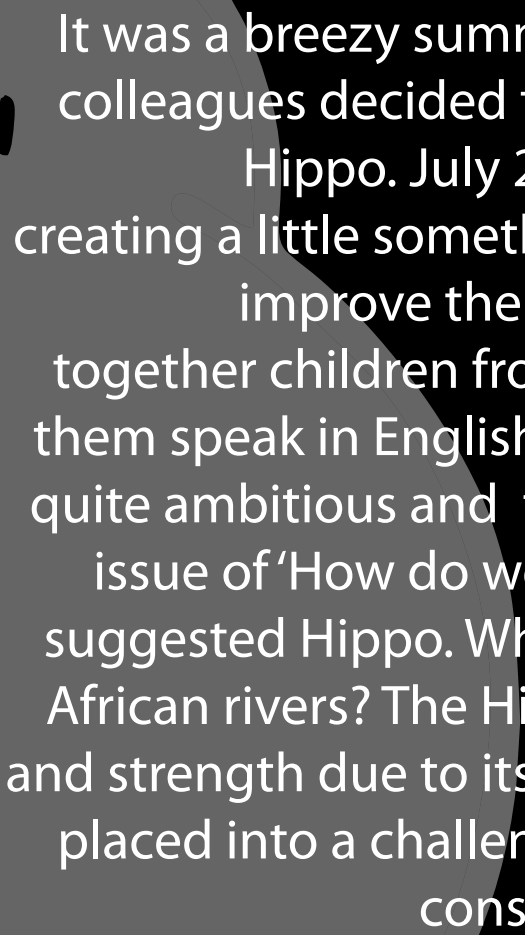


t r a n s p a r e n c y



e q u a l o p p o r t u n i t i e s

W H E N A D R E A M . . .



It was a breezy summer evening when four friends and colleagues decided to embark on this adventure called Hippo. July 2012. They liked the idea of creating a little something that would motivate children to improve their English, that would bring together children from different countries, and listen to them speak in English while becoming friends. It seemed quite ambitious and far-fetched at the time. So when the issue of 'How do we call it?' came up, one of the four suggested Hippo. Why Hippo, the gigantic animal of the African rivers? The Hippo is often associated with power and strength due to its size. Docile herbivores until they are placed into a challenging situation. And this idea was a considerable challenge.

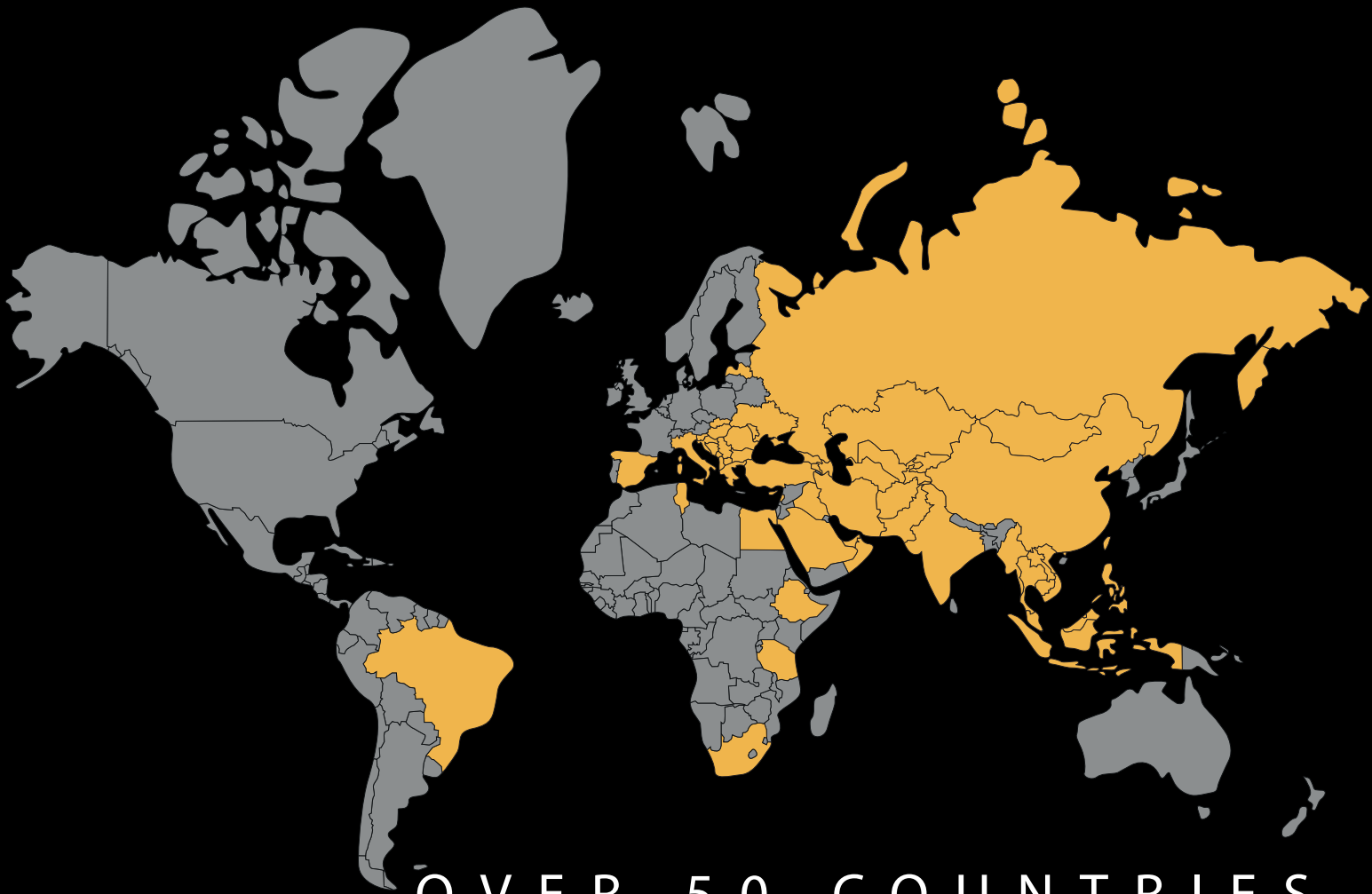
English without borders – connecting through knowledge.

The aim of Hippo, the only truly international Olympiad in the English language, is to encourage the students to get the most out of themselves, unlock their personal potential, stimulate the development of a shared sense of identity and integration through the joy of participation. We are keen on creating and nourishing friendly relations, international understanding and a spirit of healthy competition between young people who love English language from all around the world.

By participating in such an Olympiad, students get a chance to measure their level of English against international standards and get used to the concept of examination. Schools will more easily understand the level of English of their pupils and challenge them to learn more.

The first edition was held in 2013, with around 5,000 students from 6 countries and 44 finalists. As the number of participating students grew over the years, in 2016 the semi-final round was introduced. The 2021 edition had 182 finalists from almost 50 different countries and was held both online and onsite.

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O V E R 5 0 C O U N T R I E S



A H I P P O Y E A R

By the time finalists reach the final round venue, so many different things by a number of staff will have been done. It starts with the regulations, normally drafted and finalised between September and October. In the meantime, the country coordinators inform schools and decide on the test dates to organise the semi-final round in their respective countries.

The final round venue is then booked and, not only booked, but first a shortlist of venues created, all of them inspected, narrowed down and then chosen.

Let's not forget the exams! Otherwise, what would the students complete? Throughout the Olympiad, students take examinations prepared by Gatehouse Awards and our Hippo team of examiners for both paper based and online version.

After the tests are held, what comes next is OMR scanning, marking and ranking lists. One of the first more exciting moments. Then we go on to the semi-final round and the excitement grows as we get closer to having the list of finalists.

The final round is the most exhilarating moment of the year. We finally get to see our finalists, coming to meet each other from over 50 countries, and we feel that our hard work has paid off.

There are so many people involved in the processes, and we thank them profusely. Not only to the members of the staff, but also to the coordinators, for their hard work and involvement, to the teachers, who keep believing in the Olympiad, to the students, who become part of our big Hippo family.



HIPPO FOUNDERS

STORIES WITHOUT BORDERS

DIRDIPIÙ

COORDINATOR FOR NORTH ITALY

"We liked the idea of an international competition like the Hippo English Language Olympiad right away because it responds exactly to these characteristics: it brings students closer to the study of English by making them participate in an international competition open to all. Internationality is precisely the most important and innovative stimulus because today it is essential to think more openly and allow children, even the youngest, to deal with cultures other than their own."

ROY LO

COORDINATOR FOR INDONESIA AND MYANMAR

"How can one – in a few short sentences only – fully give credit to the priceless work that is being done at the HIPPO English Language Olympiad and the invaluable results that come out of it?

Having had the privilege to meet with students and fellow teachers in the Finals in Venice, my admiration for the activities being implemented grows bigger each time, and my respect gets more and more sincere. It has been a delight to work with such committed, open-minded people whose enthusiasm allows them to be swept up by the great competition."

ARANKA BÁRÓ CZ

COORDINATOR FOR ROMANIA

"I can tell you, that nothing compares with the fulfillment when I see the sparkle in the finalists' eyes when they arrive to the Finals in Italy. What a wonderful concept this is, to gather children from all over the world, in one place, to serve the same purpose of sharing the interest in the English language knowledge, meanwhile travelling, and seeing beautiful places."

ZORAN LONČARIĆ

COORDINATOR FOR CROATIA

"HIPPO was our chance to assess their knowledge and our teaching by an external evaluation. We all were so excited about the competition and hoped that our experience would be positive, and fortunately, it really and truly was. The only thing better than the collection of HIPPO staff were students and their teachers."



ENGLISH WITHOUT BORDERS

"Learning a foreign language and the culture that goes with it, is one of the most useful things we can do to broaden the empathy and imaginative sympathy and cultural outlook of children."

Michael Gove